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A WORD IN SEASON.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

They have a superstition in the East,
That ALLAH, written on a piece of paper,
Is better unction than can come of priest,
Of rolling incense, and of lighted taper:
Holding, that any scrap which bears that name,
In any character, its front impress on,
Shall help the sinner through the purging flame,
And give his toasted feet a place to rest on.

Accordingly, they make a mighty fuss,
With ev'ry wretched tract and fierce oration,
And board the leaves—for they are not, like us,
A highly civilized and thinking nation:
And always stooping in the miry ways,
To look for matter of this earthly leaven,
They seldom, in their dust-exploring days,
Have any leisure to look up to Heaven.

So have I known a country on the earth,
Where darkness sat upon the living waters,
And brutal ignorance, and toll, and dearth,
Were the hard portion of its sons and daughters,
And yet, where they who should have opened the door
Of charity and light, for all men's finding,
Squabbled for words upon the altar-floor,
And rent The Book, in struggles for the binding.

The gentlest man among those pious Turks,
God's living image ruthlessly defaces;
Their best high-churchmen, with no faith in works,
Bowstrings the Virtues in the market-places:
The Christian Pariah, whom both sects curse,
(They curse all other men and curse each other)
Walks thro' the world, not very much the worse—
Does all the good he can, and loves his brother.

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JANUARY, 1844.

Wednesday, 10.—At home.
Ordained uncle John Smith a Patriarch.
Enjoyed myself well in an interview with the brethren, and concluded to take a ride part way with my uncle on his return to Macedonia.

In consequence of a visit from some gentlemen of Carthage, I called the city council together at 7 p.m. I copy the minutes:—

"SPECIAL SESSION.

January 10, 1844, 7 p.m.

Names of members called.
The Mayor said:—"Messrs. Backman, Hamilton and Sherman, lawyers from Carthage, have called on me, and told me that the occasion of the excitement at Carthage, and the resistance to the law in the case of the arrest of Cook, was the late ordinance of this council to prevent unlawful search or seizure of person or property by foreign process in the city of Nauvoo; that they considered said ordinance was designed to hinder the execution of the statutes of Illinois within this city: consequently they, the old citizens, felt disposed to stop the execution of processes, issuing from the city precincts. They also raised objections against the process issued by Justice Foster for the apprehension of Cook, because it was made returnable to him alone; whereas they said the statute required it to be made returnable before himself or some other justice.

I explained to them the nature and reason of the ordinance; that it was to prevent kidnapping under the pretence of law or process, and to facilitate the apprehension of thieves, &c., in this city, by throwing all foreign processes into the hands of the marshal, who would be most likely to know the hiding places of fugitives from justice, who might secrete themselves in our city; and said that if any wrong impression had gone abroad with regard to the motives of the council in passing said ordinance, I would call the council immediately, that they might have the opportunity of giving any explanation necessary, so that the public might understand the ordinance in its true light. I have therefore called the council accordingly. I also referred the lawyers from Carthage to the statute which requires all processes issued in cases of bastardy to be

returnable alone to the justice issuing the same; which they doubted until I shewed them the law; when they looked a little crest fallen and foolish."

After deliberation, an additional section relative to the foregoing ordinance was read three times, and passed, by way of amendment:—

"Section 3. Be it ordained by the city council of the city of Nauvoo, that nothing in the foregoing ordinance shall be so construed as to prevent, hinder, or thwart the designs of justice, or to retard the civil officers of the State or county in the discharge of their official duties, but to aid and assist them within the limits of this city.

Passed January 10, 1844.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor.
WILLARD RICHARDS, Recorder.
Council adjourned."

Wrote a letter to Esq. Backman, to inform him of what the city council had done.

I received a long equivocating letter from Francis M. Higbee, charging me with having slandered his character, and demanding a public trial before the church. It contains no denial of the charges which he accuses me of having spoken against him, but is full of bombast.

Thursday, 11.—At home.

Rode out 10 a.m., and returned at 1 1/2 p.m.

This morning William Jones, who had staid all night at Wilson's Tavern in Carthage, was arrested without process by Col. Levi Williams and his company, who kept him in custody until noon without rations.

The Twelve Apostles gave an invitation to the Saints in Nauvoo to cut and draw for me 75 or 100 cords of wood on the 15th and 16th instant.

Friday, 12.—Thaw—snow nearly gone.

A conference was held in Brownstown, Main county, Michigan; Elder Mephiboseth Sirrine, president, and Gehiel Savage, clerk. Nine branches were represented, containing 6 elders, 9 priests, 7 teachers, 1 deacon, 136 members, and 45 scattered members; one hundred members having removed from that State to Nauvoo since the conference in July last.

Saturday, 13.—At home in the morning.

At 10 o'clock attended city council, where a bill for an ordinance concerning the recording of deeds in this city, was taken under consideration, and read twice. It elicited much discussion.

