

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 11.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1859.

VOL. IX.

[From the N. Y. Century.]

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY.... PUNCHIANA.

It is not that a small bird sings
With aught of warning voice,
And bids distrust anointed kings,
Or chiefs, the People's Choice.
We trust them all, with all our soul,
We know their honor's high;
But still we think, upon the whole,
We'll keep our powder dry.

No Monarch ever broke his word,
Far less the oaths he swore,
Or if such things have e'er occurred,
'Twas in bad days of yore.
All things are now so good and true,—
What, doubt a Sovereign, fling!
But still, John Bull, 'twixt me and you,
We'll keep our powder dry.

No nation lashed by dastard greed,
Or priests, or ancient spite,
Will clamor to its chiefs to lead
Its armies to the fight.
We're all a band of brothers, John,
All linked by friendship's ties;
But this one whim we'll act upon,
We'll keep our powder dry.

No statesman now is led astray
By love of place or fame,
To urge his wavering prince to play
At war's infernal game.
They're all so cosmopolitan,
For justice each would die;
And yet it's just as well, old man,
To keep your powder dry.

No chance lest hot sea captains clash
On far Atlantic waves,
And raise a quarrel o'er such trash
As buccaniers, or slaves.
No distant parties burn to thrust
Lean fingers in the pie;
But though we're all belief and trust,
We'll keep our powder dry.

No armed three-deckers crowd a dock,
No soldiers mass and drill;
No royal hands, on rifle's lock,
Test how the gun will kill.
No cannon stores with strange increase
Pledge peace and love;
But though the world's so lapped in peace,
We'll keep our powder dry.

THE "CACHED" CANNON AND THE PUBLIC ARMS.

DESERET NEWS OFFICE, G.S.L. City, }
16th May, 1859. }

DEAR SIR:—Will you be kind enough to furnish for publication, a copy of the late correspondence in relation to the existence and location of certain arms, (cannon) which, I suppose, is on file in your office, and much oblige, your obedient servant,

E. SMITH.

Genl. James Ferguson,
Adj. Genl., Nauvoo Legion.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, U. T., }
G.S.L. City, May 16, 1859. }

HON. ELIAS SMITH:

SIR:—Enclosed I forward you correct copies of the correspondence between His Excellency Governor Cumming and myself on the subject of the public arms of Utah.

I conclude, from your addressing me on the subject, that the publication of the correspondence is under the sanction of His Excellency. Very respectfully,

JAMES FERGUSON,
Adj. Genl. Mil., U. T.

[OFFICIAL.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, G.S.L. City, }
U. T., May 5, 1859. }

To James Ferguson, Adjutant General,
Nauvoo Legion, G.S.L. City, U. T.:

SIR:—I have been informed that there were two pieces of artillery discovered recently, cached in a canyon near the arsenal.

You will please advise me whether the property alluded to belongs to the Territory, and, if so, why and when it was placed in so extraordinary a place, and also where it is now deposited. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. CUMMING,
Governor Utah Territory.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, U. T., }
G.S.L. City, May 5th, 1859. }

His Excellency A. Cumming,

Governor of Utah Territory:

SIR:—In reply to your letter just received, I have respectfully to assure your Excellency that I have no knowledge whatever of the recent caching of any pieces of artillery, nor can I conceive the origin of the information you refer to, unless it be the same whence come a great variety of unaccountable rumors. The public arms of the Territory consist solely of one 12-pounder mountain howitzer, without equipments. This was received from the Ordnance Department of the United States in 1851. On the 29th Oct., 1853, I addressed a letter on the subject of public arms to the Ad-

jutant General at Washington. I enclose to your Excellency a copy of the Adjutant General's reply, together with a copy of Colonel Craig's letter which accompanied it. Thus ended the correspondence on the subject. The howitzer, when I last saw it, was in the Territorial Arsenal and, I presume, is still there. I will, however, if your Excellency so directs, esteem it a pleasure, as well as consider it my duty, to inquire into its locality and condition. I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES FERGUSON,
Brigr. Genl. Mil. U. T., Adj. Genl.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Wash- }
ington, Dec. 24, 1853. }

SIR:—I have to acknowledge your letter of October 29, transmitting the annual return of the Militia of Utah for 1853.

