

THE EVENING NEWS.

GEORGE Q. CANNON.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Monday, September 26, 1870

THE PROVO RAID.

To-day we are enabled to lay before our readers the depositions of those who were eye-witnesses to, and some of them sufferers by, the raid made on the city of Provo, on Saturday morning. The depositions have been received by Deseret Telegraph line. From a perusal of them we think our readers will feel as we feel, that a more villainous outrage could scarcely have been perpetrated; and if any have hitherto had any doubts that the whole affair was the result of a preconcerted plan, such doubts must now vanish. The fact also that non-commissioned officers were among the rioters is proof that they, at least, were cognizant of the whole matter.

PROVO, Utah, 24. Deposition of Alderman William Miller.

On the night of Sept. 22, I was awakened by a loud noise at the backman house, kept by J. M. Cunningham, Deputy U. S. Assessor, between the hours of 11 and 1 o'clock. It sounded like the noise of rioters. I arose and scanned. When partially dressed I heard a pounding at the front of my house, and shortly, several shots were fired into my bedroom, near my head. Some parties then came to my east door, and broke in my east window. I ran down stairs and, as I came to the lower room, the door was broken open. I asked what was wanted; they answered, "You, God damn you." I asked them to wait until I got my boots on, to which they assented. I returned and expressed my readiness to go with them. They then pointed a gun towards me and told me to march. I here discovered that they were U. S. soldiers. I marched with them westward, with a soldier on each side of me and several in front and rear. The soldiers drew their revolvers upon me and urged me forward with their bayonets. They would halt every few rods, and told me they would beat me to death. They told me they were going to destroy my building. When in the centre of West Main St., they commanded me to halt, and used abusive language as before. I then asked them to reason with me and tell what they had against me. They replied that I had agreed to rent them my hall for the purpose of having a party in it. I told them they mistook the affair as I had. I told them no such thing. They asked if I had not received a letter from them by J. M. Cunningham. Said they gave Cunningham a letter for me and stated that Cunningham afterwards told them it was all right, they could have the hall. I told Cunningham they could not have the hall. The soldiers said either myself, Cunningham or the soldiers had lied. I asked them to go with me to Cunningham's and learn the straight of it. Myself and two or three soldiers went to Cunningham's house. One soldier asked Cunningham out, who came with a light. The soldier blew out the light and asked Cunningham if he had not told them that I said they could have the hall for 15 dollars. The answer was "no sir, I never did." Then they passed the lie several times. The soldiers having me in charge said I was clear from blame, and they blamed Cunningham. The leader turned to the soldiers who were arguing with Cunningham and threatened to injure him. They then said they would discharge me. I told them to acquit the other soldiers of my innocence. The soldier then took me back to the crowd in front of the Bachman store, told the men I was not guilty, said it was Cunningham and Branigan's d—d lie. The officer in charge of the little squad said he was sorry for what they had done, and if I would write him a letter stating the amount of damages on my premises, directing it to the name of J. Dillom, and put it in the office, he would foot the bill, whether the others helped him or not. He told me to go home and they would not molest me any more. They said they had been in the valleys some sixty days and had tried to be sociable, and there were many young men and women that would associate with them, but the Bishops and old heads counseled them not to do so. When I was liberated they started up Centre street. There were from fifteen to twenty soldiers in all with me. They said they could be as mean as anybody.

Deposition of Thomas Fuller.

I camped in the thirteenth ward with two companions; we are laboring in repairing the telegraph line. Near 12 o'clock on the night of September 22, I was aroused by a noise and hammering on the doors of the Co-operative store. I arose and went out on the street, and saw a crowd of 12 or 15 soldiers. Heard them say they were going to smash in McDonald's house, that the d—d s—n of a b—h would not sell them any whiskey. I went down towards the store, met a man, a citizen, I asked him what was the matter? He said he wanted to raise a force to quell the mob. We then started down street, and when just below the Co-operative we were arrested by four soldiers, who presented pistols at us. Heard the soldiers say they would use up McDonald's house because he would not sell them whiskey; that they would use up the four white houses, viz., McDonald's, Sheets', Bishop Smoot's and Brigham Young's, and swore they would use the G—d d—d Bishop's house, and that they came here to run this town. Said they weren't volunteers, and would be G—d d—d but they would do it. There was one non-commissioned officer, and he had a gun in his hand. They said they would like to catch some more Mormons, and take them over to Camp, try them, and d—d them. They were along the streets, "Come out you G—d d—d Mormons and Mountain Meadow massacre," using other indecent language and threatening to kill the Mormons and take their women away from them. They shot pistols at the houses as they passed along. When the soldiers arrested us they asked if we were Mormons? We told them we were. They said they would take care of us, that we

