

# EVENING NEWS

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CHARLES W. FENROSE, EDITOR.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1885.

# THE MASS MEETING.

A MULTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE ASSEMBLED AND DECLARED PROTEST AND PETITION IN RELATION TO THEIR WRONGS.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING, AND AN EARNEST AND UNMISTAKABLE DEMONSTRATION.

A CLEAR, FORCIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE.

At 1 p.m., the hour named for the commencement of the mass meeting called to ratify the statement of grievances and protest prepared for presentation to the President of the United States, the Tabernacle was well filled.

At 1:15 the exercises opened with music by the 10th Ward brass band.

The assembly was called to order by Hon. Wm. Jennings, who announced Hon. John T. Caine as chairman of the meeting.

Seconded and carried unanimously.

O. F. Whitney nominated H. M. Wells as secretary of the meeting, and his being seconded, he proceeded to read the call for the meeting.

Jas. Sharp nominated, as vice-chairman, Wm. Jennings, T. G. Webber, Elias A. Smith, C. D. Brinton, Miss Mary A. Cook and Mrs. Dr. R. H. Brinton.

The chairman then nominated Wm. M. Stewart and Cornelia H. Clayton as assistant secretaries.

The Tabernacle choir, in attendance, sang, "O, say what is Truth."

Prayer was offered by Apostle Heber J. Grant.

Music by the S. S. Union brass band.

Hon. John T. Caine, Chairman, stated that the object of the meeting was to petition the Government for redress of the grievances of the people of this Territory.

He vividly portrayed, in a short speech, the persecutions through which the Latter-day Saints had passed because of their religious beliefs; paid a high tribute to their unflinching patriotism and devotion to God and their country, and gave a sketch of their history since the settlement of Utah.

The address was received with loud applause.

Motion by the Sixteenth Ward Band.

Bishop O. F. Whitney then read the following:

**DECLARATION OF GRIEVANCES AND PROTEST:**

**To the President and People of the United States:**

**FELLOW CITIZENS:**

A condition of affairs imperilling the rights of millions of people, and the peace of Utah and their co-religionists in the neighboring States and Territories, impels us to this declaration of our grievances.

We, the undersigned, are representatives, to address you. Our rights as American citizens are trampled upon, and we are daily called upon to perform a daily duty, in the presence of such a danger, to protest against the gigantic wrongs which are being perpetrated against the liberties of every citizen.

In our annual meeting, held in the name of freedom, justice and humanity make this appeal for relief and protection.

We are unpopular with our fellow countrymen; it is our religion which makes us so; we are a small minority in our midst; but we have yet to learn that these are grounds upon which we should be treated as a people, from the beginning of our history to the present day.

As to our religious faith, it is based upon evidence, which to our minds is conclusive; and we are not to be destroyed by legislative enactments or judicial decisions.

We are a people, and we cannot convince the mind. To yield, at the demand of the legislator or the judge, to the will of a majority, would prove as recalcitrant to every duty we owe to God and man.

Among the principles of our religion is that of the revelation from God; one of the doctrines so revealed is that of plural marriage, which, when practiced, is a sin, and is an abomination; which, when practiced, is a sin, and is an abomination; which, when practiced, is a sin, and is an abomination.

That the Latter-day Saints should be treated as a people, and not as a sect, is a principle of our religion.

It is difficult for people among them to conceive how it can be associated with our religion, and we are not to be destroyed by legislative enactments or judicial decisions.

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In his public address, he has persistently misrepresented the state of affairs in Utah, and asked upon every citizen the responsibility of his misstatements.

He endeavored without authority of law to displace the officers of the Territory elected by the people, and fill their places with men of his own appointing.

He has accused us of a lack of interest in educational matters, but when a bill was passed by our Legislature appropriating money to build a University, he refused to sign it; the bill, however, was enacted into law, and a monument to his shame.

The Edmunds act contemplated the discontinuance of the Utah Commission so soon as the Territorial Legislature should provide for filling the local offices; but when a bill was submitted to him providing for this, he vetoed it, and the Commission continued in office, contrary to the intention of the law.

He has endeavored to pass a bill appropriating the representation of the Territory. This bill was drawn up by the Legislature, and was signed by the Governor, but when it was presented to him for his signature, he treated it with contempt, and refused to sign it.

These and many other similar acts brand him a despot, unworthy to govern among his fellow citizens.

The Edmunds law which not only provides for the punishment of polygamy, but also prohibits the marriage of a man and a woman, whether in the marriage relation or outside of it, is a law which is a disgrace to the people of Utah, and a disgrace to the nation.

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