In reference to that part of your letter relating to arms for the militia, I enclose a copy of a report from the Colonel of Ordnance, by which you will see that the laws require arms to be supplied to the States and Territories "in proportion to the number of effective militia in each." In connection with this subject, please see the report of the Secretary of War, (copy herewith) page 12.

I enclose six blank militia returns. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

To General James Ferguson,
Adj. Genl. Militia of Utah.

G.S.L. City, U. T.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, Washington, }
Dec. 9, 1853. }

Col. S. Cooper, Adj. Genl. U.S. Army:

SIR:—In regard to supplying arms for Utah Territory, I have to state that the only authority for furnishing such supplies is the law of April 23, 1808, "for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia," the 3d section of which requires the arms to be transmitted to each State and Territory in proportion to the number of effective militia in each.

The Territory of Utah is entitled now, according to the number of its effective militia last returned, in the aggregate 2,575, to 14 muskets, or their equivalent in other arms; that being the balance up to the end of 1853, after deducting from its quotas, including that year, the howitzer equipments, &c., which have been supplied. If the estimated quota for 1854, which is based on the latest militia return, that of 1851, be added, it will make the number of muskets due the Territory 30. Under the existing law, this department is precluded from supplying any greater amount of arms or equipments to the States or Territories than are due under their quotas.

When militia are called into the service of the United States, they are supplied with arms, accoutrements and ammunition, as prescribed by section 7, articles 98 to 101, Ordnance Regulations, without regard to the quotas due the States.

The howitzer, which was sent to the Territory of Utah, is the lightest piece of artillery in service, weighing only 220 pounds.

The letter of the Adjutant General of Utah, referred by you to this office, is returned herewith. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. K. CRAIG,
Col. Ordnance.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, G.S.L. City }
U. T., May 9th, 1859. }

To James Ferguson, Adjutant Genl.,
Nauvoo Legion, U. T.:

SIR:—At my request the Secretary for Utah, accompanied by Marshal Peter Dotson, will visit the Territorial Arsenal this evening.

You will please accompany these gentlemen and furnish any facility for an examination of the arms deposited there, &c. &c. &c.

Mr. Dotson has politely offered his carriage to convey the party.

You will please communicate the hour at which it will be agreeable to you to be at the Secretary's office. Respectfully,

A. CUMMING.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, G.S.L. CITY }
May 9, 1859. }

His Excellency A. Cumming,

Governor of Utah Territory:

SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of current date.

As it is your request, I will accompany the Territorial Secretary and U. S. Marshal to the Arsenal, and will await their pleasure, as to time and convenience.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

JAMES FERGUSON,
Adj't General, N. L.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, G.S.L. CITY, }
U. T., May 10, 1859. }

His Excellency A. Cumming,

Governor of Utah Territory:

SIR:—Agreeable to your request, conveyed in your letter of yesterday, I visited the Territorial Arsenal in company with the Hon. John Hartnett, Secretary of Utah, and Mr. Dotson, U. S. Marshal for the Territory.

Looking upon the matter as the simple extension of a courtesy to these two gentlemen,

I was somewhat surprised at the introduction, unceremoniously, of a third party into the building by Mr. Dotson. And still more surprised was I at being subjected to a cross examination by Mr. Dotson on a subject which has already been fully embraced in an official correspondence between your Excellency and myself.

I am not aware of the existence of any statute authorizing the interference of any Federal or other officer in the Territory (apart from the legitimately commissioned officers of the militia) with either the public arms of the Territory or the private arms of the peaceable citizens, your Excellency as Commander in Chief alone excepted.