had got into a d—d rough crowd and that they would shoot hell out of us if we resisted. They took us into the meeting-house block, and while there we heard other soldiers of the houses of McDonald and Sheets'; knew it was the rattling of glass. All the time they were firing guns and pistols, and dilling the air with yells and oaths. Myself and the other prisoner were with the four soldiers about an hour, when those from McDonald's house came in to the east gate of the meeting-house block, swearing that they would burn the meeting-house. They broke in part of an east window, and went to the steps of the front door, where they struck several matches, but failing to get the matches to burn they came to where we were at the north gate, where they were told we were Mormon prisoners, when several of the soldiers commenced beating me over the head with pistols, clubs and bayonets. I heard one of the officers say, "I guess we have given the G—d d—d Mormon son of a b—h enough." The most serious wound I received was by a bayonet stroke upon my forehead. The whole company of soldiers, some twenty in number, then started down Centre street, taking myself and the other prisoner with them. The soldiers attempted to fire into the University building. I escaped from them when down by Bishop Miller's. Blood flowed profusely from the wounds on my head.

Deposition of A. H. Bowen.

I was on patrol duty as a policeman, was at I. M. Cunningham's near six o'clock on the evening of Sept. 22nd. Eight or ten soldiers were present. One of them asked Cunningham if he could furnish supper for thirty or forty persons? Cunningham replied, "I will do the best I can." I went home, got a coat and returned, and saw a load of fourteen or fifteen soldiers arrive at Cunningham's. They said they were going to run the town. At eleven o'clock I saw three or four soldiers go into the street near Cunningham's house, using threatening language. They fired guns eastwardly. One soldier commanded them: "Get your guns and we will clean out the Mormon sons of b—s." They went towards Centre St. I ran across an orchard towards Bishop Miller's, and got there as they commenced hammering. I saw them break in the window and door, saying to Miller: "G—d d—n you, come out here!" I heard Miller ask: "What do you want?" The soldiers replied: "We want you." I then went home for my revolver, having nothing with me but a derring. I then went to the Court House and commenced arousing the citizens. I heard the soldiers smashing in the windows in the direction of McDonald's. I was in the orchard opposite the meeting house with three others; I saw the soldiers go to the front door of the meeting house, and strike two or three matches. The soldiers came out of the front gate. The city Marshal ordered us to be ready to fire upon them, when in the centre of the street. At this moment we recognized the voices of two citizens, as prisoners, which prevented us from firing. The soldiers passed down the street. We resorted with other citizens, to the vicinity of Cunningham's, from whence the soldiers soon started for camp.

Alma Brown

Said: On the 21st day of September, I saw some soldiers in Provo who asked me to haul them to camp. I told them I would for pay. They agreed to pay me, and I took them to camp. They, in their talk, said they were going to have a frolic in Provo the next night. One of them called Haws hired me to haul them over to Provo the next night. While at camp the next night, some of the soldiers who came to ride with me, had guns with them and wanted to put the guns in the wagon. I told them I would not take them with their guns. This was about three rods from the cook-house. One of the soldiers spoke up and said he was going to take his gun into town. At this time he was not more than two rods from the sentinel on guard. The sentinel did not make any objection. I saw three or four soldiers take their guns in their hands, and walk out of camp. This was after tattoo. I hailed to Provo two loads, eighteen in all, but did not see any guns or pistols about them. They had overcoats on. I do not know how many soldiers were in town that night, but heard a soldier, they call Haws, say there were not more than five soldiers left in camp besides the officers and guard. Some of them said they had a grudge against Bishop Miller and Bishop Sheets, and they would like to string Bishop Miller through the town. I unloaded the soldiers at Mr. Cunningham's house. Haws took me in the house and gave me my supper, and paid me for hauling them over. They said they were going to have a supper at Cunningham's, and save some music. They tried to engage me to take them back to camp and expected to break up at about two o'clock. I told them I would not like to hitch up my team at that time, and did not do so.

Abram Holladay

Said: On the evening of Thursday, September 22, while on duty as Captain of Police in Provo, I heard of a dancing party at J. M. Cunningham's house, got up by the soldiers from Camp Rawlins, and I had heard that there were some feelings among the soldiers on account, as they said, of one of their number being hurt. About nine o'clock, being near Cunningham's house with another policeman, Mr. Durfee came along; we had a few words. He referred to the soldiers having a little time of rejoicing, and thought there would be no trouble. He went over to Cunningham's and afterwards came back to us. He said the soldiers had sent him to say that they were not disposed to have any disturbance or trouble. He was about three-parts drunk. While he was talking some of the soldiers came out and called Durfee; he didn't go. They called him three times, and while he was with us three shots were fired from Cunningham's house, and two in the street. Durfee left us and went back again to the house. Some of the soldiers started off down the street and had some loud talk among themselves, they came back and went into the house. They afterwards came out, and stood talking in the street, and made considerable threats, from which I understood they were going to Alderman Miller's hall. I went across the lot, and expected to meet the city marshal, and some other policemen, but did not see them. I heard the soldiers say they would burn the hall or tear it down. I heard them smash in the door and windows and

