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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

MARCH, 1843.

Thursday, 2.—I was engaged in the court room, sitting on the case of Charles R. Dana vs. William B. Brink, all day. In the evening examining Blackstone, and Phillips on evidence.

Elders B. Young and O. Hyde, with their wives, at Elder H. C. Kimball's.

The Legislature of Illinois took up the bill to repeal the Nauvoo City Charter.

"Mr. Davis, of Bond, moved to take up the bill to repeal a part of the Nauvoo Charter; objections being made by several members, it was decided in the affirmative, and placed on the orders of the day. The question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Mr. Simms moved the previous question.

Mr. Logan hoped the previous question would not be sustained; some of the provisions proposed to be repealed, are very innocent ones; and he thought the house would be willing to retain them; he wanted to repeal the provisions allowing the writ of habeas corpus, and some others. The previous question was then lost.

Mr. Logan denied that any discussion had been had on the provisions of the charter proposed to be repealed. He wanted the gentlemen interested to have an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Thomas B. Owen, of Hancock, went into the subject at some length. He compared the Charter of Nauvoo, with any other city in the State; and showed that the bill repealed the same powers in the Nauvoo Charter which others contained, and are permitted to retain. He thought this unjust, and was opposed to the principle of making such distinctions. He bore testimony to the good order and industry of the Mormons; and he had no doubt but that they were much abused.

He alluded to the course of the Whigs during the canvass for the last election, and appealed to his party to sustain the Mormons, as they had so nobly carried the last election; he cautioned them against taking the other course, and predicted if they did, that they would be the means of electing a Whig to Congress in that district; and at the next gubernatorial election, would elect the Governor also; that the arms of the Whigs were open to receive them."

Friday, 3.—I was again sitting on the case of Dana vs. Brink, until 10½ p.m.; many witnesses were examined, many lawyers' pleas made, and much law read; it was a very tedious suit, and excited much feeling among the people. When I returned home I found my mother's health improving. I visited sister Durphy, who was sick, in company with Dr. Richards.

Bishop N. K. Whitney returned from Ramus this evening, with five teams loaded with provisions and grain, as a present to me, which afforded me very seasonable relief. I pray the Lord to bless them abundantly, and may it be returned upon their heads an hundred fold.

"Mr. William Smith, of Hancock, moved a call of the house (some members leaving).

The bill passed by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Aldrich, Baillache, Bell, Blakeran, Bone, Brinkley, Brown, (of Sangamon,) Burklow, Busey, Caldwell, Cloud, Cochran, Compton, Courtright, Danner, Dollins, Douglas, Edwards, Epler, Ewin, Ewing, Ficklin, Flanders, Fowler, Glass, Gobble, Haley, Hambaugh, Hick, Hickman, Hinton, Horney, Howard, Hunsucker, Keorner, Kuykendall, Lawler, Loy, McClelland, Marshall, Menard, Mitchell, Murphy, Nesbit, Norris, Penn, Shurley, Simms, Thomson, Turner, Vance, Vinyard, Weatherford, Wheat, White, Whitten, Wilson, and Woodworth—58.

Nays—Messrs. Adams, Ames, Andrus, Arnold, Brown, (of Pike,) Browning, Collins, Cushman, Dougherty, Dubois, Graves, Hanniford, Hanson, Harper, Hatch, Jackson, (of McHenry,) Jackson, (of Whiteside,) Jonas, Kendall, Langworthy, Lockhart, Logan, McDonald, (of Calhoun,) McDonald, (of Joe Davis,) Owen, Pickering, Smith, (of Crawford,) Smith, (of Hancock,) Spicer, Stewart, Tack-erbury, Vandever, Whitcomb, and Mr. Speaker—33.

The Speaker: The bill is passed. The title of the bill.

The Speaker recited the title of the bill.

Mr. Smith, of Hancock: I wish to amend the title of the bill. (Profound silence.)

The Speaker: The title has passed.

By several members: In time, in time.

Mr. Smith sent his amendment to the chair.

The Speaker: The amendment is not respectful, and not in order.

Great sensation. Several members called for a reading of the amendment.

The amendment was read—"A bill for an act to humbug the citizens of Nauvoo." (Profound sensation.) Mr. Smith said he considered the amendment as perfectly describing the contents of the bill. He was anxious that things should be called by their right names. The chair decided that the amendment was not in order.

A member: I wish a vote to ascertain if the house does not sustain the decision of the chair.

Mr. Smith withdrew his amendment.

The title of the bill then passed."

