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Dear Sir,

I received yours of the 8th and am glad to hear that you are well and doing well. I have my family with me at this time and shall move into the state of Ill. as soon as I can. We are well and in very good spirits. I will attempt to answer your request by writing you some facts I received in the Co. of Caldwell the last day of May last about which time there was some men in the church that was disposed to do things that was not right from which we have been — I then went into Davis Co. and prepared for to settle there being about 120 families of mormons in that Co. and about 140 of the old inhabitants I soon heard that election would be along and that the old citizens were trying to get the mormons to vote for them and there being 2 parties they sought hard for their vote but the mormons were all for the democrat candidates but the thing passed along until the day of election when the federal candidate for representative mounted on to a barrel and called on the citizens and made a long speech abusing the mormons all that he could and

2' said that he had been to drive the mormons
he would do it again, and then he got down and
in a few minutes there was one of the missourians
struck one of the mormons and then another
mormon stepped in between them, when he was
knocked down and then both parties gathered
some clubs and they commenced. There was
about 20 mormons and 100 missourians and
the mormons knocked them down as fast as they
could get them away until they got out of the
way, but the missourians got guns and kept
the mormons from voting the next morning
The mormons in Far West (Caldwell co) heard
that the missourians had two mormons on
the ground dead and would not let them be buried
and about 100 of the mormons got on their horses
and went out to get them, but found when they
got there that there had not any of them been
killed, and then they went to see some of the judges
and wished to have the matter settled, wishing
him to sign a paper that he would do all that
he could to keep the peace, which he was willing
to do and he then went to the circuit judge
and made oath that the mormons compelled
him to sign it, and got out writs for a number
of the mormons and made some attempt to take
them, but the sheriff was afraid and made

a great complaint, but after some bustle Lyman Wight and J. Smith Jr. gave themselves up and had an examination and were put to bail, and the mormons hoped that it would stop here, But the missourians began to move their families out of the neighborhood where the mormons lived, and gathered together all the help that they could and said that the mormons should leave the county, and they took some mormons prisoner and used them very bad, and shot at some others and then the mormons made some complaint to the circuit judge in Ray Co. and the major general of Clay Co. and they ordered out about 200 troops which came on and stayed about 15 days and we thought that the matter was settled, and we all went about our business, but the mob soon gathered against a small place called Dewitt at the mouth of Grand river which place was half owned by the mormons. The mob got them a cannon and came on very strong and the militia officers said that they could not do anything with them. The mob then burned some houses and shot some of the mormons but not killed any at that time. The mob then proposed to make a treaty with them, which they did.

hoping that it would stop there, and that ^{the} difficulty would be settled but as soon as the mormons left Dewitt the mob gathered around Davis co. in two companies, one on the west in Clinton co and the other on the east in Livingston co. and commenced by burning some of the mormons houses, and we saw that unless that there was something done to stop them that we must have a battle as they were moving away their families and some of them setting fire to their houses for to raise excitement, which the mormons saw that they would do. They the mormons made the best moves that they could to defend themselves and their families, and the mob saw that moving was not what they thought it was and they fled and left their cannon and their houses and then it was mob for mob and the missourians most all left the county. So you see that they were fairly at it and we concluded that we would as soon die as live in this way. The mormons then went at their work except of few that was kept out for to see the movement of the mob. As the militia officers said that they could not do any more and it appeared that the mob did not know what to do when the Rev. Mr. Boyard of Ray co. had got

permit of the general to call out a company of
 36 to guard that co. and he got about as many
 more that volunteered and they came into the
 south part of Caldwell co and made some
 threats and took some of the mormons prisoners
 When the mormons heard it they went to
 relieve them, and came on them unawares, it
 being the first time that the mormons
 could get to have a battle with them, when
 there was 3 mormons killed and some
 wounded. I have not been able to ascertain
 how many of the mob were killed, (but I think
 some 20 or 30) there was one of the men
 here at my house last week that was taken
 prisoner. He said that when Mr Boyard saw
 that they had got to fight he took him and
 placed him in front of his line between the 2
 companies and then had their guns reserved to
 shoot him if he attempted to run. He waited until
 the first fire when he started. They shot him
 through the left shoulder. This skirmish
 was what they wanted. They then sent to the
 governor to have help and he ordered out about
 5000 troops and gave general Clark, the
 command to come and settle the difficulty

