

THE ASSASSINATION OF JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH.

BY HEMAN C. SMITH.

It is well known that Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed at Carthage, Illinois, June 27, 1844, by a lawless band of desperate men.

This event has been described in different ways by interested and disinterested parties.

It may be well to reproduce some of the statements made and published at the time by those who were in condition to know the facts as they transpired, and who wrote when the matter was fresh in their minds. *The Times and Seasons*, a church paper, published at Nauvoo in its issue for July 1, 1844, published an account of this awful deed in which appears the joint statement of Willard Richards, John Taylor, and Samuel H. Smith. The first two were present when the deed was committed, and Taylor was wounded. The last named was a brother of the victims. This published account also gives "Statement of facts" by Attorney-at-law H. T. Reid, Fort Madison, Iowa, and James W. Woods, of Burlington, Iowa. A statement from Governor Thomas Ford is also included.

Neither of these three gentlemen were in any way connected with the church, and it is not to be supposed were in sympathy with the mob; and therefore could be expected to view the case without prejudice and be unbiased in their statements.

The account of *The Times and Seasons*, including the letters of Messrs. Richards, Taylor, and Smith, is as follows:

AWFUL ASSASSINATION OF JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH:—THE PLEDGED
FAITH OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS STAINED WITH INNOCENT
BLOOD BY A MOB!

On Monday the 24th inst., after Gov. Ford had sent word, that those eighteen persons demanded on a warrant, among whom were Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith *should be protected* by the militia of the State,

they in company with some ten or twelve others, started for Carthage. Four miles from that place, they were met by Capt. Dunn, with a company of cavalry, who had an order from the Governor for the "State Arms." Gen. Smith indorsed his acceptance of the same, and both parties returned to Nauvoo to obtain said arms. After the arms were obtained, both parties took up the line of march for Carthage, where they arrived about five minutes before twelve o'clock at night. Capt. Dunn nobly acquitting himself landed us safe at Hamilton's Hotel.

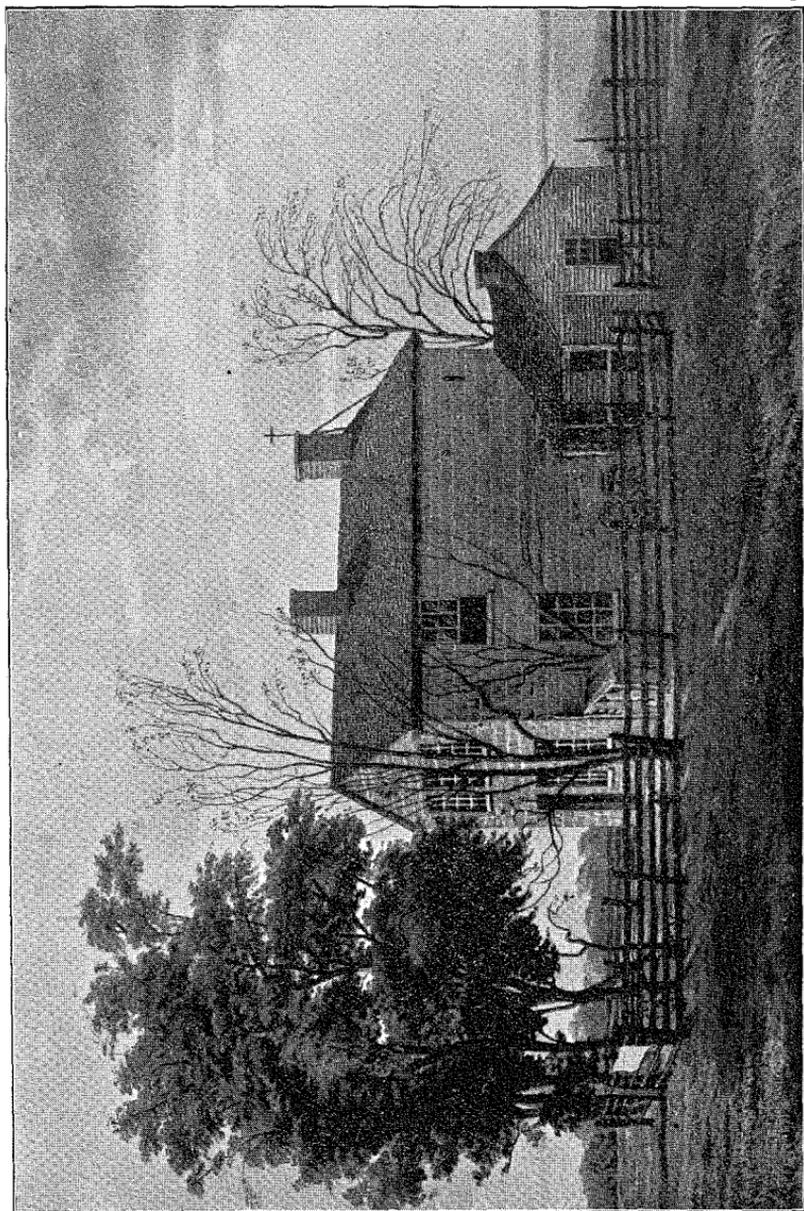
In the morning we saw the Governor and he *pledged the faith of the State*, that we should be protected. Gen. Smith and his brother Hyrum were arrested by a warrant founded upon the oaths of H. O. Norton and Augustine Spencer for *treason*. Knowing the threats from several persons that the two Smiths should never leave Carthage *alive*, we all began to be alarmed for their personal safety. The Gov. and Gen. Deming conducted them before the McDonough troops and introduced them as *Gen. Joseph Smith and Gen. Hyrum Smith*—This manœuver came near raising a mutiny among the Carthage Greys, but the Governor quelled it.