English papers report an eruption of Mount Etna; considerable torrents of lava flowing towards Bronte, doing immense damage.

Saturday, 4.—In council with brother Benjamin F. Johnson, and others from Ramus, on the subject of building a meeting house there, out of church property. I told them the property of the church should be disposed of by the direction of the Trustee in Trust, appointed by the voice of the whole church; and made the following comparison:—There is a wheel, Nauvoo is the hub, we will drive the first spoke in Ramus, second in La Harpe, third in Shokouon, fourth in Lima, that is half the wheel; the other half is over the river, we will let that alone at present; we will call the saints from Iowa to these spokes, then send elders over and convert the whole people.

I agreed to go to Ramus this day week.

At 10 o'clock I attended the city council: prayer by Geo. A. Smith, when a bill regulating the currency was read, and as the legislature of Illinois have long been trying to repeal the charter of Nauvoo, I made some remarks (as I had frequently done on former occasions), to shew the council and others, that the legislature can not constitutionally repeal a charter, where there is no repealing clause; after which I read a letter from James Arlington Bennett, dated Feb. 1, 1843, which confirms my decision.

In debate, Geo. A. Smith said imprisonment was better than hanging.

I replied, I was opposed to hanging, even if a man kill another, I will shoot him, or cut off his head, spill his blood on the ground, and let the smoke thereof ascend up to God, and if ever I have the privilege of making a law on that subject, I will have it so.

In reply to some of the councilors, who thought it impolitic to stop circulating bank notes as currency, at once; I replied I would use a figure, and talk like some foolish fathers do to their children; if you want to kill a serpent, don't cut off his head for fear he will bite you, but cut off his tail piece by piece, and perhaps you won't get bit; it is the same with this bill: I say if paper currency is an evil, put it down at once. When councilors get up here, I want them to speak sense; Great God, where is common sense and reason? Is there none on the earth? Why have the canker remaining any longer to sap our life? If you get hold of a \$5 bill, you can get nothing with it; there is no one dare touch it fearing it to be a counterfeited, or the note of a broken bank; I wish you had my soul long enough to know how good it feels. I say it is expedient when you strike at an enemy, to strike the most deadly blow possible.

Councilor Hyde asked me what an editor should do; I told him, advertize in your next paper to your agents, to send you gold and silver, as paper will be no longer taken as pay.

The ordinance regulating currency in the city, passed by a unanimous vote, as follows:—

"Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the city council of the city of Nauvoo, that from and after the passage of this bill, gold and silver coin only can be received as lawful tender in payment of city taxes, and of debts; and also of fines imposed under the ordinances of the city.

Sec. 2. That city scrip shall not hereafter be emitted as moneyed currency; provided however that nothing in this bill shall be so construed as to prevent the redemption of previous emissions.

Sec. 3. That any person passing counterfeit gold, or silver, or copper coin, or counterfeit or spurious paper currency, or aiding or abetting therein, or holding the same with intent to pass it, knowing it to be such, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or to imprisonment, or hard labor in the city for a term not exceeding fourteen years, or all these penalties at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 4. That any person passing a paper currency, or aiding and abetting therein, or holding the same with intent to pass it within the bounds of this city corporation, shall be liable to a fine of one dollar for every dollar thus offered or passed, to be recovered as in action of debt; one half of said fine to be paid to the complainant, the other half to said corporation.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor."

I was re-elected registrar of deeds for the city.

Dr. Samuel Bennett was chosen alderman, and Albert P. Rockwood, Elijah Fordham and Charles C. Rich firewardens in the city.

By my suggestion, the committee on public works were instructed to prepare an ordinance to provide for the erection of a city prison.

On returning to my office after dinner, I spoke the following proverb: For a man to be great, he must not dwell on small things, though he may enjoy them; showing that a prophet cannot well be his own scribe, but must have some one to write for him.

I told Dr. Richards that there was one thing he failed in as a historian, and that was noting surrounding objects, weather, &c.

The battle of Gog and Magog will be after the millennium. The remnant of all nations that fight against Jerusalem were commanded to go up to Jerusalem to worship in the millennium.

I dictated to my scribe my decision in the case of Brink vs. Dana until 4½ p.m.

This day Mr. Warren, in the State Senate, moved to take from the table the bill to repeal the charter of the city of Nauvoo, but the Senate refused to repeal it. Nays, 17; ayes, 16.

O. P. Rockwell was taken prisoner in St. Louis by the Missourians, on an advertisement accusing him with shooting ex-Governor Boggs on the 6th day of May, 1842.

Sunday, 5.—I staid at home all day to take care of my mother, who was still sick.