Mr. Dotson assured me he would make his reports: to what quarter he did not say. On the subject of the Territorial arsenal or public arms any report from him would of necessity, be extra official. The strangeness of the proceedings during the visit to the Arsenal induces me to report thus to your Excellency.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES FERGUSON,
Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, U. T. }
G.S.L. City, May 11th, 1859. }

His Excellency A. Cumming,

Governor of Utah Territory:

SIR:—A 12 pounder Mountain Howitzer was received from the Ordnance Department of the United States in the fall of 1851 on account of the quota of arms due the Territory of Utah. A receipt for the same was returned to the Department by Governor Young who was then the Executive of the Territory, and the gun turned over to the Ordnance Department of the Nauvoo Legion. As I before stated, this piece of ordnance comprises all the public arms in the Territory. It is now in the Territorial arsenal and in the same condition as when received, and is there held subject to your order as Commander in Chief. I would respectfully suggest to your Excellency that it would be proper that the former Executive should have your receipt for the Howitzer, as the Department at Washington now holds his receipt for it; and he wishes to have it turned over to you, as the property of the Territory.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES FERGUSON,
Adj't Gen'l N. L., Mil. U. T.

REPORT OF MARSHAL KAY.

In our last, we printed an order from His Excellency Governor Cumming, directed to Territorial Marshal John Kay, relative to the immediate dispersion of some reported assemblages of armed bodies of men, in the vicinity of Goshen and elsewhere.

We take pleasure in publishing, by permission of his Excellency, the annexed:

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, U. T. }
May 16, 1859. }

His Excellency A. Cumming,

Governor of Utah Territory—

SIR:—Pursuant to your orders of the 9th inst., I left this city on the morning of the 10th, accompanied by Deputy Marshal John Sharp. The same day I learned from Mr. Charles Mogo, whom I met near his residence, some twenty three miles south, that he had seen a small body of armed men on the pack trail leading from Spanish Fork to San Pete. I continued on, making strict inquiries as I passed the settlements and of such travelers as I met by the way.

On arriving in the vicinity of the place designated by Mr. Mogo, I directed Marshal Sharp to search through the ravines and all places suitable for the secretion or camping of parties of men. He found some eight or nine men in a grove of pine timber on the mountains about three miles south of Spanish Fork canyon, engaged in cutting timber and sliding logs for lumbering. They were armed, as has been customary with such parties, but were peaceably attending to their avocations. On receiving Mr. Sharp's report, I did not consider it within the province of my duties, nor required by your instructions to interfere with them, and so I passed on.

As particularly suggested in your instructions, I proceeded at once to Goshen. I there met two gentlemen, Messrs. Ward and Johnson, strangers to us, who received us very kindly, and courteously gave me such information as they had in their possession. From them I learned that, about five days previous to our arrival there, some eighteen men, armed with rifles had left the Goshen settlement (or fort as it is called by some) and were absent about three days. I did not learn whether they had gone nor the names of the parties, but was assured by the gentlemen before named that the parties had returned and were peaceably attending to their affairs at home.

Anxious, however, to carry out fully your Excellency's instructions, Mr. Sharp and myself made a critical reconnaissance of the country in the vicinity of Goshen. We found quite a number of men scattered over that extensive range of pasture country. They were, however, simply in search of stock and, although armed, some with rifles and others with revolving pistols, were in parties of not more than two or three and diligently prosecuting the business of herders or cattle-gatherers.

On further inquiry I learned that the Messrs. Stewart, extensive stock-owners in that neighborhood, had for some time been making arrangements for an extended cattle drive and had, for several days, previous to our visit, been carrying out their plans.

I would here suggest to your Excellency that it has been a custom, from the period of the first settlement in Utah, to make what is generally termed a "spring drive," for the purpose of collecting together the cattle that have been driven or scattered by the winter storms. At such times prudent men always go armed and seldom, if ever, singly.

