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William M. Phelps a meeting on the part of the state produced sworn and examined, depositions and oaths, that, early as April last at a meeting in Fran-
 met of 9 or 12 persons, Mr Rigdon arose & made an address to them in which he spoke of having borne persecutions & Law suits, and other privations & did not intend to bear them any longer, that they meant to resist the law and if a sheriff came after them with writs they would kill him, & if any body opposed them they would take off their heads, Geo W Harris who was present observed you mean the head of a man I supposed Rigdon answered he meant that lump of flesh and bones called the skull or scap. Jo Smith followed Mr Rigdon approving his sentiments and said that was what they intended to do both in their arguments it seems that they meant to have the words of the Presidency to be as good and as indisputable as the words of God. and that no one should speak against what they said. Hyrum Smith was not in Fran West at this time and thinks he was not in the country. Some time in June slips were talked to get myself and others out of the Army of Caldwell, and efforts were made to get the Post office from Om, being P. M., by a demand for it, I explained the law which seemed satisfactory & it was given up. I then informed the P. Presidency of the Church by letter, that I was willing to do anything that was right and if I had wronged any man I would make satisfaction. I was then notified to attend a meeting. Sidney Rigdon in an address again brought up the subject of the P. office. I told them if public opinion said I should give it up I would do so but they have to await the decision of the P. M. G. which they agreed to do, with the under-

Standing that a committee of three should
 inspect the letters written & sent by me as
 well as those received by me - This Committee
 however never made their appearance -
 after my case was disposed of another man,
 was taken up. he attempted to speak in his
 defence & said he was a Republican, several
 rushed up towards him and stopp'd him, telling
 him if he had anything to say in favor of the
 Presidency he might say it, and that was their
 republicanism - J. Smith & Sidney Rigdon
 & Hyrum Smith who compose the first
 presidency were there. It was observed in
 the meeting that if any person spoke against
 the Presidency they would hand him over
 in to the hands of the brother of Gideon. I
 knew not at the time who or what it meant
 Shortly after that I was at another meeting
 where they were trying several, the first
 Presidency being present. Sidney Rigdon was
 chief spokesman - the object of the meeting
 seemed to be to make persons confess and
 repent of their sin to God and the Presidency
 and arraigned them for giving false accounts
 of their money and effects, they had on hand
 and they said whenever they found one guilty of
 these things they were to be handed over to the
 brother of Gideon several were found guilty
 and handed over as they said - I yet did not
 know what was meant by this expression
 'the brother of Gideon' - At a great while
 after this secret of private meetings were held
 I endeavored to find out what they were and
 I learned from John Corvill and others they
 were forming a secret society called Dignity
 formerly called the brother of Gideon. In the
 meeting above referred to in which I was
 present one man arose to defend himself.

and he was ordered to leave the house, but
 commenced to speak, Ward then said
 "where are my ten men" 30 or more men
 arose up whereupon the man said he
 would leave the house. At this meeting
 I agreed to conform to the order of the church
 in all things. Knowing I had a good deal of
 property in the county and if I went off I
 should leave it. For some time before
 and after this meeting an armed guard was
 kept in town and one of them at my house, during
 the night as I supposed to watch my person.

In the fore part of July - I being one of the Justices
 of the County Court was forbid by Joseph Smith
 Jr from issuing any process against him I
 learned from the Clerk of the Circuit Court
 that a declaration had been filed against Smith
 Rigdon & others by Johnson and in reference to
 that case, Smith told Deacons the Clerk that
 he should not issue a writ against him -
 I observed to Mr. Smith that there was a legal
 objection to issuing it that the cost, meaning
 the Clerk's fee had not been paid - Smith
 replied he did not care for that - he did not
 intend to have any writ issued against him
 in the county - These things together with many
 other alarmed me for the situation of our
 County, and at our next Circuit Court I
 mentioned these things to the Judge & several
 members of the bar -