In the afternoon, after great exertions on the part of our counsel, we dispensed with an investigation, and voluntarily gave bail for our appearance to the circuit Court, to answer in the case of abating the Nauvoo Expositor, as a nuisance.

At evening the justice made out a mittimus, without an investigation and committed the two Gen. Smiths to prison *until discharged by due course of law*, and they were safely guarded to jail. In the morning the governor went to the jail and had an interview with these men, and to every appearance all things were explained on both sides.

The constable then went to take these men from the jail, before the Justice for examination, but the jailer refused to let them go, as they were under his direction "*till discharged by due course of law*;" but the Governor's troops, to the amount of one or two hundred, took them to the Court House, when the hearing was continued till Saturday the 29th, and they were remanded to jail. Several of our citizens had permits from the Governor to lodge with them, and visit them in jail. It now began to be rumored by several men, whose names will be forthcoming in time, *that there was nothing against these men, the law could not reach them, but powder and ball would!* The governor was made acquainted with these facts, but on the morning of the 27th, he disbanded the McDonough troops, and sent them home; took Captain Dunn's company of cavalry and proceeded to Nauvoo, leaving these two men and three or four friends, to be guarded by *eight men* at the jail; and a company in town of 60 men, 80 or 100 rods from the jail, as a corps in reserve.

About six o'clock in the afternoon the guard was surprised by an armed mob of from 150 to 250, painted red, black and yellow, which surrounded the jail, forced in—poured a shower of bullets into the room where these unfortunate men were held in durance vile, to answer to the laws of Illinois; under the solemn pledge of the faith of the State, by Gov. Ford, *that they should be protected!* but the mob ruled!



CARTHAGE JAIL.

They fell as martyrs amid this tornado of lead, each receiving four bullets! John Taylor was wounded by four bullets in the limbs but not seriously. Thus perishes the hope of law; thus vanishes the plighted faith of the State; thus the blood of innocence stains the constituted authorities of the United States, and thus have two among the most noble martyrs since the slaughter of Abel, sealed the truth of their divine mission, *by being shot by a mob for their religion!*

Messengers were dispatched to Nauvoo, but did not reach there till morning. The following was one of the letters:

"12 o'clock at night, 27th June,
Carthage, Hamilton's Tavern.

"To Mrs. Emma Smith, and Major Gen. Dunham, &c—

"The Governor has just arrived; says all things shall be inquired into, and all right measures taken.

"I say to all citizens of Nauvoo, my brethren, be still, and know that *God reigns. Don't rush out of the city*—don't rush to Carthage; stay at home, and be prepared for an attack from Missouri mobbers. The governor will render every assistance possible—has sent out orders for troops—Joseph and Hyrum are dead—but not by the Carthage people—the guards were true as I believe.

"We will prepare to move the bodies as soon as possible.

"The people of the county are greatly excited, and fear the Mormons will come out and take vengeance—I have pledged my word that the Mormons will stay at home as soon as they can be informed, and no violence will be on their part, and say to my brethren in Nauvoo, in the name of the Lord—be still—be patient—only let such friends as choose come here to see the bodies—Mr. Taylor's wounds are dressed and not serious—I am sound.

"WILLARD RICHARDS,
"JOHN TAYLOR,
"SAMUEL H. SMITH."

"Defend yourselves until protection can be furnished necessary, June 27th, 1844.

"THOMAS FORD, *Governor*
and Commander in chief."

"MR. ORSON SPENCER,

"*Dear Sir:* Please deliberate on this matter: prudence may obviate material destruction. I was at my residence when this horrible crime was committed. It will be condemned by three fourths of the citizens of this county—be quiet or you will be attacked from Missouri.

"M. R. DEMING."

The Governor as well as the citizens of Carthage, was thunder struck! and fled.

