

son, Williams of Cape Girardeau, Williams of Van Buren, Wilkes and Wright—48.

YAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Bogy, Bowering, Brown of Scott, Burt, Burgee, Caulk, Chiles of Franklin, Clark of St. Louis, Coalter, Curd of Callaway, Curd of Marion, Deatherage, Elston, Emmons, Frost, Geyer, Harris, Hickman, Holeman, Hudspeth, Huston, Jarrell, Jones, Manning, Netherton, Pratt, Primm, Redman, Rollins, Sappington, Young of Callaway, Young of Lafayette and Mr. Speaker—37.

ABSENT, (sick)—Messrs. Corrill and Kelly.

ABSENT—Messrs. Gordon, Mason, Reese, South and Woodson.

CORRESPONDENCE.

S. M. Smith, a Mormon, to the Governor.

KIRTLAND, OHIO, MARCH 21, 1839.

I beg leave to present to your Excellency a petition, praying your assistance in a matter of vital importance to me, and to my friends. I have received by letter, from the widow and others, the following facts respecting the murder of a brother in your State, by the name of Warren Smith: He was a Mormon, (the only one of the connexion.) He set out for Far West, Mo., last summer, because he believed it (as he said,) his duty to go. This was a misfortune to be visited, not a crime to be punished. When he, in company with three or four other families, had arrived to within a short distance of the end of their toilsome journey, they were informed that the roads were strictly guarded, and to proceed further would be disastrous; they consequently halted at Shoal Creek, and encamped in the edge of a prairie, when they were attacked, on the 6th of November, by an armed force of two or three hundred. The women and children fled to the woods, the men and boys to a log blacksmith shop. The ruffians instantly surrounded the latter, and in a few minutes massacred about twenty. After the roar of death had ceased, and the inhuman banditti retired, the women crept silently from their hiding places, and selected each, her own husband from among the mingled and mangled slain, wiped the warm flowing life blood from their wan cheeks, snatched a hasty kiss, and buried their lifeless remains in a deep narrow tomb together, (viz: a well,) and fled again to the thick circling shade of the gloomy forest, to escape a like or a worse fate, and now wander friendless and pitiless, without money or means, in a strange land, a land of enemies! Thus perished my brother and a little son of his about ten years of age, who begged hard for his life, but was shot through the head in cold blood, after the excitement of the battle was over.

If there is philanthropy in Missouri, let it be exercised in relieving the sufferings of these widows and orphans. If there is power in the laws, or energy in the executions of Missouri, let them be put in execution, to bring to condign punishment the perpetrators of this barba-

rous deed. This is my petition! Will it be heard? Will the Governor of Missouri see that the laws of his State are executed, and the suffering of innocent widows and orphans assuaged? I have not sought to procure the signatures of any, but choose to present my name singly in the name of the sufferers. I appeal to your humanity as a man, and your authority as Governor of Missouri, hoping that it will not be in vain. It is said and believed by many, that your proclamation authorized the extermination of the Mormons. I can hardly believe this possible. I think it would go to legalize murder and robbery, and be incompatible with your constitutional powers.

In your answer, address S. M. Smith, Kirtland Mills, Georgia county, Ohio.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your humble and obedient servant,

S. M. SMITH.

To His Excellency, L. W. Boggs,

Governor of Missouri.

EXTRACT FROM GOV. BOGGS' MESSAGE OF 1840.

Since your last session, the unpleasant difficulties between a portion of the citizens of our State and the Mormons have entirely subsided, with the exception of some slight interruptions on our north-eastern border.—After that infatuated and deluded sect had left our State, they industriously propagated throughout the Union, the most exaggerated details of our difficulties and the foulest calumnies against our citizens. In some of our eastern cities, missionaries of their creed were employed, daily making converts to their cause by proclaiming the cruelties which they alleged they had endured at the hands of our authorities. The report of our alleged barbarities has not been confined to our Union, but even at this day in Europe they are made the ground-work of proselyting, and their orators find it to their interest to distort the acts into a persecution, which in every religious excitement that has marked the history of the earth, has always been found the most effective weapon of conversion.