A few days before the 4th day of July last
 I heard D. W. Patten known by the fictitious name
 of Capt. Farnsworth say that Rigdon was
 writing a declaration to declare the church
 independent. I remarked to him - I thought
 such a thing treasonable to set up a government
 with in a government - he answered it would
 not be treasonable if they could maintain it.

or fight till they died. I went to Huntington
and some other made about the same amount -
Sidney Rigdon's 4th of July oration was the decla-
ration referred to. Along through the summer &
fall, a storm appeared to be gathering and
from time to time I went out into Ray & Clay
Counties - saw and conversed with many
gentlemen on the subject who always assured
me that they would use every exertion that
the law should be enforced, and I repeatedly
made these things known in Caldwell County &
that there was no disposition among the people
to raise arms against them from these Counties.

I never ^{my} visited, nor did I attend any of their
secret meetings. I was at the meeting the Monday
before the last expedition to Davis - having
learned that steps would be taken there which
might affect me. At this meeting the Presiding
together with many others were there to the
number of perhaps 200 or 300 or more.

Joseph Smith Jr. I think it was who addressed
the meeting and said in substance - that they
were there about to go war in Davis County -
that those persons who had not turned out,
their property should be taken to maintain
the war - this was by way of formal resolutions
and was not objected to by any present. A
motion was then made by Sidney Rigdon
that the blood of those who were thus backward
should first be spilt in the streets of Far West.
A few said amen to this, - but immediately
Mr. Joseph Smith Jr. before Rigdon's motion was
put. rose and moved that they be taken out
into Davis County & if they came to battle they
should be put on their horses with bayonets
& pitch forks and put in front - this passed
without a dissenting voice. Then was a
short made thus by Joseph Smith Jr. about carrying

on the war in which he said it was necessary to have something to live on, and when they went out to war it was necessary to take specie to live on. This was in reference to the Assent as well as to the people of Davis when they going in this speech he told the anecdote of the Dutchmans potatoes. Hearing I should have to go and not wishing to be put in front of the battle, I sought a situation and went out with my wagon. This was the expedition in which Gallatin and Melfort were hurt. I went on to Dr. Abamers a few days after the Mormon troops had gone out. I went to the tavern late at night where I found J. Smith Jr. Raymond Smith & others. I informed J. Smith that the Clay troops had returned home some 40 or 50 in number, but told him that Genl. Parkes was in Far West and his troops just behind.

There was a conversation among them as to what they would do and they came to the conclusion to send down to Lyman and Wright at his house for him to send an express to Genl. Parkes that his troops were not needed. Some time before day I awoke and found Lyman ^{& Capt. Raymond} Wright in the house - he said he had sent the express to Genl. Parkes informing him that his militia was not needed - Wright asked J. Smith if he had come to the point now to resist the law, that he wanted that matter now distinctly understood - he said he had succeeded in something the matter over with Judge King when he was out, and that he desired the U. S. to take him, but that he had submitted to be taken, because he Smith had done so. This was in reference to the examination for the offences for which he and Smith had been brought before Judge King in Davis. Smith replied the time had come when he should resist all law.

In the fore part of the night after my arrival I heard a good deal of conversation about driving out the met from Davis. I heard J. Smiths remark that there was a store at Gallatin & a grocery at Millport and in the morning and in the morning after the conversation between Smith and Wright about assisting the law a plan of operations was agreed on which way that Capt Hearnsight who was present should take a company of 100 men or more and go to Gallatin and take it that day - to take the goods out of the store at Gallatin bring them to Diahmond and burn the store - Lyman Wright was to take a company and go to Millport on the same day, and Seymour Bennett was to take a company and go to the grind stone fort on the same day. This arrangement was made in the house before day while I was lying on the floor. When I arose in the morning some of the companies were gone. But I saw Lyman Wright parade a horse company and start off with it towards Millport - I also a foot company the same day go off + on the same day in the evening I saw both these companies returned. The foot company had some plunder which appeared to be beads and bed clothes, &c. They passed on towards the Bishops store. but I know not they did with the plunder. I remained in the Camp one day and two nights at Diahmond when I returned to Far West. The night before I started to Far West an express ~~was~~ was sent from Joseph Smith and Lyman Wright to Big Horn at Far West but what was in the contents of the express I know not. When I returned to Far West I had a message in reference to having wood & provisions provided for the families of those persons living in Far West who were in Davis