The Legion in Nauvoo, was called out at 10 A. M. and addressed by Judge Phelps, Col. Buckmaster, of Alton, the Governor's aid, and others and all excitement and fury allayed and preparations were made to receive the bodies of the noble martyrs. About three o'clock they were met by a great assemblage of people east of the Temple on Mulholland

street, under the direction of the city Marshal, followed by Samuel H. Smith, the brother of the deceased, Dr. Richards and Mr. Hamilton of Carthage. The wagons were guarded by three men. The procession that followed in Nauvoo was the City Council, the Lieut. General's Staff, the Major General and staff, the Brigadier General and staff, commanders and officers of the Legion and citizens generally, which numbered several thousands, amid the most solemn lamentations and wailings that ever ascended into the ears of the Lord of Hosts to be avenged of our enemies!

When the procession arrived the bodies were both taken into the Nauvoo Mansion; the scene at the Mansion can not be described: the audience was addressed by Dr. Richards, Judge Phelps, Woods and Reid Esqs. of Iowa, and Col. Markham. It was a vast assemblage of some 8 or 10,000 persons, and with one united voice resolved to trust to the law for a remedy of such a high handed assassination, and when that failed to call upon God to avenge us of our wrongs! Oh! widows and orphans! Oh! Americans weep for the glory of freedom has departed!

The statements by Messrs. Reid and Woods were as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

At the request of many persons who wish that the truth may go forth to the world in relation to the late murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, by a band of lawless assassins, I have consented to make a statement of the facts so far as they have come to my knowledge, in an authentic shape, as one of the attorneys employed to defend the said Smiths against the charges brought against them, and other persons at Carthage, in the State of Illinois.

On Monday the 25th inst., at the request of Gen. Joseph Smith I left Fort Madison in the Territory of Iowa, and arrived at Carthage where I expected to meet the General, his brother Hyrum and the other persons implicated with them; they arrived at Carthage late at night and next morning voluntarily surrendered themselves to the constable, Mr. Betterworth, who held the writ against them on a charge of riot, for destroying the press, type and fixtures of the Nauvoo Expositor, the property of William and Wilson Law, and other dissenters, charged to have been destroyed on the 10th inst.

Great excitement prevailed in the county of Hancock, and had extended to many of the surrounding counties. A large number of the militia of several counties were under arms at Carthage, the Head Quarters of the commanding Gen. Deming; and many other troops were under arms at Warsaw and other places, in the neighborhood. The Governor was at Head Quarters in person, for the purpose of seeing that the laws of the land were executed and had pledged his own faith and the faith of the State of Illinois that the Smiths and the other persons concerned with them should be protected from personal violence, if they would surrender themselves to be dealt with according to the law. During the two succeeding days, his Excellency repeatedly expressed to the legal counselors of the Smiths his determination to protect the prisoners and to see that

they should have a fair and impartial examination so far as depended on the Executive of the State. On Tuesday morning soon after the surrender of the prisoners on the charge of riot, Gen. Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were both arrested on a charge of treason against the State, of Illinois. The affidavits upon which the writs issued were made by Henry O. Norton and Augustine Spencer.

On Tuesday afternoon the two Smiths and other persons on the charge of riot, appeared before R. F. Smith, a justice of the peace, residing at Carthage, and by advice of counsel of in order to prevent if possible, any increase of excitement, voluntarily entered into recognizance in the sum of five hundred dollars each with unexceptionable security, for their appearance at the next term of circuit court for said county. The whole number of persons recognized is fifteen, most if not all of them leading men in the Mormon church.

Making out the bonds and justifying bail necessarily consumed considerable time, and when this was done it was near night, and the Justice adjourned his court over without calling on the Smiths to answer to the charge of treason, or even intimating to their counsel or the prisoners, that they were expected to enter into the examination that night. In less than an hour after the adjournment of the court, constable Bettersworth who had arrested the prisoners in the morning appeared at Hamilton's Hotel, at the lodgings of the prisoners and their counsel and insisted that the Smiths should go to jail. Mr. Woods of Burlington, Iowa, and myself as counsel for the prisoners, insisted that they were entitled to be brought before the justice for examination before they could be sent to jail. The constable to our surprise, thereupon exhibited a mittimus from said justice as follows:

"STATE OF ILLINOIS }
 "Hancock county }

"The people of the State of Illinois to the keeper of the jail of said county, greeting:

"Whereas, Joseph and Hyrum Smith of the said county aforesaid have been arrested upon the oath of Augustine Spencer and Henry O. Norton, for the crime of treason, and has been brought before me as a Justice of the Peace in and for said county, for trial at the seat of justice thereof, which trial has been necessarily postponed by reason of the absence of material witnesses, to wit: Francis M. Higbee and others; Therefore I command you in the name of the people to receive the said Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith into your custody in the jail of the county aforesaid, there to remain until discharged by due course of law.

"Given under my hand and seal, this 25th day of June, A. D. 1844.

(Signed) "R. F. SMITH, J. P."

