

Keokuk No Iowa City July 19th 1842

His Excellency Gov Reynolds,
Sir

Some months ago I took the liberty of troubling you with a note, and I now again take the same liberty on the same subject. Genl Bennett, late a Mormon leader, now a dissenter goes to you as he tells me for the purpose of giving information touching the attempted assassination of Ex Gov Poggys. It is not doubted here in the least but that the information which he intends to convey to you is literally correct, i.e. that he knows who the person is that shot Poggys and that he / Bennett / can prove Smith's agency in the matter sufficiently clear to satisfy any person of his participation in the matter. Bennett accused a fellow by the name of Bookwood or Rockwell, & from some circumstances, I suspected him the very day the news reached, & I wrote the Post Master of Independence Missouri for a description of the person^{tho} was seen lurking around there about the time the affair took place. It is certain that immediately preceding the news reaching here of the attempted assassination, Smith stated that he had it revealed to him by God himself that Poggys would not die in his bed. If he had not had some knowledge of the contemplated murder, what grounds would he have had for such remarks? Now if he are willing to admit that he holds communion with the City, without admitting it we are compelled to believe him to be by proxy, the author of that most foul deed. Ever since he was compelled to leave your State he has denounced the Citizens with heaviest imprecations. Could obreason be made out of words, in the United States, he has certainly been guilty of treason toward Missouri but such is not the case

Nearly his whole conversation & thoughts dictated up by planning the destruction of Missouri and unless checked, depend upon it he will some day and that before long give your State more trouble than you are aware of or once think of. If his society was composed men of moral honesty, you would know how to meet them, but a majority of them are rnegades. Now, he do not think this idle speculation, for if you do you will be deceived, grossly deceived.

I know that the Mormons can never seriously affect this State but they will one day give her a great deal of trouble. A person unacquainted with them knows nothing of the wrongs that are with which they receive and obey Smith's mandates from the mouth of a majority of them is constantly heard imprecations against & plans for the destruction of your State.

Smith's word is law & his prophecies, revelations among them and could you attend one of their military parades (and you could not miss one any day in the year (Sundays excepted) for their city is constantly a military encampment) you would be satisfied that my remarks are not groundless.

Now, for it is in your power to break up this horde of villainy and murder by removing its head or leader. Is not Smith a refugee from your State? And does not justice to his Citizens require you to demand from Illinois his immediate surrender? Next after your call would be met with loudest cheers from this quarter & from the adjoining Counties on the opposite side of the Mississippi.

You can form no idea of the accession that is daily being made to their numbers by the arrival of foreigners & other persons from different parts of the United States, all filled with hatred to Missouri.

There are some good meaning persons among them, I have no doubt. but a large majority of them are villains of the darkest dye and are as enthusiastic as they are worthless.

I expect to be a Citizen of Missouri shortly & would

be glad to see the vile traducer of your State & the black apes
son of one of her ex-Governors brought to Justice

You will pardon

me for intruding myself on you a second time, I take a warm
interest in this matter than I should do, perhaps.

I am well known in St. Louis & should you think proper
to make any inquiries respecting ~~my~~ my standing I will refer you
to Mr. C. P. Killey, Messrs. Wm. Chaffin, & Co. Messrs. Crow
Lewis & McCoskey, Messrs. Smith Brothers & Co. & A. G. Sargent;
all merchants of first standing in the City. I wish the
above to be considered as confidential.

I am very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
S. J. Meade, P.M.
at Maestucko S. T.

L.A. Fleck
about the Mormons

S B 183

His Excellency Gen Reynolds
Jefferson City
Mo

