

House of Representatives,

Washington, D.C., March 23, 1876

Dear Brother Brigham:

My contestant had a hearing before the Com. on Territories of the Senate this morning upon the Christianity Bill. As you can imagine, polygamy and blood atonement, incest, ignorance of the people, the great preponderance of foreigners, the women driven from the harems in droves to the polls, the reign of theocracy a reign of terror and blood, people in danger of assassination and always excommunicated if they did not vote <sup>were all dwelt upon with great emphasis and minuteness,</sup> the Church ticket; the Journal of Discourses was quoted from by garbled extracts, the tickets polled at the last City election were exhibited to show how impossible it was for a person to vote without it being known how he had voted, the resolutions of

of the Republican and Democratic Conventions respecting the secret ballot were read to show that all parties (non-Mormon) were united in favor of this Bill, and everything said that was calculated to impress and appeal the Committee respecting the horrible condition of affairs in the Territory. Some of the Committee swallowed it all down, the reader (he had his argument written) carrying them with him.

After he had finished, I remarked that as Mr. Baskin had introduced considerable new matter I desired to have an opportunity to reply now or at another meeting. Christancy was disposed to object; others also seemed to feel that enough had been said. I then remarked: "it is all right; if you can afford to part<sup>it</sup> in the power of myself and my constituents to say that when a most foul and malignant attack had been made upon us, you

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refused to hear a reply, we can endure the injustice." Two of the Committee, Patterson of G. C. and Marey of Texas, persisted, especially the former, that I should be heard. It came to me while speaking to say that if we were as bad as represented on this occasion, we should not only be disfranchised, but we should be dealt with more severely; but before proceeding to that or any other action, I urged that a Committee of both Houses of Congress should be appointed to go out to Utah, and examine into the condition of affairs there, with power to send for persons and papers. Then Congress could act intelligently and not upon the testimony of a man who was confessed by the enemy of the people. I referred to the Federal census to show our per centage of illit-

eracy which was lower than any of the Territories  
and than <sup>some of</sup> the States; also to show the pro-  
portion of foreign born people in the Territory,  
a smaller proportion than in any of the Territories  
but one or two and than some of the States. I  
explained our belief respecting the shedding  
of blood, that we shoukt frown on it. At this point  
Baskin interrupted me, and asked if we did not  
draw a distinction between innocent blood and other  
blood. I told him yes we did, but it did not  
follow that if a man were not innocent, that we  
should want to kill him. I said to the committee  
that he himself was a living illustration of the  
falsity of his own statements; that for nine  
years he had been a resident of the Territory  
and one of the worst enemies the people had,  
and though I did not think him innocent  
he had not been assassinated. He spoke  
up and said that when out at night he

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had feared it and watched when passing alleys. I said I thought that after acting as he had done he ought to be afraid; it was but natural he should feel so; but if he lived till the Mormons killed him, <sup>he</sup> I thought he would be very old. After while he interrupted me again and desired to ask another question. He said, did <sup>I not</sup> know that men had been assassinated by Church authority, and asked if 49 men who were indicted for the Mountain Meadow massacre were not in St. George? I told him I did not know of any one ever having been killed by such authority, and why were not these men arrested if at St. George? He said they were in hiding. Now, said I, <sup>can</sup> the gentleman tell us who the men are who have been assassinated? He commenced by mentioning Potter at Weber and Black Tom, and after studying a little while the

remembered, and many more whom he could not remember. He said that all who were reported

by him and his friends to be murdered, could be counted upon the fingers of a man's hand,

if those killed at Mountain Meadows be excepted; and I think there the attempts that had been made to get confessions from those accused

to implicate yourself and others. He said that there were more than 500 who had been killed.

I thought it strange he could not remember but two or three if there were 100th of that number. There was much more said. I appealed to the Committee of

with such a difference of statement - I asserting that the people of Utah were an honest, upright, God-fearing peo-

ple, and he stating that they were murderers and living in violation of every law of God and man - there should not be an investigation by fair, ~~honest~~ <sup>discreet</sup> men as to which was true of these statements. I was proud of the Territory and

my constituents would be pleased to have its affairs fully investigated, the more thoroughly the better. We were out of debt and the object of all these attacks upon the people was plain.

Federal and ex-Federal officers who had been sent here, as to all the Territories, as to a hospital for decayed politicians. They formed a "ring"; they would like to get hold of the power

and descended to every kind of device and slander, knowing the people had a bad name, to get power in the Territory. I am glad to hear from Bro. Reynolds this morning that you are better. I hope you will continue to have good health. With love also to yourself and to Bro. Daniel and the best son of the Governor, and praying the Lord to bless you I am Your Bro Geo. L. Cannon