A severe shock of an earthquake felt at Memphis, Tenn.

Monday, 6.—I read, in the Boston Bee, a letter from Elder G. J. Adams, and also another communication shewing the progress of the truth in Boston and vicinity; at 9 o'clock called in my office, and requested Dr. Richards to write to the Bee; after which I recited in German until dinner, and in the evening rode out to visit the sick.

The municipal court was in session, to hear any complaints against the city assessment, but none appeared.

In the evening a grand display of burning prairie on the Iowa side of the river.

Tuesday, 7.—I was in my office at 9 a.m., and reviewed my decision in the case of Brink vs. Dana; and conversing with Dr. Richards on the subject of medicine. After dinner I executed several deeds for city lots, and settled with the purchasers, assisted by William Clayton.

Brother David Manhard, of Lee county, Iowa, brought me two loads of corn, and one hog; for which may the Lord bless him.

East wind through the day: commenced raining at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, 8.—In office at 8 a.m., and signed some documents in relation to the Nauvoo Legion, and also settling with William Ford. Rode out with Mr. John B. Cowan in the evening.

In the evening a meeting was held in the house of Elder H. C. Kimball, which was crowded; he preached from Jeremiah, 18th chapter, 2nd to 5th verses: on the figure of clay in the hands of the potter.

The ship Yorkshire left Liverpool, England, with 83 saints on board, under the supervision of Elders Thomas Bullock and Richard Rush-ton.

A terrible earthquake occurred at Guadalupe, and other West India Islands; thousands of persons buried under the ruins of the fallen houses.

Thursday, 9.—Mr. John B. Cowan took the decision of Judge Pope in the United States District Court on the 5th of January last, and other papers relating thereto; also Mr. Butterfield's opinion, to lay before the Governor of Iowa, in order to induce him to recall a writ issued on the requisition of the Governor of Missouri, for my arrest, in case I should visit my friends in Iowa.

I told brother Phelps that he should be a lawyer, and understand law, and the time will come when I shall not need say to you, thus and thus is the law, for you shall know it.

E. H. Mower wrote me from Clinton county, Indiana, that he had recently baptized 32, and a great many were enquiring after truth.

William O. Clark gave me a load of corn; and Sanford Porter gave me a hog.

Rain and sleet the whole of the day.

INDIAN TROUBLES.—Thus writes the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia North American. He says "that suttlers and brutal blackguards who hang about a military force have done more than all other causes to foment difficulties with the Indians. Reckless, drunken and degraded, and by their accused liquors making the poor Indians as bad as themselves, they bring about many collisions that would never occur when sober and sensible men were present."

FREE COUNTRY.—Jefferson was a great man and an undoubted patriot, but a southern editor would expose himself to the danger of a mob violence if he were to use at this time such language as Mr. Jefferson used."—[Louisville Journal.

BE DILIGENT.—Diligence, the hand-maid of Providence, is the parent of intelligence, and the noble dispenser of excellence; all arts and sciences are at her command; she crowns all her sons and lovers with riches and honor.

THE KANSAS QUESTION.

[Concluded from page 84.]

Then follows the process of initiating new recruits who are properly vouched for by members of the order, the preliminary obligation to observe secrecy, the catechism to which the candidate is subjected, and the explanations of the Colonel in respect to the objects of the order, which are thus stated:

"First. To secure to Kansas the blessings and prosperity of being a free state; and secondly, to protect the ballot box from the leprous touch of unprincipled men. These and all other questions being satisfactorily answered, the final oath is thus administered:—With these explanations upon our part, we shall ask of you that you take with us an obligation, placing yourself in the same attitude as before."

OBLIGATION.

"I, —, in the most solemn manner here in the presence of Heaven and these witnesses, bind myself that I will never reveal nor cause to be revealed, either by word look or sign, by writing, printing, engraving, painting or any manner whatsoever, anything pertaining to this institution, save to persons duly qualified to receive the same. I will never reveal the nature of the organization, the place of meeting, the fact that any person is a member of the same, or even the existence of the organization, except to persons legally qualified to receive the same. Should I at any time withdraw, or be suspended or expelled from this organization, I will keep this obligation to the end of life. If any books, papers or moneys belonging to this organization be entrusted to my care or keeping, I will faithfully and completely deliver up the same to my successor in office, or any one legally authorized to receive them. I will never knowingly propose a person for membership in this Order who is not in favor of making Kansas a free State, and whom I feel satisfied will exert his entire influence to bring about this result. I will support, maintain and abide by any honorable movement made by the organization to secure this great end which will not conflict with the laws of the country and the constitution of the United States. I will unflinchingly vote for and support the candidates nominated by this organization, in preference to any and all others.