In all intestine commotions, particularly when mingled with religious fervor, it frequently happens that cases occur of peculiar hardship and unusual distress, and when public sympathy is excited in their behalf, these unavoidable consequences of civil dissension may easily be magnified into barbarous cruelty—that such cases arose in the course of the difficulty, I do not doubt.—But they must be attributed to the excited nature of the contest of the parties and not to any desire on the part of our constituted authorities to wilfully or cruelly oppress them.

These people had violated the laws of the land by open and avowed resistance to them—they had undertaken without the aid of the civil authority to redress their real or fancied grievances—they had instituted among themselves a government of their own, independent of and in opposition to the government of this State—they had, at an inclem-

Georgia

ent season of the year, driven the inhabitants of an entire county from their homes, ravaged their crops and destroyed their dwellings. Under these circumstances it became the imperious duty of the Executive to interpose and exercise the powers with which he was invested, to protect the lives and property of our citizens, to restore order and tranquility to the country and maintain the supremacy of our laws.

We owe to our reputation, both at home and abroad, the duty of cleansing every aspersion that may rest upon it. Our State character should be held equally as dear as our individual reputation and we should use the same exertion in maintaining the one as spotless as the other. Full testimony as to all the necessary facts of that controversy has been preserved or can easily be procured. Written evidence, on both sides, has been filed among the papers of your last session, forms part also of the records of several of your courts. The facts, as they occurred, can be presented to the world upon proof perfectly conclusive, and the reputation of our State can be rescued from reproach by an exposition of the true causes and events of these difficulties.

In recommending the publication of this testimony, I have no care about its effect upon the principles of that sect. Our constitution has given us the high privilege of religious independence, and left the worship of the Supreme to the unlettered will of every member of the community. If true, the creed of that sect will ultimately triumph; if false, it will "die amidst its worshippers." To explain the attitude which we have been made to assume, I would recommend the publication of all the evidence relating to the occurrence and distributing the same to the chief authorities of each State.

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PRINTING OF MORMON DOCUMENTS.

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That two thousand copies of the evidence taken before the examining court in relation to Mormon difficulties, and such of the letters orders and correspondence on that subject on file in the office of the Secretary of State, as may be selected by a joint committee of the two Houses, shall be published in pamphlet form, under the direction of the Secretary of State; that one copy, in lieu of the manuscript copies heretofore ordered, be sent to our delegation in Congress, to be laid before the Houses to which they respectively belong, one to each member of Congress, and the residue be distributed among the members of the General Assembly.

APPROVED FEB. 16, 1841.

CITY OF JEFFERSON, FEB. 17, 1841.

To JAS. L. MINOR, Secretary of State.

The Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives, on the subject of the publication of the documents on file in your office, relating to the Mormon disturbances, respectfully request that you will furnish us with *all* the letters, orders, correspondence, papers and documents in your office, relating to the origin, history, and termination of the difficulties with the Mormons in this State.

Very Respectfully,

Yours &c.,

WM. M. CAMPBELL,
J. W. REDMAN,
W. T. WOOD,
J. B. THOMPSON.

CITY OF JEFFERSON, FEB. 17, 1841.

To MESSRS WM. M. CAMPBELL, J. W. REDMAN, }
W. T. WOOD, J. B. THOMPSON. } COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter of this date on the subject of the letters, orders, correspondence, &c. in this office, relating to the origin &c. of the difficulties with the Mormons, I have the honor to state that the committee is now in possession of *all* such letters, &c.

Very Respectfully,

JAS. L. MINOR,

Secretary of State.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

CITY OF JEFFERSON, Mo., FEB. 17, 1841.

The joint committee of the General Assembly appointed to examine the documents, orders, evidence and correspondence in the office of the Secretary of State, in relation to the causes, origin, history and termination of the Mormon disturbances, have done so, and are of opinion that all such documents ought to be published under the resolution of the General Assembly, without suppressing any part thereof.

These documents would consist of the following parts:

1. The entire evidence taken before Judge King, sitting as an examining court, together with the written statement (or sentence) of Judge King appended thereto.
2. All the communications to the Governor of the public meetings, or from citizens complaining of the conduct of the Mormons and asking for military aid.
3. All communications to the Governor from the Mormons complaining of the conduct of the citizens of the county and asking for protection.