Determined, however, to avail myself of every opportunity to inform myself of anything that might lead to the discovery of the unusual assembling of armed bodies of men, I inquired closely of all parties I met, and particularly of strangers in the Territory, who, I presumed, would be the most likely, in traveling, to take observations of that kind. Mr. Box, himself an extensive stock-owner, and who has recently been employed in herding Government stock, assured me that, apart from the usual herders and cattle-drivers before referred to, there were no parties of armed men to his knowledge in the hills, ravines, or valleys in that neighborhood. He spoke confidently, as he unquestionably has, and has had a superior opportunity to acquaint himself with everything transpiring in his neighborhood.

While at this place, I held a conversation with Mr. Riley Stewart. He told me that there had been a body of some forty five armed men posted in the mountains near Goshen, a little east by south of that place. He had seen three different men coming down from what he considered their rendezvous, bringing with them a three-gallon keg, filling it with water and returning again, one at a time for three successive days. He stated that the party had already left their position. Not satisfied, however, I made further inquiries and found that about six or eight men had been engaged there cutting fencing posts from the large cedars in that vicinity. Of this party a gentleman named White, who I believe is a resident at Goshen, came down from the mountain and proposed to purchase a rifle of a train (I think Mr. Hickey's). This may have created some suspicions; but why it should, am not prepared to say.

On my return from the south I visited the mountains more immediately west of this city and, after the strictest inquiries, failed to ascertain that any of the citizens were doing aught save attending to their own legitimate business.

Before closing my report I consider it my duty to say to your Excellency that I heard, during my short tour, numerous complaints of petty thefts, committed upon the citizens by parties unknown, such as the breaking open of stables, stealing horses and saddles, etc.

That there are any bodies of men gathering, or concealed, in the mountains, with a view to military organization or service, is entirely a mistake and without any substantial foundation, I have no hesitation in assuring your Excellency, after the strictest and most impartial inquiries.

I have already occupied much space in my report, but was anxious to lay before your Excellency all the relative facts and circumstances connected with my tour.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

JOHN KAY,
Marshal of Utah Territory.

Now's the Time for Emigrants!

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, G.S.L. CITY, Utah, }
May 10th, 1859. }

MR. EDITOR:—Please publish the annexed extract of an official communication received by me from General A. S. Johnston commanding the Department of Utah, in reply to my requisition for troops to protect persons and property on the northern route to California; and persons who contemplate leaving the Territory.

A. CUMMING

EXTRACT.

HEAD QUARTERS, Department of Utah, }
CAMP FLOYD, U. T., May 10, 1859. }

To His Excellency A. CUMMING,

GOVERNOR OF UTAH TERRITORY:

SIR:—If persons, desirous of emigrating from the Territory, could assemble at a given time and place with their families, trains, stock, etc., complete protection, by a special escort, could be given them: and should I be notified by any considerable number, of such intention, I will furnish the force for the protection.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. S. JOHNSTON,
Colonel 2d Cav., and Brevet Brig. Gen. U.S.A. Com'g."

THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD.—The Hon. A. B. Longstreet, president of Columbia College, South Carolina, in his farewell address to the graduating class of that institution, said:

"You are embarking upon a strange world, my young friends. It banished Aristides, poisoned Socrates, murdered Cicero, and crucified the Lord of Glory. The spirit of Themistocles, of Melitus, of Anthony and Calphas, is still in the world—greatly subdued and law-bound, to be sure, but not extinguished. You may expect, therefore, at times to be depressed by your rivals, condemned by your patriots, and tormented for your benefactions; to have your confidence abused, your integrity derided, and to suffer a thousand impositions in smaller matters—from those from whom you had a right to expect better things."

Very true, but the murderous spirit referred to, if 'law-bound,' is not 'subdued,' and there are thousands now on the earth who thirst for the blood of the innocent, and would rejoice if they could get the chance to imbue their hands therewith, regardless of law.

—A PRINTER of the Fond du Lac (Wis.) Press office, recently skated seventy two miles in five hours and fifteen minutes.