

[From the "Deseret News-Extra" of Jan. 7.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

LEGISLATIVE HALL, G. S. L. City, U. T.,
Jan. 4, 1858.

His Excellency Brigham Young,
Governor of Utah Territory,

Sir:—The Legislative Assembly respectfully request that you will furnish them, if compatible, the correspondence between your Excellency and certain officers of the U. S. army now in our borders.

HEBER C. KIMBALL,
President of the Council.

JOHN TAYLOR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, G. S. L. City, U. T.,
Jan. 4, 1858.

Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah:—

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with your request, I have the honor to transmit, for such action as your judgment may dictate, the correspondence between myself and Colonels E. B. Alexander and A. S. Johnston.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
Governor.

The above named correspondence was read in Joint Session of the Assembly, by Mr. James Ferguson, chief clerk of the House, and ordered to be printed in the "Deseret News," as follows:—

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, Utah Territory,
Great Salt Lake City,
Sept. 29, 1857.

To the Officer commanding the forces now invading Utah Territory:—

Sir:—By reference to the act of Congress passed Sept. 9, 1850, organizing the Territory of Utah, published in a copy of the "Laws of Utah" herewith forwarded, pp. 146 & 7, you will find the following:—

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the executive power and authority in and over said Territory of Utah, shall be vested in a Governor who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States.

The Governor shall reside within said Territory, shall be Commander in Chief of the Militia thereof," &c., &c.

I am still the Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for this Territory, no successor having been appointed and qualified as provided by law, nor have I been removed by the President of the United States.

By virtue of the authority thus vested in me, I have issued and forwarded you a copy of my Proclamation forbidding the entrance of armed forces into this Territory. This you have disregarded.

I now further direct that you forthwith retire from the Territory by the same route you entered. Should you deem this impracticable and prefer to remain until spring in the vicinity of your present encampment, Black's Fork, Henry's Fork or Green River, you can do so in peace and unmolested, on conditions that you deposit your arms and ammunition with Lewis Robinson, Quarter Master General of the Territory, and leave in the spring as soon as the condition of the roads will permit you to march; and should you fall short of provision, it can be furnished you, upon making the proper application therefor.

General D. H. Wells will forward this, and receive any communication you may have to make.

Very respectfully,
BRIGHAM YOUNG,
Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Utah Territory.

HEAD QUARTERS, 10th Reg't U. S. Infantry,
Camp Winfield, on Ham's Fork,
October 2nd, 1857.

Brigham Young Esq.,
Governor of Utah Territory:—

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of Sept. 29th, 1857, with copy of Proclamation and Laws of Utah, and have given it an attentive consideration.

I am at present the senior and Commanding Officer of the U. S. Troops at this point, and I will submit your letter to the General Commanding as soon as he arrives here.

In the mean time I have only to say that these troops are here by the orders of the President of the United States, and their future movements and operations will depend entirely upon orders issued by competent military authority.

I am, sir, very respectfully, &c., &c.,
E. B. ALEXANDER,
Col. 10th Infantry Com'dg.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY,
Oct. 7, 1857.

E. B. Alexander, Col. Commanding, 10th Infantry, U. S. A:—

Sir:—Presuming that, during a dearth of news from the East and your home, news from the West might enliven the monotonous routine of camp life, I have the honor to forward to you two copies each of the latest numbers of the "Deseret News."

Very respectfully,
BRIGHAM YOUNG.

HEAD QUARTERS Army for Utah,
Camp Winfield, October 10, 1857.

To His Excellency Brigham Young, Governor of Utah:—

Sir:—Col. Alexander, Comd'g the U. S. Troops, directs me to acknowledge the receipt by your messengers of packages of papers for himself, Col. Waite and Capt. Phelps.

He appreciates highly the kind attention and politeness shown to him and the officers of the army, and begs that you will accept his thanks.

I am, sir, with high respect,
Your most obedient servant.

HENRY E. MAYNADIER,
1st Lieut. & Adj. 10th Inf'y.
Act'g Ass't Adj. Gen'l.

