

good never wish for war, and the wise are always ready for it, let us continually seek that our weapons may be made bright and ready by our industry, and preserved so by a continued peace." Now, with war an immediate possibility, he issued to the Nauvoo Legion, numbering some two thousand men, an order declaring that Utah was about to be invaded by a hostile force, so that every member must be prepared to defend his homeland.³

On August 6, Franklin D. Richards, brigadier general commanding, in his orders to the officers serving under him in the 2d Brigade, 1st Division, declaimed:

We have experienced the repeated desolation of our homes. Our women have been ravished. Our prophets and brethren have been imprisoned and murdered, & the people *en masse* have been exterminated from their midst.

We have appealed to Judges [?] and Governors of those States for redress of our wrongs in vain, and when we applied to the Presidents of the United States for our rights we were told "*your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you.*"

We now appeal to the God of our Fathers & Prophets for protection against the hostilities of any Mob that shall invade our Territory, and invoke the aid of the heavens to strengthen us in defending ourselves against further aggressions.

You are required to hold your Regiments in readiness to march at the shortest possible notice to any portion of the Territory. See that the law is strictly enforced in regard to arms and ammunition and cause that each Ten be provided with a good wagon four horses or mules, or Oxen (where horses or mules cannot be had) as well as the necessary clothing rations Tents &c. for a winter campaign and make immediate returns to this office of the men in each Ten who have charge of the Wagon animals Tent &c. Let your influence be diligently employed for the preservation of the grain and report without delay any person in your District that disposes of a Kernel of grain to any Gentile merchant or temporary sojourner, or suffers it to go to waste. . . .

³ Brigham H. Roberts, *Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, IV, 239.

Defense of Zion

The opportunities that occur of obtaining arms & ammunition from the passing emigrants should not escape your carefull attention.

Finally avoid all excitement and be Ready!⁴

The tone of this document leaves no question about the Mormon determination to fight or as to the reason which prompted them. The order to "report without delay any person in your District that disposes of a Kernel of grain to any Gentile merchant or temporary sojourner" was a recognition of the military emergency. As the war psychology developed, any trading with passing emigrants might be considered equivalent to giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

From these orders, carried to every southern village in August, grew many of the tensions and frictions which finally culminated in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. The people of the southern settlements had already shown themselves reluctant to sell food to travelers, for they were far from supplies themselves and had seen near famine. Previously the plain law of self-preservation had made them loath to part with their grain, but now military orders made it mandatory that they store it. As early as January 15, 1856, Erastus Snow had written of conditions in the south:

The southern settlements of Iron County raised a surplus of provisions last year, but the Northern settlements raised little or none. But the old grain on hand and the surplus in their neighboring settlements will be ample for the people until another harvest, if rigid economy is observed. But they are determined that no supplies shall be furnished emigrants or others bound for California;

⁴ The military records of the 2d Brigade, 1st Division, of the Nauvoo Legion were carefully kept in a single volume, the original of which has now been sold to a private collector in the East. Typewritten copies are at the Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, and the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

From the various orders issued to this brigade, it is easy to follow the course of the "Mormon War," as far as Mormon resistance is concerned.