His Excellency did not think it was within the sphere of his duty to interfere, and the prisoners were removed from their lodgings to jail.—The recitals of the mittimus so far as they relate to the prisoners having brought before the justice for trial, and it there appearing that the necessary witness of the prosecution were absent, is wholly untrue, unless

the prisoners could have appeared before the justice without being present in person or by counsel; nor is there any law of Illinois within my knowledge which permits a justice to commit persons charged with crimes, to jail without an examination as to the probability of their guilt.

On Wednesday forenoon the Governor in company with one of his friends, visited the prisoners at the jail, and again assured them that they should be protected from violence, and told them that if the troops marched the next morning to Nauvoo as his Excellency then expected they should be taken along in order to insure their personal safety.

On the same morning some one or more of the counsel for the prosecution, expressed their wish to me, that the prisoners should be brought out of jail for examination; they were answered that the prisoners had already been committed, and that the justice and constable had no further control of the prisoners; and that if the prosecutors wanted the prisoners brought out of jail, they should bring them out on a writ of Habeas Corpus or some other due course of law. The constable after this conversation went to the jail with the following order to the jailer.

"STATE OF ILLINOIS }

"Hancock county }

"To David Bettersworth, constable of said county:

"You are commanded to bring the bodies of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith from the jail of said county, forthwith before me at my office for an examination on the charge of treason, they having been committed for safe keeping until trial could be had on such examination and the state now being ready for such examination.

"Given under my hand and seal this 26th day of June, 1844.

(Signed)

"R. F. SMITH, J. P."

And demanded the prisoners, but as the jailer could find no law authorizing a justice of the peace, to demand prisoners committed to his charge, he refused to give them up, until discharged from his custody by due course of law. Upon the refusal to give up the prisoners, the company of Carthage Greys marched to the jail, by whose orders I know not, and compelled the jailer against his will and conviction of duty to deliver the prisoners to the constable, who, forthwith, took them before Justice Smith, the Captain of the Carthage Greys. The counsel for prisoners then appeared, and asked for subpoenas for witnesses on the part of the prisoners, and expressed their wish to go into the examination, as the witnesses could be brought from Nauvoo to Carthage; the justice thereupon fixed the examination for 12 o'clock, on Thursday the 27th inst.; whereupon the prisoners were remanded to prison. Soon after a council of the military officers was called by the Governor, and it was determined to march on the next morning, June 27th inst. to Nauvoo, with all the troops, except one company which was to be selected by the Governor from the troops whose fidelity was more to be relied upon to guard the prisoners, whom it was determined should be left at Carthage. On Thursday morning, another consultation of officers took place, and the former orders for marching to Nauvoo with the whole army, were coun-

termanded. One company were ordered to accompany the Governor, to Nauvoo: the Carthage Greys, who had but two days before been under arrest for insulting the commanding General, and whose conduct had been more hostile to the prisoners, than that of any other company, were selected to guard the prisoners, and the other troops including those rendezvoused at Golden's Point, from Warsaw and who had been promised that they would be marched to Nauvoo, were disbanded. A guard of only eight men were stationed at the jail, while the rest of the Greys were in camp at a quarter of a mile's distance, and whilst his Excellency was haranguing the peaceable citizens of Nauvoo, and asking them to give up all their own arms, the assassins were murdering the prisoners in jail, whom the Governor had pledged himself and the faith of the State to protect.

H. T. REID.

At the request of the friends of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, I have consented to give a statement of such matters as I had a knowledge of in relation to their murder at Carthage, and what occurred under my observation. I arrived in Nauvoo from Burlington, Iowa, on Friday, June 21, about 9 o'clock, P. M., found all things quiet, had an interview on Saturday morning the 22d, with Joseph and Hyrum Smith, who were in consultation with some of their friends in relation to a communication from Gov. Ford: during the interview heard Gen. Joseph Smith give orders to disband the Legion and withdraw the guards and sentinels, who were cooperating with the police to preserve the peace of the city, as he said by order of Gov. Ford; that I went from Nauvoo to Carthage on the evening of the 22d, when I had an interview with Gov. Ford, assuring him as to the quiet of Nauvoo, and that Smith and his friends were ready to obey the laws. I was told that the constable with a posse had that evening gone to Nauvoo with a writ for Smith and others, and that nothing short of an unconditional surrender to the laws could allay the excitement. I was than informed by Gov. Ford he was pledged to protect all such persons as might be arrested, and that they should have an impartial examination, and that if the Smiths and the rest against whom warrants had been issued would come to Carthage by Monday the 24th inst., (June) it would be a compliance on their part, and on Sunday morning the 23rd, Gov. Ford pledged his word that if Gen. Smith would come to Carthage, he should by him be protected, with such of his friends as might accompany him, and that I as his counsel should have protection, in defending Smith; that I returned to Nauvoo on Sunday evening the 23d, and I found Gen. Joseph and Hyrum Smith making preparations to go to Carthage on Monday; and on Monday morning the 24th, I left the city of Nauvoo in company with the two Smiths, and some fifteen other persons, parties and witnesses, for Carthage. We were met by a company of about 60 men under Capt. Dunn; that at the request of Gen. Joseph Smith, I advanced and communicated with the commander of the company, and was informed that he was on his way to Nauvoo, with an order from Gov. Ford for the State Arms at that place, that it was

