

*TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

DECEMBER 5, 1838

*From the Journal of the House of Representatives, pp. 78-79*

*To the Hon. The House of Representatives, of the State of Missouri:*

Gentlemen—In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of 22d, ultimo, 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 Maj. Genl. Clark's reports 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 Genl. Clark that he has made arrangements to preserve the residue of the testimony, which when received will be transmitted to the House.

As formidable as the insurgents were represented; 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 it appeared to me every way best to send such a force as would use 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 thousand against the best blood of the land. I received information of the



partial interruption of the peace in Dewitt, 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 from the report of Maj. Gen. Atchison that measures were promptly adopted by him to meet the emergency.

Immediately upon receiving intelligence of the last Mormon outrage, Gen. Atchison and Lucas, repaired to the scene of difficulties 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 Maj. Gen. Clark has fully justified the high expectations entertained of him by the executive, when he was assigned to the delicate and important command.

Among the papers submitted I am happy to lay before the House a voluntary tribute from the principal men amongst the Mormons, to the humanity and kindness with which he executed this disagreeable duty and to the good conduct of his troops.

The information herewith transmitted under the call of the House of Representatives, supercede 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 may deem convenient and proper, will cause the communication and the document submitted to be laid before the Senate for the consideration of that body.

I have the honor to be most

Respectfully your ob't. serv't.

LILBURN W. BOGGS.