And for the purpose of giving that information I was invited to a school house when it was said the people had assembled. I went there and was admitted. The men being paraded before the door when I arrived in number about 40 or 50 - It was remarked that these were true men and we all marched into the house. A guard was placed around the house and one at the door.

Mr Rigdon then commenced making Covenants with uplifted hands - the first was that if any man attempted to move out of the County or pack their things for that purpose that any man there in the house, seeing this without ~~with~~ saying anything to any other person, should kill him and haul him aside into the brush, and that all the burial he should have should be in a turkey-buzzards guts - so that nothing should be left of him but his bones.

That measure was carried in form of a Covenant with uplifted hands - after the vote had passed he said now see if any one dares vote against it, and called for the negative vote & there was none. The next Covenant that if any persons from the surrounding County, came into their town walking about no odds who he might be, any one of that meeting should hit him and throw him aside into the brush. This passed in manner as the above had passed.

The third Covenant was concerning all these things. Mr Rigdon then observed that the Kingdom of Heaven had no security - that yesterday a man had stolen his wind, and was dragged into the hay cocks, and said he - "the man who that lifts it shall die". There were several Companies organized at this meeting, and volunteers called for, and I having assigned ~~to~~ the Command of the express Company called for volunteers wanting to be doing something to make a show. Anasa Lyman a Deft.

was in that meeting, and was appointed by Mr Rigdon Capt. of a Company, whose duty it was to watch the movements of the enemy, or not in Ben county, and if they burst our lines in Caldwell his Company was to burn four of them, and one was selected who was to act towards the latter part of the instructions to Lyman's Company, Rigdon observed that if the inhabitants in the surrounding Country commenced burning houses in Caldwell, if they could not get clear of them in any other way they would poison them off.

This last remark I did not understand as being particularly adapted to Lyman as a part of the duties of his Company, but seemed addressed to the meeting generally.

This meeting was on Saturday, and on the next Monday I returned to Deakamond with 7 or 8 waggons, 3 or 4 of which were moving some families, the had been directed to take to Deakamond for use there.

I arrived at Deakamond that evening and next morning 4 of the waggons were loaded and sent back to Far West. Joseph Smith jr and Hyrum Smith perhaps informed me they wanted 4 waggons a part of which was to haul beef and pork to the Far West and what the balance of the balance of the loading was I did not know, but these waggons brought out by me, were pointed out, and taken back to Far West. I remained in the Camps at Deakamond that day - my wagon and another went down to Muelport and brought up Slade's goods which were there.

Slade is not a Mormon, but has three brothers residing in or about Far West who are Mormons.

The following of the dependants was in the last

Expedition to Davis - Joseph Smith Jr. P. P. Smith,
 Lyman Wight, Geo. W. Robinson, Alanson Riple,
 Geo. W. ~~Starr~~ Harris, Elijah Newnam was
 one of my men. Isaac Morley was not there,
 Alexander McLeod was there, Ebenezer Robinson,
 was there, Edward Partridge was there, James
 H. Rawlins was there, Sheffield Daniels I think
 was not there. Samuel Bent was there, and
 he was called Capt Black's Hawk. While
 in Adanondi-ahnow I saw Geo W. Robertson
 with a clock under his arm which I afterward
 saw in Far West, and which was claimed
 by a Mr. McLaney of Davis County as his
 property after the arrival of Genl. Clark
 at Far West. and further they advanced
 South West.

W. W. Phelps

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