



T. C. Burch to the Governor.

RICHMOND, MO., October 23, 1838.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Missouri.

The Mormon difficulties are arising and have arisen here to an alarming height. It is said (and I believe truly,) that they have recently robbed and burned the store house of Mr. J. Stollings, in Gallatin, Daviess county, and that they have burned several dwelling houses of the citizens of Daviess, taken their arms from them, and have taken some provisions.

Mormon dissenters are daily flying to this county for refuge from the ferocity of the prophet Jo Smith, who, they say, threatens the lives of all Mormons who refuse to take up arms at his bidding or to do his commands. Those dissenters (and they are numerous,) all confirm the reports concerning the Danite Band, of which you have doubtless heard much, and say that Jo infuses into the minds of his followers a spirit of insubordination to the laws of the land, telling them that the Kingdom of the Lord is come, which is superior to the institutions of the earth, and encourages them to fight, and promises them the spoils of the battles.

A respectable gentleman, of my acquaintance, from Livingston, is here now, who informs me that the Mormons are robbing the citizens of Livingston, on the borders of Caldwell, of their corn and whatever else they want; that they have taken a cannon from Livingston county, and are prowling about the country, a regularly formed banditti. That the prophet Jo Smith has persuaded his Church, that they are not, and ought not to be amenable to the laws of the land, and is still doing it I have no doubt. The Danite Band, as I am informed by numbers of the most respectable of the Mormons, (who are now dissenters,) binds them to support the High Council of the Mormon Church and one another in all things, whether right or wrong, and that even by false swearing. I have taken much pains to be informed correctly about this Danite Band, and I am well satisfied that my information as above stated is correct. I have no doubt but that Jo Smith is as lawless and consummate a scoundrel, as ever was the veiled prophet of Chovassin. I believe the criminal law in Caldwell county cannot be enforced upon a Mormon. Grand Juries there will not indict. Jo declares, in his public addresses, that he can revolutionize the United States, and that if provoked he will do it. This declaration has been heard by Colonel Williams of this place, and other gentlemen of equal veracity. I have hoped that the civil authorities would prove sufficient for the exigency of the case, but I am now convinced that it is not, so long as indictments have to be found by a jury of the county in which the offence may be committed.

I do not pretend to have wisdom enough to make a suggestion as to

what your Excellency should do. The evil is alarming, beyond all doubt. I suggest the foregoing facts for your consideration.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. C. BURCH.

P. S. Judge King will give you some information by the next mail.
T. C. B.

Proceedings of a public meeting in Ray county.

At a very numerous public meeting, held at the court house, in Richmond, Ray county, on Wednesday, the 24th day of October, 1838, for the purpose of taking into consideration the difficulties of the Mormons:

The object of the meeting having been explained by Thos. C. Burch, Esq., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, after reading the report of Chas. R. Morehead, Wm. Thornton and Jacob Gudgeon, which is hereunto attached, to-wit:

Resolved, That the report here made, by Charles R. Morehead, Wm. Thornton and Jacob Gudgeon, Esqs. be transmitted by express to the Governor of this State, together with these resolutions.

Resolved, That this meeting have the most implicit confidence in said report, as well from the known veracity of said gentlemen, as from numerous other facts and circumstances in our knowledge, corroborating the same.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the time has arrived, when it is the imperious duty of the Executive, by an armed force, to quell the insurrection put on foot by the Mormons, and that to effect the same, the civil authorities are wholly inadequate.

Resolved, That Wiley C. Williams and Amos Rees, Esqs. be requested to visit the Governor, and lay before him the proceedings of this meeting, and urge upon him the necessity of ordering out, forthwith an armed force against the Mormons, sufficient to meet the emergency.

Resolved, That we view, with the utmost concern, the conduct of the Mormons in the counties of Daviess and Livingston, and that immediate action is necessary for the protection of our property and homes from this lawless banditti.

Resolved, That, heretofore as citizens desiring to abide by the laws of the land, we have been disposed to see this people called Mormons, dealt with for their offences by the civil authorities; but that in the opinion of this meeting, from their past and present lawless course, a resort to the laws will be worse than useless, and wholly insufficient to afford the country that protection to which she is entitled.

Resolved, That we appeal to the Governor of this State, to give the people of upper Missouri protection from this fearful body of thieves and robbers.

Resolved, That it would, at this time, be inexpedient to take any offensive step, but that we should, at present, act on the defensive.

Resolved, That all who have, in good faith, renounced the Mormon religion should be protected, either in this county or Caldwell, during the present excitement.

