

Richmond. Oct. 24. 1838.

Dear Sir.

As Mr. Williams will be to see you, and refered to our (mormon difficulties) I will be able to say all to you perhaps that can be said - I deem it a duty notwithstanding to give you such information ^{that} as I have sought and obtained, and it is such I assure you may be relied on - Our relations with the mormons are such that I am perfectly satisfied that the arm of the civil authority is too weak to give peace to the Country. Until lately I thought the mormons were disposed to act only on the defensive but their recent conduct shows that they are the aggressors, & that they intend to take the law into their own hands - of their recent outrages in Daviess you have doubtless heard much already - of their course of conduct in Daviess, I will give you the general facts - for to give particulars would far transcend the limits of a letter - On Sunday before they marched to Daviess, Jo Smith made known his views to the people, and declared the time had come when they would avenge their own wrongs, & that all who was not for them, & take up arms with them, should be considered as against them - that their property should be confiscated

and their lives also be forfeited - With this declaration, & much else said by Smith, calculated to excite the people present, the next day was set to meet & see who was for them, & who against them - and under such severe penalties, there was none, that I heard, who did not turn out, & about 3 or 400 men, with Smith at their head, marched to Daviess - This was on Tuesday, the next day was the Snow Storm, and on Thursday they commenced their ravages upon the Citizens, driving them from their houses and taking their property - Between 80 and 100 men went to Gallatin, pillaged houses and the store of Mr. Stollings, and the post office and then burnt the houses - they carried off the spoils on horse back and in waggons and now have them, I understand in a store house near their camp - Houses have been robbed of their contents, beds, clothing, furniture &c. & all deposited, and they term it a consecration to the Lord - At this time there is not a Citizen in Daviess except Mormons - Many have been driven without warning - others have been allowed a few hours to start - The stock of the Citizens have been seized upon, killed and salted up, by hundreds - From 50 to 100 waggons are now employed in hauling in the corn from the surrounding country - They look for a force against them, and are consequently preparing for a siege, building block houses &c. They have lately organized themselves

into a band, of what they call Sanities. and
sworn to support their leading men in all
they say & do, right or wrong, & further to put to in-
stant death those who will betray them - There is another
band of twelve, called the destructives, whose duty
it is to watch the movements of men and of commu-
nities, & to avenge themselves for supposed wrongful
movements against them, by privately burning houses,
property, & even laying in ashes towns &c. I find I am
running out my letter too much in detail. I do
not deem it necessary to give you a minute detail
of all the facts of which I am possessed, but I give you
the above in order that you may form some idea of
the disposition of these people. The morning expect
to settle the affair at the point of the sword, & I am well
warranted in saying to you, that the people in this
quarter of the State look to you for that protection
which they believe you will afford when you have learned
the facts. I do not pretend to advise your course, nor make
any suggestions other than what I have stated, that
it is utterly useless for the Civil authorities to pre-
tend to interpose - The Country is in great commotion
and I can assure you that either with or without
authority, something will shortly have to be done -
I hope you will let me hear from you by the
return of Mr. Williams, and if you should come up
the Country shortly, it will give me pleasure to take
the trouble to see you - I am very respectfully,
Austin A. King

Judge King

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Carroll

Dec 24. 1837

No. B. 37

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