HEAD QUARTERS Army for Utah,
Camp on Ham's Fork, Oct. 12, 1857.

To His Excellency Brigham Young, Governor of Utah Territory:—

Sir:—Yesterday two young men, named Hickman, were arrested by the rear-guard of the army, and are now in confinement. They brought a letter from Wm. A. Hickman to Mr. Perry, a sutler of one of the Regiments, but came under none of the privileges of bearers of dispatches, and are perhaps liable to be considered and treated as spies. But I am convinced from conversation with them that their conduct does not merit the serious punishment awarded to persons of that character, and I accordingly resolved to release the younger one, especially in consideration of his having a wife and three children dependent upon him, and to make him the bearer of this letter. The elder I shall keep until I know how this communication is received, and until I receive an answer to it, reserving even then the right to hold him a prisoner if in my judgment circumstances require it.

I need hardly assure you that his life will be protected, and that he will receive every comfort and indulgence proper to be afforded him.

I desire now, sir, to lay before you the following facts: the forces under my command were ordered by the President of the United States to establish a military post at or near Salt Lake City. They set out upon their long and arduous march, anticipating a reception similar to that which they would receive in any other State or Territory in the Union. They were met at the boundary of the Territory of which you are Governor, and in which capacity alone I have any business with you, by a Proclamation, issued by yourself, forbidding them to come upon soil belonging to the United States, and calling upon the inhabitants to resist them with arms.

You have ordered them to return, and have called upon them to deliver up their arms in default of obeying your mandate.

You have resorted to open hostilities, and of a kind, permit me to say, very far beneath the usages of civilized warfare, by authorizing persons under your control, some of the very citizens doubtless, whom you have called to arms, to burn the grass, apparently with the intention of starving a few beasts, and hoping that men would starve after them.

Citizens of Utah, acting, I am bound to believe, under your authority, have destroyed trains containing public stores, with a similar humane intention of starving the army.

I infer also from your communication, received day before yesterday, referring to "a dearth of news from the East and from home," that you have caused public and private letters to be diverted from their proper destination, and this too when carried by a public messenger on a public highway.

It is unnecessary for me to adduce farther instances to show that you have placed yourself in your capacity of Governor, and so many of the people of the Territory of Utah, as have obeyed your decree, in a position of rebellion and hostility to the General Government of the United States.

It becomes you to look to the consequences; for you must be aware that so unequal a contest can never be successfully sustained by the people you govern.

It is my duty to inform you that I shall use the force under my control, and all honorable means in my power, to obey literally and strictly the orders under which I am acting.

If you, or any acting under your orders, oppose me, I will use force, and I warn you that the blood shed in this contest will be upon your head.

My means I consider ample to overcome any obstacles, and I assure you that any idea you may have formed of forcing these troops back, or of preventing them from carrying out the views of the Government, will result in unnecessary violence and utter failure.

Should you reply to this in a spirit which our relative positions give me a right to demand, I will be prepared to propose an arrangement with you.

I have also the honor to inform you that all persons found lurking around, or in any of our camps, will be put under guard and held prisoners as long as circumstances may require.

I remain, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

E. B. ALEXANDER,
Col. 10th Inf'y U. S. A., Comd'g.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, U. T.
Oct. 14, 1857.

Colonel:—In consideration of our relative positions, you acting in your capacity as Commander of the United States forces, and in obedience, as you have stated, to orders from the President of the United States, and I as Governor of this Territory, impelled by every sense of justice, honor, integrity and patriotism, to resist what I consider to be a direct infringement of the rights of the citizens of Utah, and an act of usurpation and tyranny,

unprecedented in the history of the United States, permit me to address you frankly as a citizen of the United States, untrammelled by the rigid usages of official dignity, or military etiquette.

As citizens of the United States, we both, it is presumable, feel strongly attached to the Constitution and institutions of our common country, and, as gentlemen, should probably agree in sustaining the dear bought liberties bequeathed by our fathers, the positions in which we are individually placed, being the only apparent cause of our present antagonism, you, as Colonel commanding, feeling that you have a rigid duty to perform in obedience to orders, and I a still more important duty to the people of this Territory.