Resolved, That some men should now be raised to go to the northern border of this county, and guard it from intrusion by the Mormons, to act entirely on the defensive for the present, and that Gen. Parks be requested to raise three companies for that purpose, or that they be raised by volunteers.

Report of Messrs. Morehead, Thornton and Gudge.

The undersigned, having on Monday morning last learned that the Mormons had burned Millport, in Daviess county, in addition to burning Stollings' store in Gallatin, in said county, and of their having threatened to burn the store in Buncombe settlement, in this county, and feeling an anxiety to know the truth in relation to said reports, left this place, Richmond, on that (Monday morning,) and proceeded to Mill Port; they, however, previously called at Judge Morin's, who lives about a quarter of a mile from Mill Port, who informed them that all they had learned was substantially true, and that much more had been done by the Mormons than the people of this county had been informed of. He went with us to Mill Port, where we found all the houses in ashes, except a Grocery storehouse belonging to a Mr. Slade, and a house in which Mr. Wilson McKinney had lived; we also found the house of Robert Peniston near Mill Port burned. The horsemill belonging to him, Peniston, was taken down, the stones, bolting chest, &c., lying out some distance from the shed, and the shed yet standing. Mr. Morin informed us that the burning was done on Sunday night last; that on the next day he saw Mormons there and saw them taking off beds and other things belonging to Wilson McKinney; we also saw some furniture, which we understood from Mr. Morin, belonged to Mr. McKinney, standing out in the commons, and which seemed to have been rifled of its contents. Mr. Morin expected, on the day that we were there, that the Mormons would be there (at Mill Port) to move off the remaining property, and to burn the balance of the houses; he stated to us that he considered his situation a precarious one; that he had been permitted to stay thus long owing to his having no wagons to move with, but that he expected to get wagons that day, and intended moving into Richmond immediately. He said that the county was entirely deserted by the inhabitants, excepting himself and a few others besides the Mormons, and expressed it as his belief, that the corn from his house to 'Diahmon would all be gathered, and hauled into 'Diahmon by the Mormons in forty-eight hours from that time; he also stated to us, that he was at 'Diahmon a few days previously, and saw a company of men (Mormons) come into camp with a drove of cattle, amounting to about one hundred head, which he supposed belonged to other citizens; he also

saw a man in the possession of a Mormon, which he was very certain belonged to Wm. Morgan, a citizen of Daviess county. Mr. Morin looked upon these Mormons, who were then at 'Diahmon, (amounting he supposed to about six hundred men,) as a band of robbers and desperadoes; he advised us very strongly to go no further, not to attempt to go to 'Diahmon or Far West, that we would gather nothing by doing so; in addition to which, we there learned that the county on the north side of Grand River and west of him was certainly deserted, except by the Mormons, and had been for several days—that the houses were all burned, or to use his own words, that it was a complete waste.

Mr. Morin also informed us, that the Mormons had ordered the other citizens out of the county, and that he, too, had been ordered to leave; he appeared very anxious that we should not be seen at his house by any Mormon—that it should not be known that he had given any information, or expressed any thing unfavorable towards them, until he got away.

We did not visit Gallatin, but understood from Mr. Morin and others whom we met moving into this county, that all the houses in that place were burned, except a shoemaker's shop, belonging to a Mr. Borwell.

C. R. MOREHEAD,
WM. THORNTON,
JACOB GUDGE,

Richmond, Mo., Wednesday, October 24, 1838.

Hon. A. A. King to the Governor.

RICHMOND, Oct. 24, 1838.

DEAR SIR:—As Mr. Williams will be to see you in reference to our Mormon difficulties, and will be able to say all to you, perhaps, that can be said, I deem it a duty, notwithstanding, to give you such information as I have sought and obtained, and it is such that I assure you may be relied on.

Our relations with the Mormons are such that I am perfectly satisfied the arm of the civil authority is too weak to give peace to the country. Until lately, I thought the Mormons were disposed to act only on the defensive, but their recent conduct shows that they are the aggressors, and that they intend to take the law into their own hands. Of their recent outrages in Daviess county, you have doubtless heard much already; of their course of conduct in Daviess, I will give you the general facts, for to give particulars would far transcend the limits of a letter.