4. All military orders of the Commander-in-Chief, and other military officers, and the correspondence in relation to the military operations against the Mormons.

5. The report of General Clark with the documents accompanying the same, and all the letters on file from Messrs Ryland, King, Ashby, Rees, Bogart and other citizens of this State.

6. All papers in relation to arms or other property taken from the Mormons.

7. All papers on file in relation to the indictment, escape and demand for the surrender of the Mormon Leaders. (The indictment need not be copied.)

8. The resolution to raise a joint committee at the former session of the General Assembly, the report of the committee, the resolutions adopted directing a bill to be reported to provide for the investigation of the Mormon disturbances, a copy of that bill, the fact of its passage by the Senate and its final rejection by the House of Representatives.

9. It is also the opinion that the Secretary of State should procure from the clerks of the circuit courts of Ray, Caldwell, Daviess and Boone, a general certificate as to who of the Mormons were indicted, for what crime, and what was the final disposition of such indictments, whether they were disposed of by trial or dismissed, or whether in any case a trial was prevented by the escape of the prisoner, or the forfeiture of his recognizance, or from any other cause, and the information thus obtained should be published.

The committee believe the whole amount of matter to be published, should be arranged by the Secretary of State in the manner that he in his judgement may deem best, and that a table of contents, or brief index, should be prepared and accompany the same.

The committee believe that, that portion of the copies to be published, which are required by resolution to be delivered to the members of the General Assembly, should be sent to the clerk's offices of the several counties in which they reside, for them, unless they should direct them to be sent in some other manner.

WM. M. CAMPBELL, *of the Senate.*
 J. W. REDMAN, } *of the House of Rep-*
 W. T. WOOD, } *resentatives.*
 J. B. THOMPSON. }

EXTRACT FROM THE MESSAGE OF GOV. BOGGS FOR 1838.

The difficulties which have taken place between the people called the Mormons, and the citizens of the adjoining counties, have recently assumed the most serious aspect. It was found necessary to call out a portion of the militia to quiet these disturbances, and to restore peace and order to the community. The troops engaged in this service (with the exception of a company or two retained as a guard over the prisoners) have been discharged.

I have concluded to forbear making any further remarks on this

subject at the present time, as the matter is now undergoing judicial investigation. I have directed the general officer who was placed in command of the troops raised for this service, to collect and embody all the facts in relation to the commencement, progress, and termination of this unfortunate affair, and report to me as early as possible, so that the subject may be placed before the Legislature. I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity, after receiving his report, to lay the whole subject before you, together with all the documents in relation to it in possession of the Executive.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1838.

On motion of Mr. Geyer, it was

Resolved, that the Governor be requested to communicate to this house all the information in his possession in relation to the recent difficulties between the people called the Mormons, and a portion of the people of this State, copies of all orders issued by the Executive calling into service volunteers and militia, and for the government thereof, and for the conduct of the military operations, with copies of all correspondence in relation to said difficulties, and the military operations authorized by the Governor.

[Extract from the Journal of the House of Representatives.
 Page 24.]

The Governor to the General Assembly.

CITY OF JEFFERSON, DECEMBER 5, 1838.

To the Honorable the House of Representatives of the State of Missouri.

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22 ulto. requesting the Governor to communicate to the House "all information in his possession in relation to the recent difficulties, between the people called Mormons and a portion of the people of this State, copies of all orders issued by the Executive calling into service volunteers and militia, and for the government thereof, and for the conduct of the military operations, with copies of all correspondence in relation to said difficulties, and the military operations authorized by the Governor:" I have now the honor herewith to transmit the information required, including Major General Clark's report, and a portion of the testimony taken upon the examination of the Mormon prisoners, before the Hon. Austin A. King, Judge of the fifth Judicial Circuit, at Richmond in Ray county. It will be seen from the report of General Clark, that he has made arrangements to procure the residue of the testimony, which, when received, will be transmitted to the House.