agreed by myself on behalf of Gen. Smith, that the order for arms should be indorsed by Gen. Smith; and that he should place himself under the protection of Capt. Dunn, to return to Nauvoo and see the Governor's order promptly obeyed and return with Capt. Dunn to Carthage; Capt. Dunn pledging his word as a military man, that Smith and his friends would be protected, that the order was indorsed by Gen. Smith, which was communicated by Capt. Dunn, to Gov. Ford, with a letter from Gen. Smith, informing the Governor that he would accompany Capt. Dunn to Carthage.

I left the company and proceeded to Carthage; that about 12 o'clock at night of the 24th, Captain Dunn returned with the State Arms from Nauvoo; accompanied by Joseph and Hyrum, and some 13 others, who were charged with riot in destroying the printing Press of the Nauvoo Expositor; that on the morning of the 25th, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, with the others charged, surrendered themselves to the constable, and at the same time that Joseph and Hyrum Smith were arrested on a charge of treason against the State of Illinois; that about 3 o'clock P. M. on the 25th, the justice proceeded to the examination in relation to the riot and after a good deal of resistance on the part of the prosecution, we were permitted to enter into a recognizance to answer at the next term of Circuit Court, that we were engaged until dark in making out and giving our recognizances, that in consequence of the rumors as to the excitement at Warsaw and other points, and to allay the fears of the citizens of Nauvoo I requested Gov. Ford to detail a company to Nauvoo, to protect the city, which request was promptly complied with, and that night Capt. Singleton, with a company of men from McDonough county marched to Nauvoo, and took possession of the city and remained until the evening of the 27th, when they took up their line of March for Carthage.

After the matter of the riot was disposed of the justice left, without saying anything in relation to the examination for treason, and in about one hour the constable returned with a mittimus, a copy of which accompanies the statement of my colleague, H. T. Reid, a copy of which was demanded and refused; that I requested the officer to wait until I could see Gov. Ford, and was told he would wait five minutes, and as I went to the door I met Capt. Dunn with some twenty men to guard the prisoners to jail; that I accompanied Gov. Ford to the justice, R. F. Smith, who gave as cause for issuing warrant of committal that the prisoners were not personally safe at the Hotel.

I then requested the Governor to have a company detailed to guard the jail, which was done, and they arrived at the jail about the same time as the prisoners. On the morning of the 26th, the Governor visited the jail in company with a friend, at which interview the Governor again pledged himself for their personal safety, and said if the troops went to Nauvoo, as was then contemplated, that they should go along to insure their protection, that after the interview at the jail, the counsel for the prosecution wanted the prisoners brought before the justice for an exam-

ination, to which the counsels for the prisoners replied, that they were committed until discharged by due course of law, and that we could do nothing until the prisoners were legally before the court, where we would appear and defend; that the justice, R. F. Smith gave the constable an order (a copy of which accompanies the statement of H. T. Reid, Esq.) for the jailer to deliver up the prisoners, which the jailer refused to do;—that the constable then repaired to the jail with a company called “Carthage Greys”, of whom the justice, R. F. Smith, was the captain, but not then in command; and by intimidation and threats, forced the jailer to give up the prisoners to the constable, who took them before the justice, R. F. Smith, at the Court House, that on the motion of the counsel for the prisoners, the examination was postponed until the 27th, 12 o'clock, and subpoenas issued for witnesses on the defense. The two Smiths were then remanded to jail and orders were issued for a consultation of the officers, with the commander-in-chief, and it was determined that the troops should take up a line of March at 8 o'clock, on the morning of the 27th, for Nauvoo, and after the consultation, the justice, who was one of the officers in command, altered the return of the subpoenas until the 29th, and continued the hearing until that time, without consulting either their prisoners or the counsel; that on the morning of the 27th the order for marching to Nauvoo was countermanded, and all troops disbanded but the company under Capt. Singleton at Nauvoo, Capt. Dunn's company of horse, and the Carthage Greys, that the Governor determined to visit Nauvoo, escorted by Capt. Dunn's company; and the Carthage Greys were left as a guard for the prisoners at the jail, that after the troops were disbanded, I requested Gov. Ford to detail some men to guard the route to Warsaw, as I apprehended much danger from that place, but I do not know whether it was done or not, as I left Carthage about 11 o'clock, A. M., and came to Nauvoo; that Gov. Ford and his aid, Col. Buckmaster, escorted by Capt. Dunn's company, arrived in Nauvoo about 5 o'clock, P. M., where he addressed the citizens, and promised them protection, and a just execution of the laws, and immediately left the city for Carthage.

JAMES W. WOODS,

Attorney at Law, of Burlington, Iowa.