On Sunday, before they marched to Daviess, Jo Smith made known his views to the people, and declared the time had come when they would avenge their own wrongs, and that all who was not for them, and take up arms with them, should be considered against them;

that their property should be confiscated, and their lives also be forfeited. With this declaration and much else said by Smith, calculated to excite the people present, the next day was set to meet and see who was for them and who against them, and under such severe penalties there was none that I learn who did not turn out, and about three or four hundred men, with Smith at their head, marched to Daviess; this was on Tuesday; the next day was the snow storm, and upon Thursday they commenced their ravages upon the citizens, driving them from their houses and taking their property. Between eighty and one hundred men went to Gallatin, pillaged houses and the store of Mr. Stollings and the post office and then burned the houses; they carried off the spoils on horseback and in wagons, and now have them, I understand, in a storehouse near their camp. Houses have been robbed of their contents, beds, clothing, furniture, &c., and all deposited, and they term it a consecration to the Lord. At this time there is not a citizen in Daviess except Mormons. Many have been driven without warning—others have been allowed, a few hours to start. The stock of the citizens have been seized upon, killed and salted up by hundreds. From fifty to one hundred wagons are now employed in hauling in the corn from the surrounding country. They look for a force against them, and are consequently preparing for a siege, building block houses, &c. They have lately organized themselves into a band, of what they call Danites, and sworn to support their leading men in all they say and do, right or wrong, and further to put to instant death those who will betray them. There is another band, of twelve, called the Destructives, whose duty it is to watch the movements of men, and of committees, and to avenge themselves for supposed wrongful movements against them, by privately burning houses, property and even laying in ashes towns, &c.

I find I am running out my letter too much in detail; I do not deem it necessary to give you a minute detail of all the facts of which I am possessed, but I give you the above in order that you may form some idea of the disposition of these people. The Mormons expect to settle the affair at the point of the sword, and I am well warranted in saying to you that the people in this quarter of the State look to you for that protection which they believe you will afford when you have learned the facts. I do not pretend to advise your course nor make any suggestions other than what I have stated, that it is utterly useless for the civil authorities to pretend to interpose. The country is in great commotion and I can assure you that either with or without authority, something will shortly have to be done.

I hope you will let me hear from you by the return of Mr. Williams, and if you should come up the country shortly, it will give me pleasure to take the trouble to see you.

I am, very respectfully,
AUSTIN A. KING.

Affidavit of Henry Marks.

Being requested by a committee of the citizens of Ray county to make a statement of such facts as are within my knowledge relative to the Mormons, I have to say that I came to Far West the 17th of April last, and have lived there ever since. I have never been a member of the Mormon Church, but my parents are. I am about the age of eighteen years. I have lived at the house of Sidney Rigdon the most of the time. I have heard the prophet Smith, in a public address, say he would like to have a play spell of the whole United States (in a fight as I took it.) This was on the election day last August. I have often heard the Mormons say they would as soon shoot the dissenters that come out and talked against them, as to shoot any thing else. I have heard divers Mormons say that they burnt the store of Mr. Stollings in Daviess county. David W. Patten had the command of the company that went to Gallatin. The Mormons say that they did not burn the goods, but hauled them off—said Patten went by the name of Capt. Fearnought. A few days ago I heard a company of Mormons, who had been to Daviess county, say they had taken from the citizens of Daviess county about twenty-four horses and thirty-two guns, and it was said by Mormons about there that it was done to make up for losses in Jackson county—when the company came up who took the guns and horses, I heard Sidney Rigdon shout three times "Hosannah to the Victors," and made then a speech exhorting them not to fear, and to keep up courage.

October 24, 1838.

HENRY MARKS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day above written.

HENRY JACOBS, J. P. of Ray county.

Affidavit of Adam Black.

I, Adam Black, a citizen of Daviess county, do state as follows, to wit: that, on the 11th day of October, 1838, Mr. Henry Lee was driven from his house in said county; he stated that the Mormons came to his house and ordered him to leave immediately or he would suffer; that he was in danger; that there was a general insurrection going to take place, and he had better get away, and Mr. Lee left home on the 15th inst. The Post rider stated to the citizens of said county, that the citizens of Caldwell were paraded in Far West for the purpose of marching to Daviess county, to drive all of the citizens out of that county that were not friendly towards them. On the 16th, the Mormons marched into said county, from two to five hundred, supposed to be. On the 17th, they went to several of the citizens of said county, and took their arms and ammunition, and said they intended to drive all of the mob out of the county. On the 18th, they marched about one hundred or more men, well armed, to Gallatin, and drove the citizens