As formidable as the insurgents were represented, and as they are now known to have been, still the number of troops ordered in this service may appear large. In detaching so many the Executive was influenced solely by a desire to prevent the effusion of blood. It appeared to me every way best to send such a force as would awe them into submission—a smaller number could undoubtedly have conquered and subdued the disaffected in combat but many valuable lives would have been lost; and I did not consider that I should truly reflect the wishes and opinions of the people, had I stopped to weigh the expenditure of a few thousands, against the best blood of the land.

I received information of the partial interruption of the peace in De Witt, Carroll county, whilst absent from the seat of government, but took no order on the subject, knowing that the officer in command of the militia of that division was fully authorized under the law, and had ample force to preserve the peace. It will be seen by the report of Major General Atchison, that measures were promptly adopted by him to meet the emergency.

Immediately upon receiving intelligence of the last of the Mormon outrages, Generals Atchison and Lucas repaired to the scene of difficulty with a considerable force; although this movement was not directed by the Executive, and was unknown to him, it was justified by the circumstances, and meets his fullest approbation. Much injustice, I have reason to believe, has been done to this part of the command by the public press, which it is hoped a thorough investigation will make manifest to the world. The conduct of Major General Clark has fully justified the high expectations entertained of him by the Executive, when he was assigned to this delicate and important command. Among the papers submitted, I am happy to lay before the House a voluntary tribute, from the principal men among the Mormons, to the humanity and kindness with which he had executed this disagreeable duty, and to the good conduct of his troops.

The information transmitted under the call of the House of Representatives, supersedes the necessity of a special communication to both houses of the Legislature, which it was my intention to have made, as announced in my message at the opening of the session, and will, it is hoped, be taken as a redemption of that pledge. The undersigned therefore respectfully requests that the House of Representatives, at such time as they deem convenient and proper, will cause this communication, and the documents submitted, to be laid before the Senate, for the consideration of that body.

I have the honor to be

Most respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

LILBURN W. BOGGS.

TESTIMONY ACCOMPANYING THE MESSAGE.

State of Missouri, }
County of Daviess. } ss.

Before me, William Dryden, one of the Justices of the Peace of said county, personally came Adam Black, who being duly sworn according to law, deposed and saith: that on, or about the 8th day of August, 1838, in the county of Daviess, then came an armed force of men, said to be 154, to the best of my information and surrounded his house and family, and threatened him with instant death if he did not sign a certain instrument of writing, binding himself as a Justice of the Peace for said county of Daviess, not to molest the people called Mormons, and threatened the lives of myself and other individuals, and did say they intended to make every citizen sign such obligation, and further said they intended to have satisfaction for abuse they had received on Monday previous, and they would not submit to the laws; and further saith, that from the best information and his own personal knowledge, that Andrew Ripley, George Smith, Ephriam Owens, Harvey Umstead, Hiram Nelson, A. Brown, John L. Butler, Cornelius Lott, John Woods, H. Redfield, Riley Stuart, James Whitacre, Andrew Thor, Amos Tubbs, Dr. Gourze and Abram Nelson was guilty of aiding and abetting in committing and perpetrating the above offence.

Sworn to and subscribed this 28th day of August, 1838.

W. DRYDEN Justice of the Peace }
of the county aforesaid. }

ADAM BLACK.

D. Ashby and others to the Governor.

BRUNSWICK, SEPTEMBER 1, 1838.

His Excellency LILBURN W. BOGGS:

DEAR SIR:—Our country is in a complete ferment, and our families are rendered daily unhappy in consequence of the reports which are constantly coming in concerning the hostile intentions of the Mormons and their allies, as it is currently reported and believed that they have ingratiated themselves with the Indians, and indeed they say so, to assist them in their diabolical career.

The fears of the people are greatly excited, and nothing is now talked of but the contemplated struggle, and plans seem to be devising all around us for the most efficient protection against their encroachments. A deadly hostility is kept constantly alive on their borders, and our old neighbors and friends are petitioning help from abroad to relieve them in their present difficulties. Being remote from the immediate vicinity of the Mormon troubles, we can give but little of au-

thentic data on which to act, but we are strongly of opinion that there is a deeply laid scheme existing among these fanatics, that will be highly destructive to character and at once subversive of the rights and liberties of the people.

