

Scene 1.

GILBERT BELNAP'S COMMISSION BY THE PROPHET, JOSEPH SMITH.

(Joseph Smith, seated at his desk in his private office.)  
( with his private secretary. )

Joseph Smith. (Turning to his secretary) Go out and bring to me Gilbert Belnap.

(Exit secretary)

(Secretary returns with Gilbert Belnap)

Joseph Smith. My life has been threatened by the citizens of this State. Will you disguise yourself and gain admittance to their meeting and bring me word of their intentions.

Gilbert Belnap. I will do anything which is the will of the Lord for me to do.

Joseph Smith. (Placing his hand on Gilbert's shoulder) I promise you that not a hair of your head shall fall to the ground and you shall succeed in the accomplishment of everything you undertake if you follow the first impression of your mind. Go, and the Lord be with you.

(Exit Gilbert)

Curtain

Narrator:

At the Prophet's bidding, he went to Carthage, Ill, about 18 miles distant. Upon his arrival there he was met by Joseph Jackson, Mike Barnes and a Mr. Singleton, who were suspicious of him and questioned him of his presence in Carthage. Thereupon he went to the recorder's office and examined the title to a tract of land, followed by his opponents .

They tormented him with false accusations regarding the conduct of the followers of the Master, his friends. This so provoked Gilbert that his inborn fighting spirit was kindled within him. Forgetting their many numbers, he rebuked them for their untrue insinuations. Whereupon one of them desperately thrust his hunting knife into Gilbert's bowels, penetrating his clothing, but without bodily injury. The two antagonists wrestled until parted by Jackson. Nevertheless, he gained admittance to their secret meeting, afterwhich he hurried to the thicket, in which his horse was tied, pursued by the angry, howling mob. With all fervency he prayed that the Lord would strengthen his gallant steed and carry him safely to the Prophet. His prayer was answered! Safely they sped until they were out of danger, altho, opposite a tomb his horse fell broadside in the mud. Covered with mud, Gilbert rushed into the presence of Joseph Smith.

Scene 2.

(Joseph Smith pacing the floor of his office as Gilbert enters breathless.)

Gilbert. Here are the minutes of their meeting (Giving the prophet the minutes.

Joseph Smith. Thank you, my boy and God bless you.

Curtain.

Narrator:

At length the evil day arrived and dark clouds burst with fury over the Prophet's head.