

I. 1889

Smith being mouth. We then considered the matter of the church furnishing some sketches of events in our past history from which engravings can be made for H[ubert] H. Bancroft to use in a proposed new edition of his History of Utah. Bro. [Brigham] Young [Jr.] and I were appointed to see and arrange with Utah artists for some 13 sketches.

*[December 6, 1889; Friday]* At 2 p.m. I went to the Gardo House where several of the Apostles met with a number of the People's Party Central Committee when the matter of an appeal from [Judge Thomas] Anderson's decision in the naturalization cases to the Territorial and U.S. Supreme Courts was considered. Most of those present were in favor of carrying the case to the highest court.

The best method of protesting against Anderson's ruling was then debated. The plan which seemed to meet with the most favor was for the First Presidency and Apostles to prepare and sign a dignified paper, without even mentioning the actions of the Courts, setting forth our doctrines, and denying the wicked charges of our murderous character and disloyalty to the government. Then another paper was to be signed by the "Mormon" business men of the city giving the lie to Anderson's statements. Following these[,] mass meetings were to be called throughout the territory to protest against the vile political scheme to which Anderson has lent himself to rob a whole people of their franchise.

About 4:30 p.m. this meeting adjourned and was followed by a meeting of Presidents [Wilford] Woodruff, [George Q.] Cannon and [Joseph F.] Smith and Bros. [Francis M.] Lyman and [Heber J.] Grant. We here considered and made a few changes in a circular letter that is to be sent out to the Presidents of Stakes advising them to propose to the people of their Stakes to spend the 23rd of this month—the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday—in fasting and prayer that the Lord may interpose in behalf of His people and preserve them from the power of their enemies and incline the hearts of the rulers of the nation to us. We are also to pray for a righteous decision in the church suits now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, and also for other things which the Spirit may prompt.

In speaking of the recent examination before Judge Anderson Father said that he understood when he had his endowments in Nauvoo [Illinois] that he took an oath against the murderers of the

Prophet Joseph as well as other prophets, and if he had ever met any of those who had taken a hand in that massacre he would undoubtedly have attempted to avenge the blood of the martyrs. The Prophet charged Stephen Markham to avenge his blood should he be slain; after the Prophet's death Bro. Markham attempted to tell this to an assembly of the Saints, but Willard Richards pulled him down from the stand, as he feared the effect on the enraged people.

Bro. Joseph F. Smith was traveling some years ago near Carthage [Illinois] when he met a man who said he had just arrived five minutes too late to see the Smiths killed. Instantly a dark cloud seemed to overshadow Bro. Smith and he asked how this man looked upon the deed. Bro. S. was oppressed by a most horrible feeling as he waited for a reply. After a brief pause the man answered, "Just as I have always looked upon it—that it was a d—d cold-blooded murder." The clouds immediately lifted from Bro. Smith and he found that he had his open pocket knife grasped in his hand in his pocket, and he believes that had this man given his approval to that murder of the prophets he would have immediately struck him to the heart.

*[December 8, 1889; Sunday]* At 8:20 a.m. I took the north-bound train and went to Kaysville. Father, F[rancis] M. Lyman and B[righam] H. Roberts also went thither. Bro. [Lorenzo] Barnes kindly received us at his house until meeting time. At 10 a.m. a good congregation assembled in quarterly [stake] conference at the meeting house. Bro. Roberts was the first speaker; he referred to the very evil habit of swearing, and especially of taking God's name in vain; he warned the Saints against this evil. He also spoke of our disposition to find fault with the authorities, and to sustain in our feelings all evil accusations against them. He said the Lord would not sustain us in this course.

I followed him for 35 min. referring to the Lord's many favors to us and his preserving care.

Father briefly mentioned two cases with which he was familiar where men were killed in a violent way for the reason, as he believed, that they took the name of God in vain and were very profane.

*[December 12, 1889; Thursday]* At 2 p.m. attended my Quorum [prayer] Circle meeting at the Gardo House. Pres. Woodruff, being quite sick,