

tion. Through the latter source the people of these valleys have been able to proclaim that this continent was inhabited by powerful peoples, who engaged in fierce conflicts one with another; they also have the history of those peoples up to the fifth century of the Christian era, made known by the gift and power of God. The evidences of the historical truths of that record are steadily being brought to light by those who are unbelievers in its divinity, but whose labors develop startling proofs in its support. As the years go on these proofs are being multiplied, and it may not be out of the range of possibility that a key to ancient American inscriptions will be yet discovered, and their mystery be unlocked in further confirmation of that which the Lord has revealed.—*Deseret News*.

A MOBOCRAT DEAD.

A TELEGRAM from Carthage, Illinois, brings the news that on the night of Monday, April 9, Thomas Coke Sharp, editor and proprietor of the *Carthage Gazette*, died at his home at that place, from paralysis, from which he had suffered the past three years. The *Deseret News* gives the following additional information of the life of this man:—

The deceased was the son of a noted Methodist minister, Rev. Solomon Sharp, of Philadelphia, and was in the 76th year of his age at the time of his demise. He was a native of New York, having been born at Mt. Holly, September 25, 1818. He came west and settled in Quincy, Illinois, and engaged in the practice of law. Shortly afterward, in the summer of 1840, he moved to Warsaw, Hancock County. He became associated in business with James Gamble, and together they purchased from Daniel N. White the *Western World*, of which Sharp became editor. A year later the name of the paper was changed to the *Warsaw Signal*, and for a number of years it was the only paper published in Hancock County, outside of Nauvoo. In later years Mr. Sharp became the editor of the *Carthage Gazette*.

The chief interest of the people of Utah in Thomas C. Sharp arises from the fact that they and others have had to regard him as one of the murderers of the Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith, at Carthage jail, June 27, 1844. Perhaps the last Utah man to visit and converse with him was Sheriff Gilbert Belnap, of Ogden. He stated at the time that Sharp was an invalid, and his mind impaired. He was non-communicative on the subject of the assassination, particularly the part he played in it, but Sheriff Belnap believes that at the time of his visit Sharp would have told all he remembered if his wife would have allowed it, but this she would not do.

When Sharp came into Hancock County there was some anti-"Mormon" agitation and he entered into it with ardor. He was ambitious for political preferment and was wholly unscrupulous in measures to gain his ends. He published in his paper the most infamous falsehoods against the Latter-day Saints. All through those troublous times the columns of the *Signal* were replete with vicious articles inciting and urging violence toward the "Mormon" people. Thomas C. Sharp had murder in his heart then and later availed himself of the opportunity to imbrue his hands in

the blood of innocence. He was denounced by the sheriff of the county as "a villain of the worst dye."

In connection with his associates he was instrumental in inflaming public prejudice to the extent that meetings were held, the first of them at Warsaw, in which resolutions were passed declaring that in the opinion of those participating the time had arrived when the "Mormons," "as a body, should be driven from the surrounding settlements into Nauvoo; that the Prophet and his miscreant adherents should then be demanded at their hands, and if not surrendered a war of extermination should be waged to their entire destruction." Sharp was an ardent advocate of the murderous policy.

This situation was known at the time, as may be seen by the following from the diary of the Prophet Joseph, though the people did not realize the full import of the ominous proceedings. The Prophet says, under date of June 18, 1844:—

About 2 p.m., the Legion was drawn up in the street close by the mansion. I stood in full uniform on the top of the frame of a building. Judge Phelps read the *Warsaw Signal* extra of the 17th, wherein the "old citizens" were called upon to assist the mob in exterminating the leaders of the Saints and driving away the people.

Thomas C. Sharp was one of the attorneys engaged as prosecuting counsel when the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum were placed under arrest. Knowing that they were innocent of any crime, and that if the case proceeded to trial acquittal must follow, he joined with others in carrying out the mobocratic design. He was a leader in the murderous conspiracy, and conducted the negotiations by which it was arranged that the mob should get possession of the jail unopposed. When the assault took place he was one of the participants. The readers of the *News* will remember that a few weeks ago there was present in this city Col. M. B. Darnell, of Iowa, who was an eye-witness to the shooting at Carthage. A relative of his, a young man who was with the mob, names Sharp as one of the persons who engaged in the actual shooting. He was indicted with others, but all were acquitted by a jury selected, as was well understood by the people then, and as testified to by Col. Darnell from personal knowledge, from among the mobocrats themselves.

No language can make the crime in which Thomas Coke Sharp was a leading participator appear more heinous than it is. He has gone to his final account, where he will receive from a just Judge that reward which his works merit. The people of Utah are satisfied to let the matter rest there. The *News* refers on this occasion to the awful tragedy of June 27, 1844, because it feels it to be a solemn duty to make the record in connection with the passing from mortality of one of the men chiefly responsible for the assassination of the Prophet and Patriarch.

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from Territorial papers.)

William Jardine, son of Bishop Jardine of Clarkston, Cache County, was thrown from a wagon and had his leg broken.