they called for old Miller to come out. They called him very uncouth names. I saw the marshal and one policeman. We went along to talk to and reason with the soldiers, at which they presented their guns and pistols at us and took us under guard; they threatened us a great deal. We saw a part of the crowd take hold of Alderman Miller, and start towards J. M. Cunningham's house. They said that the Mormons had run this Territory long enough, that they had not got volunteers in the Territory now, but had Uncle Sam's men, who were going to run this town as they G—d d—d pleased. They swore a great deal. They brought Alderman Miller back, and released him, saying they had nothing against him. They also released us, and told us not to get in their way again. They said this had been Utah Territory, but now it was Uncle Sam's Territory, and they were going to run it, as they had men to back them. We thought it best to go and see Mayor Smoot, Alderman Sheets, Col. Daniels and others. We did so, and waked up a number of other men. While doing so we heard the soldiers near the meeting house. We went to McDonald's house and from there to Mayor Smoot's. We afterwards heard the soldiers at McDonald's house, and heard them breaking in the window. We thought it was the windows of the drug store, but afterwards found it was McDonald's and Alderman Sheets' dwelling houses. I went home to get my gun, and on my return I met the soldiers at Lewis' hall. They were then going west. I went to the Court House and saw the city marshal, and some other policemen; we went after the soldiers, but they went off to camp, and there was no more disturbances that night. There were about 25 soldiers that went to Alderman Miller's hall, and they were afterwards recruited by some others. They fired several shots in the streets while they were going about the town.

Eara Oakley.

On being duly sworn, said that on the night of the 22d of September, while I was coming down from Mr. Bachman's house, I met the soldiers in the street; they took me prisoner and marched me along with them. They went up to the meeting house. At this time we met another party of soldiers—the ones who were at McDonald's house. There were about 15 in one party and 10 in the other; some of them were very drunk, others not so drunk. They seemed to think of nothing but the Mountain Meadow massacre, and kept calling out about that occurrence and swore considerable. There was a man on the hill near the meeting house; the soldiers took him and struck him on the head several times with their bayonets. Prior to this I told this man he had better get away, I could not protect him, but was too closely guarded. They took down street, and when we got to the store of Mr. Bachman, I told them I wanted to stop there. They asked me if I was Bachman's man? I told them yes, and they let me go. While at the meeting house one of the soldiers swore, and said he would have a fire, and went to the meeting house and struck some matches against the wall. He seemed determined to burn the meeting house. As we were going back, two of the soldiers shot into Alderman Miller's house. This was about half past two or three o'clock in the morning. There were about 25 soldiers in the crowd.

Frederick Bee.

Said on the night of Thursday, Sept. 22, 1870, having been engaged to play an instrument at a supper-party made by the soldiers from Camp Rawlins, at John W. Cunningham's house, while I was at said house and at supper, one of the soldiers came in and said that one of their number, named Haws, had been hurt in the street. Some of the soldiers went out, saying they would go and see about it. Afterwards I heard three shots fired in the street. Previous to this, three or four of the soldiers had been somewhat disorderly, but they were quieted by the others. They had danced and sung songs for some two hours before this report was made of Haws being hurt. I do not know whether they brought any ladies from Camp, did not see any officers there at the party. There were about twenty or twenty-five soldiers in all. I did not hear any of the soldiers make any threats. The supper was served about eleven o'clock; after supper I went up stairs. The ladies, and about six or eight soldiers were up stairs; the other soldiers did not come up. We stayed and played and sang songs about an hour longer. I went home about a quarter past twelve o'clock. Mr. Minckley, a drummer of Company K., seemed to have charge of the party. He did not come till after tattoo. I saw him once at J. M. Cunningham's house after the shooting commenced in the street. I did not see any of them have any guns or pistols. I have never heard any of the soldiers make any threats. I have heard that it was not all those at the party, but another crowd of soldiers from camp who done the mischief in town. I heard considerable shouting and shooting in the streets, but was not near enough to see the soldiers or hear what they said.

Daniel Graves.