We have the best authority for believing that, in their public teachings, their people are taught to believe and expect that immense numbers of Indians, of various tribes, are only waiting the signal for a general rise, when, as they state it, the "Flying or Destroying Angel," will go through the land, and work the general destruction of all that are not Mormons. It is not our object at the present to trouble you with a detail of all the reports in reference to this affair, but we will state a case within our own knowledge, coming from a man who left this neighborhood to join the Mormons, and who has the reputation among the citizens of Chariton county, for a number of years, as being a man of strict veracity. He has returned perfectly satisfied that their object is everything opposite to Christian feeling and principle.—The following statement which he makes, is given at his own request, and under his own hand:—"I have resided among the people called Mormons about five months, during which time I have had frequent opportunities of meeting with them, both in their public and private associations, and have sought every possible opportunity of acquiring information. I distinctly recollect hearing Joseph Smith, the prophet, state in a public discourse that he had fourteen thousand men, not belonging to the church, ready at a moment's warning which was generally understood to mean Indians. It was a very common source of rejoicing among all classes, even the women and children participating, that the time had arrived when all the wicked should be destroyed from the face of the earth, and that the Indians should be the principal means by which this object should be accomplished. There is a common feeling amongst them, amounting to a conspiracy to protect one another against the civil officers of the country, even if it should be attended with death. The public teachers have recently been very urgent in soliciting the people to fly to their towns for protection, as the time had arrived when the "Flying Angel" should pass through the land, accompanied by the Indians, to accomplish the work of destruction, and furthermore stating that they will have enough to do to protect themselves whilst this work is going on."

NATHAN MARSH."

From the above facts, added to the general reports, we have with all due consideration thought proper to suggest to your Excellency the propriety of issuing orders to the militia, so that in case of necessity they may be called on according to the exigency of circumstances.

Your obd't servants,

DANIEL ASHBY,
JAMES KEYTE,
STERLING PRICE.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Carroll County to the Governor.

CARROLLTON, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 6, 1838

HON. L. W. BOGGS, Governor of Missouri.

SIR:—I am requested by the committee of safety appointed by Carroll county, to forward to your honor, a copy of an affidavit made by John N. Sapp, the contents of which, they have every reason to believe are true; they wish your honor, if you should consider the same advisable, to acquaint the Indian agents on our frontier with that part of the affidavit which relates to the Indians.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, your obd't servant,
JOSEPH DICKSON.

State of Missouri, }
County of Carroll. }

I, John N. Sapp, do solemnly swear that I resided in Daviess county, State aforesaid, for about the space of five months, and was a member of the church of the people styled Mormons, and that I left them about the 15th day of August last by stealth. When I left them they (said people styled Mormons) were building block houses, and calculated this fall to build fortifications for the protection of themselves and families in time of war, for which they were making every arrangement, and the understanding is, that each man has to cultivate one acre of land, and if the produce raised on said acre is not sufficient for their maintainance, and that of their families, they are to take the balance from the Missourians, (thereby meaning the people of other denominations;) and I do further say there are betwixt eight and ten hundred men, well armed and equipped, who have taken an oath to support Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight, in opposition to the laws of the State of Missouri, or otherwise, which said men are called Danites; and I was a member of said body of Danites, and have taken the above oath; and I do further say, I have heard Sidney Rigdon and Lyman Wight say, they had twelve men of their church among the Indians, and that their object was to induce the Indians to join them (the said Mormons,) in making war upon the Missourians, and they expected to be fully prepared to commence war this fall, or next spring at furthest. And I also say, the Danites aforesaid, are sworn to cowhide any person or persons, who may say aught against Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight, and if that will not prevent them from speaking about said Smith and Wight, then they are to assassinate them.

his
JOHN N. SAPP.
mark

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Joseph Dickson, Clerk of the County Court, within and for the County of Carroll, State of Missouri, on the 4th of September, 1838.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and
 [L. S.] affixed my private seal at office, there being no official seal
 yet procured, this 4th day of September, 1838.

JOSEPH DICKSON, Clerk.