Then follows the statement of Governor Ford, including resolutions of Nauvoo City council, and action of public meeting upon the same.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

I desire to make a brief but true statement of the recent disgraceful affair at Carthage, in regard to the Smiths, so far as circumstances have come to my knowledge. The Smiths, Joseph and Hyrum, have been assassinated in jail, by whom it is not known, but it will be ascertained. I pledged myself for their safety, and upon the assurance of that pledge, they surrendered as prisoners. The Mormons surrendered the public

arms in their possession, and the Nauvoo Legion submitted to the command of Capt. Singleton, of Brown county, deputed for that purpose by me. All these things were required to satisfy the old citizens of Hancock that the Mormons were peaceably disposed; and to allay jealousy and excitement in their minds. It appears however that the compliance of the Mormons with every requisition made upon them, failed of that purpose. The pledge of security to the Smiths, was not given upon my individual responsibility. Before I gave it, I obtained a pledge of honor by a unanimous vote from the officers and men under my command, to sustain me in performing it. If the assassination of the Smiths was committed by any portion of these, they have added treachery to murder, and have done all they could to disgrace the state, and sully the public honor.

On the morning of the day the deed was committed, we had proposed to march the army under my command into Nauvoo. I had however discovered on the evening before, that nothing but the utter destruction of the city would satisfy a portion of the troops; and that if we marched into the city, pretext would not be wanting for commencing hostilities. The Mormons had done everything required, or which ought to have been required of them. Offensive operations on our part would have been as unjust and disgraceful, as they would have been impolitic, in the present critical season of the year, the harvest and the crops. For these reasons I decided in a council of officers, to disband the army, except three companies, two of which were reserved as a guard for the jail. With the other company I marched into Nauvoo, to address the inhabitants there, and tell them what they might expect in case they designedly or imprudently provoked war. I performed this duty as I think plainly and emphatically, and then set out to return to Carthage. When I had marched about three miles, a messenger informed me of the occurrences at Carthage. I hastened on to that place. The guard it is said, did their duty but were overpowered. Many of the inhabitants of Carthage had fled with their families. Others were preparing to go. I apprehended danger to the settlements from the sudden fury and passion of the Mormons and sanctioned their movements in this respect.

General Deming volunteered to remain with a few troops to observe the progress of events, to defend property against small numbers, and with orders to retreat if menaced by a superior force. I decided to proceed immediately to Quincy, to prepare a force sufficient to suppress disorders, in case it should ensue from the foregoing transaction or from any other cause. I have hopes that the Mormons will make no further difficulty. In this I may be mistaken. The other party may not be satisfied. They may recommence aggression. I am determined to preserve the peace against all breakers of the same, at all hazards. I think present circumstances warrant the precaution of having competent force at my disposal, in readiness to march at a moment's warning. My position at Quincy will enable me to get the earliest intelligence, and to communicate orders with greater celerity.

I have decided to issue the following general orders:

Head Quarters
Quincy, June, 29, 1844.

It is ordered that the commandants of regiments in the counties of Adams, Marquette, Pike, Brown, Schuyler, Morgan, Scott, Cass, Fulton and McDonough, and the regiments comprising Gen. Stapp's brigade will call their respective regiments and batallions together immediately upon receipt of this order, and proceed by voluntary enlistment to enroll as many men as can be armed in their respective regiments. They will make arrangements for a campaign of twelve days, and will provide themselves with arms, ammuniton, and provisions accordingly, and hold themselves in readiness immediately to march upon receipt of further orders.

The independent companies of riflemen, infantry, cavalry, and artillery in the above named counties, and in the county of Sangamon will hold themselves in readiness in a like manner.

THOMAS FORD.
Governor, and Commander-in-Chief.

SIGNS OF PEACE.

Colonel Fellows and Captain Jonas are requested to proceed by first boat to Nauvoo, and ascertain what is the feeling, disposition, and determination of the people there, in reference to the late disturbances, ascertain whether any of them propose in any manner to revenge themselves, whether any threats have been used, and what is proposed generally, to be done by them. They are also requested to return to Warsaw and make similar inquiries there; ascertain how far false rumors have been put afloat for the purpose of raising forces; what is the purpose of the militia assembled, whether any attack is intended on Nauvoo. Ascertain also, whether any persons from Missouri or Iowa intend to take part in the matter, and in my name forbid any such interference, without my request, on pain of being demanded for punishment.

(Signed) THOMAS FORD.

June 30th, 1844.

NAUVOO, July 1, 1844.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF NAUVOO:

Gentlemen:—With this, you will receive a copy of instructions, from Gov. Ford to us.—You will understand from them, what we desire from you in action on your part,—as the only authorities of your city now known to the country, of such a character as will pacify the public mind and satisfy the Governor of your determination to sustain the supremacy of the laws, will, we are sure, be gratifying to him, and as much so to

Yours respectfully,

HART FELLOWS.
A. JONAS.