The ten policemen who were not present at the meeting of the city council on the 5th inst., were sworn in the matter of William Law and William Marks, and testified that they had received no private instructions whatever from me.

A discussion took place on the subject of granting licenses for the sale of spirits.

I signed resolutions passed at a court martial held this morning.

Stephen M. Farnsworth was chosen president of the Priests' Quorum, and William Carmichael and William Box his counselors.

Sunday, 14.—At home all day.

A prayer meeting was held at the Assembly Room; I did not attend.

Warm and rainy towards evening.

The Twelve Apostles preached at private houses in various parts of the city.

A branch of the church was organized in New Orleans, with 34 members; T. B. Jackaway, president, and E. L. Brown, clerk.

Monday, 15.—At home. Wrote to sister Martha L. Campbell, Almira, N. Y.

At 9 a.m., teams began to arrive with wood, according to the appointment of the Twelve Apostles, there being about 200 of the brethren chopping in the woods, and from thirty to forty teams engaged in drawing the wood to my house. About 100 loads were drawn, and as many more chopped, and left to be drawn another day.

At 10 a.m., Dr. Richards called, and told me it was reported that Francis M. Higbee was going to put me under \$10,000 bonds for speaking against him. At the same time Constable Eldredge summoned me to attend a court as witness before Esq. Johnson, and I went accordingly to give my testimony.

The Twelve Apostles wrote the following letter:—

"Nauvoo, January 15, 1844.

To President Isaac Morley, and the Saints at Morley Settlement, the Twelve send greeting:—

Beloved Brethren:—While the work of the Lord is great and sought out by all them that have pleasure therein, the Lord of the vineyard has laid special charges upon some of his servants to execute; and while we are striving by all means to raise funds to hasten the Temple the approaching spring, we are not unmindful of the history of the church, the great proclamation to the kings of the earth, and the memorials to Congress, &c., all of which are now before the church, though their progress is retarded for the want of the necessities of life, in the families of those who are employed in this business.

Two or three clerks are necessarily employed, and that continually, by our Prophet, who cheerfully devote their time, not a tenth, but the whole, to roll on these desirable objects, but their hands are palsied, and their pens staid more or less; therefore, with the approbation of our President, we again call on you, as those who have ever been ready to listen to

the wants of the church, that you would raise such collections of provisions, as you may have at your disposal, and forward the same without delay, to us for the special benefit of the clerks of President Smith or the church. Asking no more, it is right they should not go hungry or naked.

Do you ask what is wanting? We answer, look to your own households, and say what it requires to make them comfortable, and you will know just what is wanting by these men. *Eatables of every kind*, and even soap to keep their hands clean, is scarce at Nauvoo, and it takes many lights to keep the pen in motion these long evenings.

The President has plenty to do without supporting a number of clerks, whose business as deeply concerns every other individual in the church as himself, although he has done it to a great extent, and with great inconvenience, and we are confident that when you are made acquainted with the facts, you will be unwilling that Joseph should do all, and get all the blessing. And as you shall continue your liberality in temporal things, God shall pour out upon your heads blessings spiritual and temporal—and now is the time for action.

All is peace at Nauvoo, and the last report from the Carthaginians was, they were beginning to think it was time to throw down their arms and attempt a compromise; but the Mormons can truly say they have had no quarrel with them; it has all been between the citizens and the law, their own officers being the executors thereof, and we feel disposed to let them fight it out among themselves, while we live in peace and laugh at their folly.

With our prayers and blessings, we subscribe ourselves,

Your brethren in Christ Jesus.

In behalf of the Quorum,

B. YOUNG, President.

W. RICHARDS, Clerk."

The municipal court issued a warrant for the arrest of Francis M. Higbee, on affidavit of Orson Pratt.

East wind in forenoon, and some rain. Brisk wind N.W. in afternoon.

Benjamin Andrews published in the Times and Seasons "An Appeal to the people of the State of Maine," setting forth the persecutions, murders, and robberies committed upon the Saints by the people of the State of Missouri, and soliciting the assistance of his native State in procuring redress.

Tuesday, 16.—Cold and windy.

At 10 a.m., F. M. Higbee was brought up before the municipal court on complaint of O. Pratt, for absconding himself from city council without leave, when summoned as a witness; and for slanderous and abusive language towards one of the members of the council.

The court adjourned, and the city council commenced their session, continuing till two o'clock, during which time a reconciliation took place with Francis M. Higbee, who had written a slanderous letter concerning me, and said many hard things, which he acknowledged, and I forgave him. I went before the council, and stated that all difficulties between me, and F. M. Higbee were eternally buried, and I was to be his friend for ever; to which F. M. Higbee replied, "I will be his friend for ever, and his right hand man."

A number of the brethren assembled and chopped up the firewood, which had been hauled to my house yesterday, and piled it up ready for use.

The following "Ordinance concerning the Sale of Spirituous Liquors" was passed by the city council:—

"An Ordinance concerning the Sale of Spirituous Liquors.