On being sworn said that on Wednesday last I was at Camp Rawlins with grapes to sell. While there I engaged with a soldier named Haws to furnish what grapes they would want at the supper party on Thursday evening. He seemed to be the committee for said party. He told me to go to Mr. J. M. Cunningham's house that afternoon, and see Mr. McMahon and others that might be at Cunningham's and tell them not to purchase fruit from anybody else. I did so, and McMahon engaged some peaches also. On the evening of Thursday I took the grapes, &c. to Mr. Cunningham's house. Two loads of beer arrived while I was there. The first load of soldiers came about 7 o'clock. Some ten or fifteen of them, then went up stairs, and then went with Joseph A. Thompson several times. About half past 7 o'clock the Smith boys and Frederick Bee came with their instruments, and then the dancing and singing commenced. About 8 o'clock another party of soldiers came. At that time a soldier named John, the Major's cook, brought a keg of beer, and the soldiers took hold and drank. About half past eight there was a little disturbance down stairs. About 9 o'clock another crowd came; they had their guns and bayonets with them. About half past nine o'clock Haws, with another crowd came. Supper was on the table; the table was filled, and while they were eating, some firing was heard outside. The women screamed and those at the table arose,

went up stairs and got their firearms. Haws came in and said his shoulder was broke; he said he had fired four shots after the man that hurt him, but did not know if he had hit him. The soldiers threatened if they got the man they would hang him to a telegraph pole. They ate at three tables. About half past 11 one of them brought in a small keg of whiskey, which was passed round. After this I heard a fuss out of doors and the soldiers seemed to have no control of themselves. Haws told me that I had better not go home then, as the soldiers might shoot me or anybody else. I went out doors. They had Alderman Miller in custody, and were talking about his hall. There seemed to be some misunderstanding between them. After this I heard a noise on the bench, and from the sound of the shouting and shooting I thought they were coming back. They came up the street and fired several times opposite D. Carter's house. Several of them came into Mr. Cunningham's house, and they got some more beer from the wagon. Haws said it was time to quit. Some of them got to fighting among themselves; one of them swore a great deal and threatened that he would burn every house in town. This man was marked with the town pox. Abram Durfee and Joseph Thompson went out to the soldiers several times. Haws seemed to have charge of the party. They then got the brewer's wagon and went to Camp. There were three or four sergeants and two or three corporals at the party. I did not hear any threats made, only about the man who had hit Haws. The above affidavits were duly sworn before me this 24th day of Sept., 1870.

A. O. SMOOT,
Mayor of Provo, Utah.

September 26th.

Alderman Sheets presiding.

Joseph Boren.

On being duly sworn said, one the evening of the 21st of September, 1870, while at Mr. Thomas Kerry's house for a horse, two soldiers came up to us and one of them said, "Kerry, our dances burst up." He then said a gang of them were ready, and was coming up the next evening to run the town; that they would not dance if they could not get the hall for nothing. He said if the people wanted a fight with rocks and clubs they could have it, or with guns and pistols either; that they had needie guns and could use them as fast as the people could; that they were going to visit Alderman Sheets first, and then Alderman Miller, as they had a spite against Miller for renting his hall for fifteen dollars and then raising the price to two hundred dollars for four nights. I would know these two men and I told them I would know them. I told Isaac Bullock, Sheriff of this county, on the morning of the 22d, about 11 o'clock; also told the policeman, Harrison, on the evening of the 22d. I heard the shouting and shooting in the town during the night of the 22d, but stayed at home to protect my family.

Wm. D. Roberts.

On being duly sworn said, on the morning of the 23d of September, between two and three o'clock, I heard a gun fired, and about five o'clock. On going to West Main Street, I found a soldier lying on the west side of the street, drunk, he had a gun by his side, I picked up the gun and took the cartridge out of it, and took the gun away. I then notified the Captain of Police, and he, with myself, went to take charge of the soldier; he resisted and attempted to draw a dirk knife. The Captain took the knife from the soldier, and we then took him in custody; he afterwards threatened that, upon being released, he would cause trouble to the people and officers of the city.

George Halladay.

On being sworn said that on the night of the 22nd Sept., 1870. I was at A. F. McDonald's house at about 11 or 12 o'clock. I was awakened by Marshal Rogers, who informed me that the soldiers were coming to the house. I went up stairs. The family was by this time aroused. Mr. McDonald was not at home. I placed the woman and children in an up stairs room. The soldiers broke in some window sash and doors, swearing all the time they were doing so. I got out of the north window, and went for help, and returned as the soldiers were leaving. I heard a great deal of swearing and shooting; we had no fire arms in the house, as the boys had them in the cañon with them.

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Come to Conference. By Order of THE COMMITTEE.

I will call on you tomorrow morning as before.
T. H.
d2901

WANTED A WOMAN to do General Housework. Apply to
H. B. BEATTIE,
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d2583 w24-1

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OR THE
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At the CLOTHING DEPARTMENT!

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1,500 Feet of

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Seven or fourteen feet long, four inches thick, and from four inches wide upward. Also a lot of MAPLE PLANK, two inches and a quarter thick, and from eight to ten inches wide.
d2526w583t

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September 24, 1870.

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KIMBALL & LAWRENCE.
Salt Lake City,
September 13, 1870. d2492w

Z. C. M. I.

General

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