At a meeting of the City Council, held in the Council Room, in the City of Nauvoo, on the first day of July, 1844, having received instruc-

tions from Gov. Ford, through the agency of A. Jones, Esq. and Col. Fellows, it was unanimously

Resolved, For the purpose of insuring peace, and promoting the welfare of the county of Hancock, and surrounding country, that we will rigidly sustain the laws, and the Governor of the State, so long as they, and he sustain us in all our constitutional rights.

Resolved, secondly, That to carry the foregoing resolutions into complete effect, that inasmuch as the Governor has taken from us the public arms, that we solicit of him to do the same with all the rest of the public arms of the state.

Resolved, thirdly, To further secure peace, friendship and happiness of the people, and allay the excitement that now exists, we will reprobate private revenge on the assassins of General Joseph and General Hyrum Smith, by any of the Latter Day Saints. That instead of an appeal to arms, we appeal to the majesty of the law, and will be content with whatever judgment it shall award; and should the law fail, we leave the matter with God.

Resolved, unanimously, that this City Council, pledge themselves for the city of Nauvoo, that no aggressions by the citizens of said city, shall be made upon the citizens of the surrounding country, but we invite them, as friends, and neighbors to use the Savior's Golden Rule, and "do unto others as they would have others do unto them," and we will do likewise.

Resolved, lastly, That we highly approve of the present public pacific course of the Governor to allay excitement, and restore peace among the citizens of the country, and while he does so, and will use all his influence to stop all vexatious proceedings in law, until confidence is restored, so that the citizens of Nauvoo, can go to Carthage, or any other place for trial, without exposing themselves to the violence of assassins, we will uphold, him and the law by all honorable means.

GEO. W. HARRIS, *pres't pro tem.*

WILLARD RICHARDS, Recorder.

A. Jonas, Esq., and Col. Fellows:

Messrs.:—In reply to your communication to the City Council of the city of Nauvoo, on behalf of his Excellency Gov. Ford, I have been instructed by the council to communicate the foregoing resolutions for which I respectfully solicit your consideration, and at the same time would inform you that a public meeting of our citizens will take place at the stand east of the Temple, at 4 P. M. and solicit your attendance. Most respectfully,

Your ob't serv't

W. RICHARDS.

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of a large portion of the citizens of Nauvoo, convened at the stand, in the afternoon of July 1, 1844, after hearing the above instructions and resolutions of the city Council read, and being addressed by A. Jonas, Esq., and others, the meeting responded to the same with a

hearty AMEN! The citizens then passed a vote of thanks to the Governor's agents for their kindly interference in favor of peace among the citizens of Hancock County and elsewhere around us. They also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Wood and Reid, the counsel for Generals Smith, for their great exertions to have even-handed justice meted to the Latter Day Saints; and they also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Chambers and Field, the former one of the editors of the "Missouri Republican", and the latter one of the editors of the "Reveille," of St. Louis, for their honorable course of coming to Nauvoo for facts, instead of spreading rumors concerning the Latter Day Saints. Mr. Chambers made a very appropriate speech containing innuendos for the benefit of our citizens, that appeared as the wise man said, "LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN PICTURES OF SILVER." They also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Wood and Conyers, Mayor and Ex-Mayor of Quincy, for their friendly disposition in establishing peace in this region, and we are happy to say that all appears to be PEACE AT NAUVOO.

Head Quarters }
QUINCY, June 30th, 1844. }

Sir:—It is my present opinion that the Mormons will not commit any further outbreak, and that no further alarm need be apprehended. I regret to learn that the party in Hancock who are in favor of violent measures, have circulated a thousand false rumors of danger, for the purpose of getting men together, without my authority, hoping that when assembled, they may be ready, to join in their violent councils; this is a fraud upon the country and must not be endured.

I am afraid the people of Hancock are fast depriving themselves of the sympathy of their fellow citizens, and of the world. I strictly order and enjoin on you that you permit no attack on Nauvoo, or any of the people, without my authority. I think it would be best to disband your forces, unless it should be necessary to retain them to suppress violence on either side, of this you must be the judge at present.

I direct that you immediately order all persons from Missouri and Iowa to leave the camp and return to their respective houses without delay.

I direct also that you cause all mutinous persons, and all persons who advise tumultuous proceedings to be arrested; and that you take energetic measures to stop the practice of spreading false reports put in circulation to inflame the public mind.

(Signed)

THOMAS FORD,
Commander-in-chief.

To Brig. Gen. Deming, Carthage, Ill.

The above shows quite a comprehensive view of the trouble as seen through public and official eyes at the time. The action of the Nauvoo City Council, and the mass meeting ought to be conclusive as to the attitude of the church towards the

subject of private revenge, and the disposition to submit to the arbitrament of law.

It should be noted that the Smiths had only a preliminary examination on the charge of riot, and on the charge of treason not even the preliminary examination was granted the prisoners, but they were committed without process of law.