of said town, and robbed the store and Post Office, and burned the said store house and office; they went to G. Worthington's, P. M. of said office, and drove him out of his house, and robbed it and burned it; they went to several other citizens on the same day and ordered them to leave the county against the next day, or they would take their lives. On the 19th, they marched through the county and drove a number of the citizens from said county and robbed their houses and burnt them. My house was one amongst the rest; about 12 o'clock the same night they were seen burning down 5 houses in Gallatin, the county seat of Daviess county. On the 20th, they were seen marching three hundred men through the county, all well armed, driving the citizens before them, robbing their houses, threatening their lives, if they did not leave. The smoke was seen rising from several buildings by the citizens of Daviess county. On the 21st, they marched about four hundred to one Mr. Wm. Osburn's in Daviess county; Mr. Osburn not being at home, they threatened the life of his wife, ordered her out of her house, putting the muzzles of their guns against her, and punching her with them, and shoved her out of her house and told her to leave there, and plundered and robbed her house. They then marched across Grand River, to the north side, to Esquire Dryden's, and took two saddles, and one pair of saddle bags; took his son and nephew prisoners—marched to Mr. White's in Livingston county, threatening in the presence of Mrs. White, if her husband was at home they would take his life; plundered her house; took a quantity of their clothing, several log chains and draw chains; took and destroyed about fifty bushels of oats; trod down the fences, rode through his field of corn, and destroyed a quantity of corn; took five bee stands. They plundered two other houses in Livingston county, and took two prisoners, a Mr. Dryden and Mr. Martin, as they were returning from preaching. They then marched for their city in Daviess county, Adam-on-diahmon; and on their way they took five other men prisoners. In marching a short distance, they discharged three of the prisoners—they carried six others on about twelve miles, where they passed through a large company of footmen; there they discharged some others of the prisoners, and one of the prisoners states, when he returned, there was a company came with him to Mill Port to burn said place—the light of the fire was seen, and next morning the smoke was seen rising from five houses by Mr. Osburn.

It is also stated by Col. Peniston, it (the town) is burnt into ashes. It is stated by Mr. Stone and two other men, that on the 21st, they saw the Mormons driving a large drove of cattle from Daviess county towards Caldwell county—Mr. Osburn states he has lost forty-one or forty-two head of cattle—they have taken several horses from the citizens the amount not known—they have also taken a quantity of pork hogs, the amount not known. It is supposed from the best information there is about eight hundred or upwards, well armed, embodied in said county, and near about all the citizens of said county have left their homes, and moved their families to Livingston county. There is not a single officer left in said county to execute the laws of our land;

and in behalf of the citizens of said county, and in my own behalf, I ask of the Executive of the State to be reinstated in our homes, and the necessary and legal steps be taken to recover our property, and bring the offenders to justice.

ADAM BLACK.

Affidavit of Thomas B. March.

At the request of a committee of the citizens of Ray county, I make the following statement in relation to the recent movements, plans, and intentions of the Mormons in the counties of Caldwell and Daviess:

Shortly after the settlement of the difficulties at De Witt, in Carroll county, a call was made by the Mormons at Far West, in Caldwell county, for volunteers to go to Daviess county to disperse the mob, as they said. On the day before this, Joseph Smith, the prophet, had preached, in which he said, that all the Mormons who refused to take up arms, if necessary in difficulties with the citizens, should be shot or otherwise put to death; and as I was there with my family, I thought it most prudent to go, and did go with my wagon as the driver. We marched to Adam-on-diahmon, and found no troops or mob in Daviess county. Scouting parties frequently went out and brought in intelligence that they had seen from three to five hundred men. We got to 'Diahmon on Tuesday evening, and on the next day a company of about eighty of the Mormons, commanded by a man fictitiously named Capt. Fearnaught, marched to Gallatin. They returned and said they had run off from Gallatin twenty or thirty men, and had taken Gallatin—had taken one prisoner, and another had joined the company. I afterwards learned from the Mormons that they had burnt Gallatin, and that it was done by the aforesaid company that marched there. The Mormons informed me that they had hauled away all the goods from the store in Gallatin, and deposited them at the Bishop's store houses at 'Diahmon. On the same day, Lyman Wight marched about eighty horsemen for Mill Port. He returned before night and called for Joseph Smith and Hiram Smith, to report to them (said Hiram being counsellor of said Joseph the prophet) and said Wight reported that he had been in sight of Mill Port—saw no one to fight—but that the people generally had gone and left their houses and property. The prophet, on hearing the property was left, commenced a reply, and said: "we had better see to it," when Wight stopped him by saying "never mind, we will have a private council," and Smith replied "very well." The private council I did not hear. The men were determined to go to their camps. The same evening a number of footmen came up from the direction of Mill Port laden with property which I was informed consisted of beds, cloaks and other household furniture. The same night I think about three wagons were despatched for about forty bee gums, and the next day I saw several gums, when they were splitting them up and taking