Citizens of Daviess and Livingston counties to the Governor.

DAVISS COUNTY, SEPT. 12, 1838.

To His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Missouri:

We, the citizens of the counties of Daviess and Livingston, represent to your honor, that a crisis has come, which we believe requires us, as the legitimate citizens of Missouri, to call on the Executive of State for protection. For several weeks past, the Mormons have been making formidable preparations for a civil war, and one which they are pleased to call a war of extermination. We presume, that your honor is apprised of the attack made on Adam Black, Esq., on the 8th of August, by the Mormons, and shall not enter into a detail of it here, but we will apprise your honor that the Mormons have and keep a lawless armed force stationed in our country, and are constantly throwing out menaces, threats and challenges to our citizens. Influenced by fearful apprehensions of danger, we, the people of the above counties, sent an express to Richmond last week for arms and ammunition, and on their return with their load of guns, say forty-five, several kegs of powder and two hundred pounds of lead, they were intercepted on Sunday last, in passing through Caldwell county, by a banditti of those fanatical enthusiasts, made prisoners of, and taken to Far West, where they, the guard and the above munitions of war, are still held in custody. On Sunday last, an armed force of fifty Mormons left their own encampment in this county, and marched to the territory of Livingston county, for the purpose, as they said, of removing a considerable amount of property, which was subject to a lien, held by Mr. James Welden; they passed into the settlement secretly, and falling in with a family which they suspected would alarm the settlement, they violently seized, and made prisoners of the whole family, which consisted of three men and two ladies, all of whom, with three others of our citizens, we believe are still held in the custody of those rebels, and deprived of their liberties. Our country, sir, is in a distressed situation, probably two thirds of the families of Daviess county have left, and gone to seek protection among the neighboring counties, while a few of the old settlers are still here, and are determined only to surrender their houses with their lives. For about four weeks, we have humbly and unceasingly been petitioning our neighboring counties for aid, but we are yet in a helpless and defenceless condition.

We, therefore, the people of the above counties, being well aware

that your honor is well acquainted with the character of those people called Mormons, and believing that our lives, our liberties, our property and our all, are in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed by the hands of those impostorous rebels, earnestly call on your honor for assistance—assistance we must have, or leave our homes and seek protection elsewhere. Most of us, sir, emigrated to these frontier counties before there were any settlements formed; we have had to encounter and have realized nearly all the difficulties incident to a new country—we have foregone the pleasures and the advantages of the old and well settled counties, which we have left in anticipation of enjoying the blessings in these—but, alas! our anticipations are blasted, and unless we can get rid of those Canadian Refugees and emissaries of the Prince of Darkness—we and our families are ruined.

We are, sir, your petitioners,

THE CITIZENS OF DAVIESS AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES.

I, George F. Prichard, of the county of Daviess, do solemnly swear, that I had an interview with the Mormons who arrested the family in the territory of Livingston, above referred to, and saw three of the prisoners, and was informed by them, (the Mormons,) that they had the rest of the family under arrest, and that they intended to keep them, until they saw their own time to release them.

GEORGE F. PRICHARD.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 12th day of September, 1838.

R. WILSON,

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Daviess county.

Supposed from General Atchison to the Governor, no signature appearing.

HEAD QUARTERS, 3d Div. Mo. Mi. }
 Richmond, September 12, 1838. }

Sir:—From information received from the counties of Daviess and Caldwell, within the bounds of this Division, I am well convinced, that an insurrection does actually exist, and upon the urgent solicitations of citizens of both counties, and also upon the petition of citizens of the adjoining counties, I have deemed it my duty to order out an armed force to put down such insurrection, and to assist the civil officers in the execution of the laws; also to prevent, as far as possible, the effusion of blood, and to restore quiet, if possible, to the community. This I have done by the advice of the Judge of this circuit. I have ordered four companies, of fifty men each, from the Militia of Clay county, and a like number, from the Militia of Ray county. I have also ordered, four hundred men in addition, to hold themselves in readiness, if required. The troops ordered out are mounted riflemen, with the exception of one company of infantry, who are also mounted. Those troops will proceed immediately to the scene of excitement and insurrection. The