As set forth above, the bodies were brought to Nauvoo, June 28, 1844, where they lay in state in the Mansion House, and were viewed by thousands of people in whose affections they were enthroned.

The touching incident related by those present, when the wife of Joseph Smith after others had taken the last view of her silent dead, approached the bier leading her children and exclaimed, "My husband! Oh my husband! Have they taken you from me at last," found an echo in many loyal hearts. But in this hour of trial and smarting under the great wrong inflicted the people nobly controlled themselves and said, Let the law be supreme.

The bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith have for sixty-six years lain in unmarked graves, the exact place of burial known to but few.

The following tribute to the unknown grave was written by Joseph Smith's youngest son, David H. Smith, who was born four months after the death of his father.

These lines have recently been edited by Elbert A. Smith, son of David H. Smith.

"THE UNKNOWN GRAVE.

"There's an unknown grave in a green lowly spot,—
 The form that it covers will ne'er be forgot.
 Where haven trees spread, and the wild locusts wave
 Their fragrant white blooms o'er the unknown grave,—
 Over the unknown grave.

“And near by its side does the wild rabbit tread,
While over its bosom the wild thistles spread.
As if in their kindness to guard and to save
From man’s footstep’s intruding the unknown grave,—
Guarding the unknown grave.

“The heavens may weep and the thunders moan low,
Or the bright sunshine and the soft breezes blow,—
Unheeding the heart, once responsive and brave,
Of the one who sleeps there in an unknown grave,—
Low in an unknown grave.

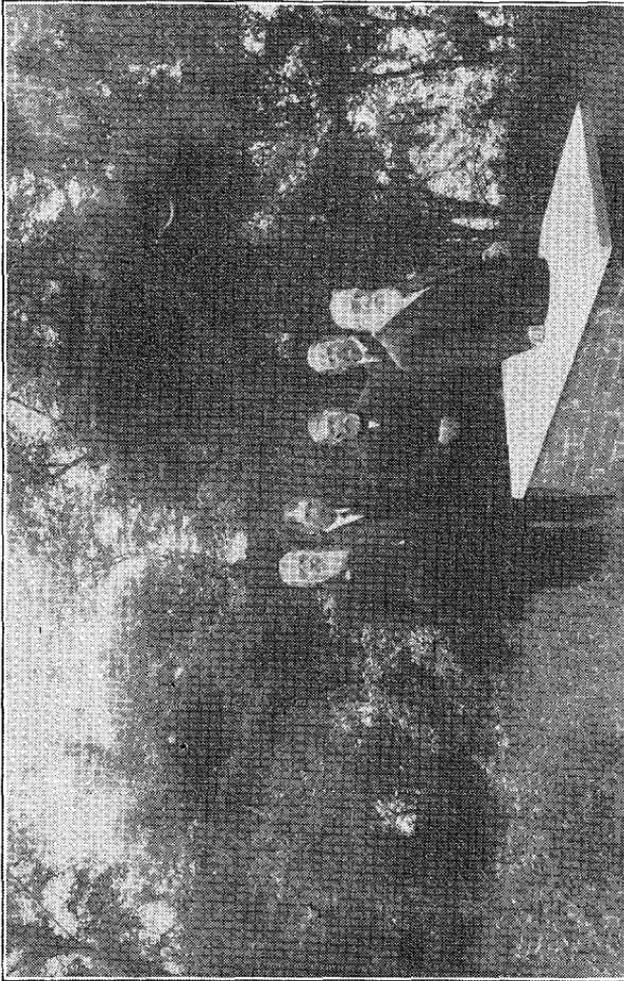
“The prophet whose life was destroyed by his foes
Sleeps now where no hand may disturb his repose,
Till the trumpets of God drown the notes of the wave
And we see him arise from his unknown grave,—
God bless that unknown grave.

“The love all embracing that never can end,
In death, as in life, knew him well as a friend,
The power of Jesus the mighty to save
Will despoil of its treasure—the unknown grave,—
No more an unknown grave.”

Recently a movement has been inaugurated to erect a monument to the memory of Joseph and Hyrum Smith; and a committee consisting of Joseph Smith, Alexander H. Smith, Edmund L. Kelley, George P. Lambert, and Heman C. Smith appointed to carry the project into effect.

This committee has procured the east half of block 155, which contains the graves, and will doubtless proceed with the erection of the monument as soon as sufficient means can be assured for the purpose. A subcommittee of Heman C. Smith and Edmund L. Kelley have been appointed to receive and solicit subscriptions.

The City of Nauvoo, though long in the hands of strangers, welcomes the erection of said monument and will doubtless lend material aid when the committee is ready to proceed with the work.



MONUMENT COMMITTEE.

A resolution by the city council inviting the erection of the monument in Nauvoo has been adopted; and a petition to the same effect, signed by many of the citizens, has been filed with the secretary of the committee.