The honey and burning the gums, in which business of taking out the honey, but few were engaged, for fear as they said, they would be called on as witnesses against them. When Wight returned from Mill Port and informed Smith that the people were gone and the property left, Smith asked him if they had left any of the negroes for them, and Wight replied, no; upon which some one laughed, and said to Smith "you have lost your negro then." During the same time, a company, called the Fur Company, were sent out to bring in fat hogs and cattle, calling the hogs, bears, and the cattle buffaloes. They brought in at one time seven cattle and at another time four or five belonging to the people of Daviess. Hogs were brought in dead, but I know not how many, I saw only two. They have among them a company consisting of all that are considered true Mormons, called the Danites, who have taken an oath to support the heads of the church in all things that they say or do, whether right or wrong; many however of this band are much dissatisfied with this oath, as being against moral and religious principles. On Saturday last, I am informed by the Mormons that they had a meeting at Far West, at which they appointed a company of twelve, by the name of the Destruction Company, for the purpose of burning and destroying; and that if the people of Buncombe came to do mischief upon the people of Caldwell, and committed depredations upon the Mormons, they were to burn Buncombe, and if the people of Clay and Ray made any movements against them, this destroying company were to burn Liberty and Richmond. This burning was to be done secretly, by going as incendiaries. At the same meeting, I was informed, they passed a decree that no Mormon dissenter should leave Caldwell county alive; and that such as attempted to do it, should be shot down, and sent to tell their tale in eternity. In a conversation between Dr. Avar and other Mormons, said Avar proposed to start a pestilence among the Gentiles, as he called them, by poisoning their corn, fruit &c, and saying it was the work of the Lord; and said Avar advocated lying for the support of their religion, and said it was no harm to lie for the Lord. The plan of said Smith, the prophet, is to take this State, and he professes to his people to intend taking the United States, and ultimately the whole world. This is the belief of the church, and my own opinion of the prophet's plans and intentions. It is my opinion that neither said Joseph Smith, the prophet, nor any one of the principal men, who is firm in the faith, could be indicted for any offence in the county of Caldwell. The prophet inculcates the notion, and it is believed by every true Mormon, that Smith's prophecies are superior to the law of the land. I have heard the prophet say that he should yet tread down his enemies, and walk over their dead bodies; that if he was not let alone he would be a second Mahomet to this generation, and that he would make it one gore of blood from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; that like Mahomet, whose motto, in treating for peace, was "the Alcoran, or the Sword," so should it be eventually with us, "Joseph Smith or the Sword." These last state-

ments were made during the last summer. The number of armed men at Adam-on-diahmon was between three and four hundred.

THOMAS B. MARCH.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day herein written.

HENRY JACOBS, J. P. Ray county Mo.

Richmond Mo. Oct. 24, 1838.

Affidavit of Orson Hyde.

The most of the statements in the foregoing disclosure of Thomas B. March, I know to be true, the remainder I believe to be true.

ORSON HYDE.

Richmond, Oct. 24, 1838.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day above written.

HENRY JACOBS J. P.

The undersigned committee, on the part of the citizens of Ray county, have no doubt, but Thomas B. March and Orson Hyde, whose names are signed to the foregoing certificates, have been members of the Mormon Church in full fellowship until very recently, when they voluntarily abandoned the Mormon Church and faith, and that said March was at the time of his dissenting the president of the twelve Apostles, and president of the Church at Far West, and that said Hyde was at that time one of the twelve Apostles, and that they left the Church and abandoned the faith of the Mormons from a conviction of their immorality and impiety.

Thos C. Burch, George Woodward, C. R. Morehead,

William Hudgins, J. R. Hendley, O. H. Searcy,

Henry Jacobs,

Richmond, October 24, 1838.

Messrs. Williams and Rees to General Clark.

DEMOSSE'S, Midnight, Oct. 25, 1838.

Maj. GEN. JOHN B. CLARK.

We write you a hasty letter from this point to give you authentic information as to the appalling situation of the county in the neighborhood of the Mormons. We are on our way as expresses to the Governor conveying the following information: That these wretched fanatics have thrown off all restraints, and are destroying all before them—they have burned Gallatin the county seat of Daviess—taken the goods from J. Stollings' store, and burned the house—they have burned the village of Mill Port in Daviess, and have burned almost every house from Gallatin and Mill Port north, with many others in other