

Gilbert Belnap's
writingd
916
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item 1

During autumn of the year 1845 When the clouds of persecution were gathering thick around the head of Brigham Young and the leaders of the Church. And the smelt of many a dwelling across as unmistakable evidence of the determined purpose of a relentless foe. One Day beneath a cloudless sky. Two young men mounted each on well known steeds were quietly wending their way from that inflated city of Nauvoo along the River Road leading to the city of Warsaw. Situated below the Lower Rapids of Great Mississippi. On the right grew the sturdy oak the lofty Elm the fruitful Walnut the Sugar maple and the Shell Bark Hickory; the motto of Jeffersonian Democracy while here and there might be seen the stunted ash and the Hazel thicket. And on the left were the great Prairies of Illinois. And in front us was the settlement of Bear creek and Green Plains. Presided over by Elder Alfred Morley. Bear creek is a small stream contributing its mite to swell the tide of the Father of Waters. Near the crossing once stood a dwelling consisting of four rooms. Some ten rods distant from the Road in front of it grew the Laback the ever green and the Rose

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and the front being over hung by a beautiful weeping
Willow. and in close proximity was the well filled granary.
Still a little farther to the South a thirty by forty foot
Barn well filled with wheat hay and soft corn as food
for man and Beast. and west of this a forty acre field
of soft corn. The well filled ear extended upward like
mens arms the whole surrounded with a stake and Rider fence
and still farther west the grove of timber forming a
beautiful border to the great River below. With nothing
to disturb its even surface but the merchant Steamer
passing up and down its waters and from its crowded
Pressure sent out a gentle wave that soon disappeared in
the current below. After leaving Green Plains we
descended the river. When near the brow of the
hill like the old clock we stop short not to move
again but to gaze upon the object of our search.
In a small Prairie surrounded by the stately forest.
Was the encampment of the chief force of the antinomian
host. Instead of order that characterizes well Disciplined
troops cracker lines of tents interspersed with Baggage
whegs and green brush structures, as a covering from.

from the Rays of an autumn Sun. In the Distance
~~came~~ came an ordinary team from its slow movements
 it was evident that its burthen was nearly equal to its
 ability to perform. When within two hundred yards of its
 Destination a loud shout of exultation told the anxiety
 that awaited its arrival and from every tent and Bush
 lower might be seen a man with brown jug or canteen
 after those Portions of the Spirit that prompted those to
 Deeds of Desperation. After carefully surveying the encampment
 and estimating the Numbers at two thousand strong.
 We quietly awaited the Darkness to afford a safe opportunity
 to return. As the clock struck ten we entered President
 Youngs office. There were in waiting Brigham Young,
 John Taylor George A. Smith H. C. Kimball Jonathan
 Denham and J. B. Baskinshank after relating the scenes of
 the Day we retired. On the following Day we learned
 that the Mob force had been divided into three parts one
 third to Rendevise at Carthage and a small Detachment
 at Appanoose and the Remaining force to operate on
 Green Plains and Beavers Creek. September the Eleventh 1845
 Witnessed the quiet Preparation of two hundred and fifty
 Men to make a Desert lead on by J. B. Baskinshank
 Sheriff of Hancock County Illinois. Leebard Creek being
 the Place of gathering

04. While all Satem had assumed her Mantle of quiet
in all parts of the city men on horse back could
be seen moving thro' way in a given direction at
the time appointed an onward move was made. When
about four miles out an advance guard of twenty
men was ordered in charge of O P Rockwell, and
again resumed our march. And soon the glare of
burning buildings met our gaze not long after this a
portion of the advance returned and announced the close
proximity of the foe. quietly the word was passed to the
rear to march in close order, and if possible keep
your horses from neighing. silently we passed on. at
the rising of the morning star. We formed a line on
the West of Edmund Durfey's field some eighty rods distant
from the house, and again the word was passed along
line feed your horses and keep quiet. Soon the flames of
devouring fire ascended far above the pulling and out
houses loud shouts of exultation rent the air. And the
shrill scream of women could be heard above the uproar
and again the order comes to lay down the arms as quiet
as possible and lead your horses over and form a line
during all the movements not a word was spoken above
a whisper. At this juncture our venturesome guide
returned. With the word that Durfey was dead

CAPITON
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And the Family Remained from the Burning Building
South of House. At this time the Rays of light
from the King of Days. Was sufficient to warrant
an onward movement. And when J B Backinshash
was but fairly seated in his saddle every man was
Prepared to mount. and the Word came and to forward
March. And ere a complete was formed. The Bugle
Sounded the charge. Lead on by the Gallant Leader.
Not to almost certain Death but in hot Pursuit of a
fleeing foe. My young friends I fondly hope that you
may never witness scenes of Blood and carnage.
Neither should you ever witness Fathers in their
efforts of self Defense. But suffice it to say
that Edmund Purper lay weltering in his gore at his
own home that his strong arm had provided and his
Family Dropped from their Beds to give place the
fury fiered at Dead of Knight And witness the Resuming
of all these effects and the Fathers strong Arm Palsied in
Death

435 00
275
22 75
782 75

435 00
275 00
18 77
22 35
20 69
21 12
19 97

832 91

22 75

855 66

210

1065 66

17 75

110

1193 41

435

275

22 75

210

942 75

Final total

1200 00

942 75

255 75