I need not here reiterate what I have already mentioned in my official proclamation; and what I and the people of the Territory universally believe firmly to be the object of the Administration in the present expedition against Utah, viz: the destruction if not the entire annihilation of the Mormon community, solely upon religious grounds, and without any pretext whatever; for the Administration do know, from the most reliable sources, that the base reports circulated by Drummond and others of the mean officials, are barefaced calumnies. They do moreover know that the people of Utah have been more peaceable and law-abiding than those of any other Territory of the United States, and have never resisted even the wish of the President of the United States, nor treated with indignity a single individual coming to the Territory under his authority, although the conduct and deportment of many of them have merited and in any other State or Territory would have met with summary punishment. But when the President of the United States so far degrades his high position and prostitutes the highest gift of the people, as to make use of the military power (only intended for the protection of the people's rights) to crush the people's liberties and compel them to receive officials, so lost to self-respect as to accept appointments against the known and expressed wish of the people, and so craven and degraded as to need an army to protect them in their position, we feel that we should be recreant to every principle of self-respect, honor, integrity and patriotism, to bow tamely to such high handed tyranny, a parallel for which is only found in the attempts of the British Government in its most corrupt stages, against the rights, liberties, and lives of our forefathers.

Now, Colonel, I do not charge you, nor those serving under you, with the instigation of these enormities. I consider that you are only the agent made use of by the Administration, and probably unwillingly so, to further their infamous designs. What high minded gentleman can feel comfortable in being the mere cat's paw of political jugglers and hucksters, penny-a-liners, hungry speculators, and disgraced officials? Yet it is from the statements of such characters only that the Administration have acted, attaching the official seal to your movements.

Now, I feel that, when such treason is perpetrated, unblushingly, in open daylight, against the liberties and most sacred rights of the citizens of this Territory, it is my duty and the duty of every lover of his country, and her sacred institutions, to resist it, and maintain inviolate the Constitution of our common country.

Perhaps, Colonel, you may feel otherwise. Education, and associations have their influences, but I have yet to learn that U. S. officers are implicitly bound to obey the dictum of a despotic President, in violating the most sacred Constitutional rights of American citizens.

We have sought diligently for peace. We have sacrificed millions of dollars' worth of property to obtain it, and wandered a thousand miles from the confines of civilization, severing ourselves from home, the society of friends, and everything that makes life worth enjoyment. If we have war it is not of our seeking. We have never gone nor sought to interfere with the rights of others, but they have come and sent to interfere with us. We had hoped that in this barren, desolate country we could have remained unmolested, but it would seem that our implacable, blood-thirsty foes envy us even these barren deserts.

Now, if our real enemies, the mobocrats, priests, editors and politicians, at whose instigation the present storm has been gathered, had come against us, instead of you and your command, I should not have addressed them thus. They never would have been allowed to reach the South Pass. In you we recognize only the agents and instruments of the Administration, and with you personally have no quarrel. I believe that it would have been more consonant with your feelings to have made war upon the enemies of your country than upon American citizens. But to us the end to be accomplished is the same; and while I appreciate the unpleasantness of your position, you must be aware that circumstances compel the people of Utah to look upon you in your present belligerent attitude as their enemies and the enemies of our common country. And notwithstanding my most sincere desires to promote amicable relations with you, I shall feel it my duty, as do the people of the Territory universally, to resist to the utmost every attempt to encroach further upon our rights.

It therefore becomes a matter for your serious consideration whether it would not be more in accordance with the spirit and institutions of our country, to return with your present force, rather than force an issue so unpleasant to us all, and which must result in much misery and perhaps bloodshed, and, if persisted in, the total destruction of your army. And furthermore, does it not become a question whether it is more patriotic for officers of the U. S. Army

to ward off, by all honorable means, a collision with American citizens, or to further the precipitate move of an indiscreet and rash Administration in plunging a whole Territory into a horrible fratricidal and sanguinary war?

