

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 Christmancy 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 ^{we all dwelt upon with great emphasis and minuteness;} 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 appal 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. Christianity 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 put ^{it} 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 Maxey 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 ^{some of} 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 shrank from 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, I thought he would be very old. After awhile he interrupted me again and desired to ask another question. He said, did I ^{not} 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, ^{can} the gentleman tell us who the men are who have been assassinated? He commenced by mentioning Potter at Prober and Black Tom, and after studying a little while the