"To all of this obligation I do most solemnly promise and affirm, binding myself under the penalty of being expelled from this organization—or having my name published to the several Territorial encampments as a perjurer before heaven and traitor to my country, of passing through life scorned and reviled by man, frowned on by devils, forsaken by angels and abandoned by God."

The Colonel then addresses the recruits who have "enlisted in a noble army, battling in a glorious cause," in the course of which he says:—

"There are signs by which members of this organization may know each other. [Colonel will give them to candidates.] There is also a grip. There is a certifying conversation and signal of distress. There are passwords which none can communicate to you save the presiding officer, or upon his authority, and you cannot communicate them to another, save to the Aid, upon your examination. These passwords are invariably given in a whisper.

"Instructions on entering regiments are these:—At outer door any alarm; here you will give the sentinel the password. At inner door, three raps; here you will give the sentinel your name, the number of your regiment and explanation of the term password; salute the presiding officer, both on your ingress and egress by placing right hand on breast and gently bowing."

The closing ceremony is as follows:—

"Colonel—Fellow-soldiers, I trust this review has been both pleasant and profitable to all. We met as friends, let us part as brothers, remembering that we seek no wrong to any, and our bond of union in battling for the right must tend to make us better men, better neighbors and better citizens. We thank you for your kindness and attention, and invite you all to be present at our next review to be held at —, on — next, at — o'clock, P. M. Sentinels, you will open the doors, that our soldiers may retire pleasantly and in order."

Your committee have deemed it important to give this outline of the "constitution and rituals of the grand encampment and regiments of the Kansas Legion," as constituting the secret organization, political and military, in obedience to which the public demonstrations have been made to subvert the authority of the Territorial government, established by Congress, by setting up a State government, either with or without the assent of Congress, as circumstances should determine. The endorsement of this military organization and recommendation by the Big Springs Convention for "the procurement and preparation of arms" accompanied with the distinct declaration that we "will resist them (the laws enacted by the Kansas Legislature) to a bloody issue as soon as we ascertain that peaceable remedies shall fail, and forcible resistance shall furnish any reasonable prospect of success," would seem to admit of no other interpretation than in the event that the courts of justice shall sustain the validity of those laws and Congress shall refuse to admit Kansas as a State, with the constitution to be formed at Topeka, they will set up an independent government in defiance of the federal authority.

The same purpose is clearly indicated by the other proceedings of this Convention, in which it is declared, "That we, with scorn, repudiate the election law, so called," and nominate Gov. Reeder for Congress, to be voted for on a different day from that authorized by law, at an election to be held by judges and clerks not appointed in pursuance of any legal authority, and not to be sworn by any person authorized by law to administer oaths; and the returns to be made and results proclaimed, and certificates granted in a mode, and not by persons permitted to perform these acts by any law in or out of the Territory.

In accepting the nomination, Governor Reeder addressed the Convention as follows, among other things:—

"In giving him this nomination, in this manner, they had strengthened his arms to do their work; and in return, he would now pledge to them a steady, unflinching, pertinacity of purpose, never firing industry, dogged perseverance, and all the abilities with which God had endowed him to the righting of their wrongs and the final triumph of their cause. He believed from the circumstances which had for the last eight months surrounded him, and which had at the same time placed in his possession many facts, and bound him, heart and soul, to the oppressed voters of Kansas, that he could do much towards obtaining a redress of their grievances. He said that day by day a crisis was coming upon us; that in after-time this would be to posterity a turning point, a marked period, as are to us the opening of the Revolution, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and the era of the Alien and Sedition laws; that we should take each step carefully, so that each be a step of progress, and so that no violence be done to the file which binds the American people together. He alluded to the unprecedented tyranny under which we are and have been, and said that if any one supposed that institutions were to be imposed by force upon a free and enlightened people, they never knew, or had forgotten, the history of our fathers. American citizens bear in their breasts too much of the spirit of other and trying days; and have lived too long amid the blessings of liberty to submit to oppression from any quarter; and the man who having once been free, could tamely submit to tyranny, was fit to be a slave. He urged the free State men of Kansas to forget all private issues, and pursue determinedly the one great object—never swerving, but steadily pressing on, as did the wise men who followed the star to the manger, looking back only for fresh encouragement. He counseled that peaceful resistance be made to the tyrannical and unjust laws of the spurious Legislature; that appeals to the courts, to