Trusting that the foregoing considerations may be duly weighed by you, and that the difficulties now impending may be brought to an amicable adjustment:—With sentiments of esteem,

I have the honor to remain,
Most respectfully, &c.,

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

To Col. E. B. Alexander,
Comd'g U. S. Troops,
Ham's Fork, U. T.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE Great Salt Lake City,
Utah Territory,
Oct. 16th, 1857.

E. B. Alexander, Colonel 10th Infantry, U. S. A.,
Commanding:—

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., at 8a. 30m. this m. ruing, and embrace the earliest opportunity to reply, out of courtesy to your position at this late season of the year.

As you officially allege in, I acknowledge that you and the forces under your command have been sent to this Territory by the President of the United States, but we shall treat you as though you were open enemies, because I have so many times seen armies in our country, under color of law, drive this people, commonly styled "Mormons," from their homes, while mobs have followed and plundered at their pleasure, which is now most obvious: the design of the General Government, as all candid thinking men know full well. Were not such the fact, why did not the Government send an army here to protect us against the savages, when we first settled here and were poor and few in number? So contrary to this was their course, that they sent an infernal regiment for five hundred of our most efficient men, (while we were in an Indian country, and striving to leave the borders of the United States, from which its civilization (?) had expelled us) with a preconceived view to cripple and destroy us. And do you fancy for a moment that we do not fully understand the tender (?) mercies and designs of our Government against us?

Again, if an army was ordered here for peaceful purposes,—to protect and preserve the rights and lives of the innocent,—why did Government send here troops that were withdrawn from Minnesota where the Indians were slaughtering men, women and children, and were banding in large numbers threatening to lay waste the country?

You mention that it is alone in my gubernatorial capacity that you have any business with me, though your commanding officer, Brevet Brigadier Gen. Harvey, addressed his letter by Captain Van Vleet, to "President Brigham Young, of the Society of Mormons."

You acknowledge the receipt of my official Proclamation forbidding your entrance into the Territory of Utah, and upon that point I have only to say in inform you that the matter set forth in that document is true, and the orders therein contained will be most strictly carried out.

If you came here for peaceful purposes you have no use for weapons of war. We wish and ever have wished for peace, and have ever sued for it all the day long, as our bitterest enemies know full well, and though the wicked, with the Administration now at their head, have determined that we shall have no peace, except it be to lie down in death, in the name of Israel's God we will have peace, even though we be compelled by our enemies to fight for it.

We have as yet studiously avoided the shedding of blood, though we have resorted to measures to resist our enemies, and through the operation of those mild measures, you can easily perceive that you and your troops are now at the mercy of the elements, and that we live in the mountains and that our men are all mountaineers. This the Government should know, and also give us our rights and then let us alone.

As to the style of those measures, whether past, present, or future, persons acting in self defence have of right a wide scope for choice, and that too without being very careful as to what name their enemies may see fit to term that choice, for both we and the Kingdom of God will be free from all hellish oppressors, the Lord being our helper. Threatenings to waste and exterminate this people have been sounded in our ears for more than a score of years, and we yet live. The Zion of the Lord is here, and wicked men and devils cannot destroy it.

If you persist in your attempts to permanently locate an army in this Territory contrary to the wishes and Constitutional rights of the people therein, and with a view to fill the Administration in their unhallowed efforts to paint their corrupt officials upon us, and to protect them, and black-legs, black hearted scoundrels, whomasters and murderers, as was the sole intention in sending you and your troops here, you will have to meet a mode of warfare against which your tactics furnish you no information.

As to your inference concerning "public and private letters," it contains an ungentlemanly and false insinuation, for, so far as I have any knowledge, the only stopping or detaining of the character you mention has alone been done by the P. O. Department in Washington, they having, as you must have known, stopped our mail from Independence, Missouri, by which it was but fair to presume that you as well as we were measurably curtailed in mail facilities.

In regard to myself and certain others having placed ourselves "in a position of rebellion and hostility to the General Government of the United States," I am perfectly aware that we understand our true and most loyal position far better than our enemies can inform us. We of all people are endeavoring to preserve and perpetuate the genius of the Constitution and Constitutional laws, while the Administration and the