Whereas, the use and sale of distilled and fermented liquors for all purposes of beverage and drink by persons in health, are viewed by this city council, with unqualified disapprobation:

Whereas, nevertheless the aforesaid liquors are considered highly beneficial for medical and mechanical purposes, and may be safely employed for such uses under the counsel of discreet persons: Therefore,

Sect. 1st. Be it ordained by the city council of the city of Nauvoo, that the Mayor of this city is hereby authorized to sell said liquors in such quantities as he may deem expedient.

Sect. 2nd. Be it further ordained that other persons not exceeding one to each ward of the city, may also sell said liquors in like quantities for medical and mechanical purposes by obtaining a license of the mayor of the city. The above ordinance to be in full force and effect immediately after its passage. All ordinances to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Passed Jan. 16, 1844.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor.

W. RICHARDS, Recorder."

An ordinance was also passed, authorizing Henry G. Sherwood to make out a city directory, and to establish an intelligence office in the city. Also the following ordinance:—

"An Ordinance concerning Witnesses and Jurors Fees.

Be it ordained by the city council of the city of Nauvoo, that hereafter all persons subpoenaed and attending upon courts of trial as witnesses, or as jurors in civil cases, shall not be compelled to testify, or be held in attendance either as witness or juror, unless they

shall first be tendered the sum of fifty cents per day for each witness, and each juror subpoenaed.

Passed January 16, 1844.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor.

W. RICHARDS, Recorder."

Wednesday, 17.—At home settling accounts with various individuals, gave deed of a lot to John Lytle.

The steamer "Shepherdess" sunk near St. Louis, drowning forty passengers.

Thursday, 18.—At home, and wrote letters to Reuben McBride and Joseph Coe, Kirtland; Clark Leal, of Fountain Green, and to Justin J. Butterfield, Esq., Chicago.

This afternoon a man called on Brother Nelson Judd, and said he wanted to sell him some wood below Davidson Hibbard's. He went to see the wood, the man saying he would meet him at the place. When below Hibbard's two men came up on horseback, and told him they had a warrant for him, for taking away Avery's things from Bear Creek. One shot at him twice, and the other snapped at him twice with their pistols. Judd then coolly said, "Now, 'tis my turn," putting his hand into his pocket, although he knew he had no pistols: yet the men fled.

There was a cotillion party at the Mansion this evening.

Friday, 19.—Rode out in the course of the day. In the evening gave a lecture on the Constitution of the United States, and on the candidates for the Presidency.

Mild weather, cloudy in the afternoon.

A meeting was held in the Assembly Room to devise means for the founding of another literary institution in Nauvoo.

Saturday, 20.—Held mayor's court on the case "City of Nauvoo vs. Stephen Wilkinson," for breach of ordinance. I discharged the defendant, he paying costs.

At 6 p.m., prayer meeting in the Assembly Room. I was at home.

The High Council met, but having no business, adjourned.

"STANZAS

On the Presentation of the Book of Mormon to Queen Victoria.

BY MISS E. R. SNOW.

Before leaving London, Elder Lorenzo Snow presented to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, through the politeness of Sir Henry Wheatly, two neatly bound copies of the Book of Mormon, which had been donated by President Brigham Young, and left in the care of Elder Snow for that purpose, which circumstance suggested the following lines:—

Of all the monarchs of the earth
That wear the robes of royalty,
She has inherited by birth
The broadest wreath of majesty.

From her wide territorial wing
The sun does not withdraw its light;
While earth's diurnal motions bring
To other nations day and night.

All earthly thrones are tottering things,
Where lights and shadows intervene;
And regal honor often brings
The scaffold or the guillotine.

But still her sceptre is approv'd—
All nations deck the wreath she wears;
Yet, like the youth whom Jesus lov'd,
One thing is lacking, even there.

But lo! a prize possessing more
Of worth, than gems with honor rife—
A herald of salvation bore
To her, the words of endless life.

That Gift, however fools deride,
Is worthy of her royal care;
She'd better lay her crown aside,
Than spurn the light reflected there.

O would she now her influence bend—
The influence of royalty,
Messiah's kingdom to extend,
And Zion's 'nursing mother' be;

Thus with the glory of her name
Inscrib'd on Zion's lofty spire,
She'd win a wreath of endless fame,
To last when other wreaths expire.

Though over millions call'd to reign—
Herself a powerful nation's boast;
'T would be her everlasting gain
To serve the King, the Lord of hosts.

For there are crowns and thrones on high,
And kingdoms there, to be conferr'd—
There honors wait that never die;
There fame's immortal trump is heard.

Truth echoes—'tis Jehovah's word;
Let kings and queens and princes hear,
In distant isles the sound is heard;
Ye heav'ns rejoice! O earth, give ear!

The time, the time is now at hand
To give a glorious period birth;
The Son of God will take command
And rule the nations of the earth.
Nauvoo, Jan. 20, 1844."