

Richmond Mo

Oct. 23rd 1838.

Ser. Sir,

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. Hollings 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 infused 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 J. 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 Nauvoo 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
Nauvoo band, and am well satisfied that my
information as above stated is correct, I have
no doubt but that J. Smith is as lawless and
consummate a scoundrel as ever was the veiled
prophet of Chorassan. — I believe the Criminal
law in Caldwell County cannot be enforced
upon a Mormon. Grand Jurys there will not
indict. J. declares in his public addresses
that he can revolutionize the U.S. and that if
provoked, he will do it. This declaration
has been heard by Genl. 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
Yr. Obedt. Servt.
Th. C. Burch,

J. J. Judge King will give you some
information by the next mail

M. L. Beach

To

Love

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Oct 1, 23 1488

X

deposed

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