They came up and without letting the
 mormons know who they were they
 made an attempt to march into the town
 when the mormons met them, and they
 came back in the morning. They sent word
 into the mormons that they must give up
 their leader, and guns, their property and
 leave the state or be exterminated so you see
 that the cause was not inquired into but
 you must do this or be killed, whereas
 as people are ready to have the whole subject
 investigated. The men that they first wanted
 was J. Smith Jr., S. Rigdon, H. Smith, S. Waight
 P.P. Pratt, G.W. Robison. These men they expected
 to shoot without any trial but General Doniphan
 of Clay co. said that if they were a going to
 murder he would not have any hand in
 it, and he took his troops and went home
 they then proceeded and took from the remainder
 all the guns and swords and then put 4 companies
 to guard all the mormons, as they were all
 in Caldwell co. towns, and they did not allow
 them to get out for a week in which time they
 took about 200 horses, cattle, sheep, hay and
 corn and took some money some bed clothes

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then they went to Davis Co and served them
the same. I was at Far West while the troupes
were there and I did not go home as they ^{threatened}
threatened my life, then they took about
60 more prisoners and took them to Richmond
Ray Co. where they pretended to examine them
when they let some go and some they put to
bail some they have kept in goal, charged
with ^a most all crimes that can be mentioned
I saw 2 men the first day of Feb. they told
me that J. Smith jr. and those that were
with him in prison would be let out on
bail or set free and that all their proceedings
had been contrary to law and that they have
no business with any of them. Such is the
ignorance of the people in that Co. that they wind
themselves up and if any man which they
have confidence in tells them anything
they will do it. While ^{at} the troup were
~~at~~ Far West there was about 30 mormons
that was moving and got within about 15
miles of the town where about 100 of the mob
fell upon them and killed 17 men; 2 boys
and wounded some more and took their wagons

and horses and left [&] the women to bury the dead, they dragged them and put them into a well that had no water in and covered them up, ~~without~~ Amongst the wounded was one man that has 11 ball holes in his skin, 2 balls passed through his body one through his hip and he is now a walking and riding about. They say that they will not shoot him again, a man by the name of Mc Bride was killed out not Reubin.

There is one more circumstance that I will mention. There is one man taken prisoner by the troops that came into Far West and one of the men took his gun and struck him on the head and killed him. I mention this that you may see that what the troops were. So sir, the mormons have made all the exertions that they could to have their abuse taken notice of but not the first thing can they get done, I could mention numerous abuses such as whipping, tying — to their heels and put them into wells, and make them deny J. Smith. I am blacking

and ⁹ always torment them. There has been petitions sent to the Legislature, and they quarrel about it and then they dropped it. The mormons do all calculate to leave the state as fast as they can get away. But what the final end will be I am not able to tell.

I would not have you think that all that the mormons have done is exactly right but when men are pushed as were the mormons they will do almost anything to save their lives and the lives of their families. So sir, I do not believe that we should have had any difficulty had they not been afraid that the mormons would have carried the election next year. There is not a mormon in this church that has had a better chance to know the minds of the leading men than I have, and I do know that they would let the missourians alone had they been let alone. ~~I have written this letter~~ to tell you

This letter has been written the persecution as near as I could. There is much more that I could write but have not time now. ~~But~~ Perhaps there may be mistakes

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but I have not time to copy it and you must
get the best sense of it that you can, Now
sir I ask you and every republican
in these U. States how you would like to
be brought up and compelled to lay down
your arms, I think that you would feel
same as I did, that death would be a
welcome messenger if you could have
the privilege of fighting as long as life lasted
and I ask not to live one moment but to get
revenge. Now I will let you know something
of my situation and the situation of that
country. I was placed in as good a situation
as any man in this state to get a living
but now am deprived of it all except my health
and the faith I have in that God that has
created and preserved me thus far through
life. I expect to go from here as soon as
the river is navigatable. Where I shall
stop I do not know as yet and I am of the
opinion that all citizens of these U. States
that do not know how to pity mormons
will some time know it.

The country is the best country to get
 a living in that I have seen. A man that
 is industrious can get a good property in
 2 or 3 years. It is 2 years last Aug. that
 the mormons settled in the small county of
 Caldwell. It is 24 miles square, and there
 is now more potatoes for sale than in
 all the rest of Missouri south of the river,
 and corn can be bought for 10¢ per bu.
 in large quantities. I must close this lengthy
 communication by sending my best respects
 to you and family and old neighbors, hoping
 that the time will come when I can see
 them again in this world or the next to
 come, and as my fathers have done,
 so have I been willing to lay down my
 life for my liberty and I am willing
 to do it for my friend that is deprived of
 his liberty. I wish you would send word
 to my mother, tell her that my family
 are all well and that they send their love to
 her and we are of the same faith that we were
 when we left there. Say to sister Clarrissa

that I was glad to hear from her and from those that belong to the same faith and that I am not in a situation to advise them now but as soon as I can find out what is best for the eastern brethren I will write to them. I and my companion send our best respects to her and all in ~~in~~ that place,

Yours in good spirit and good feeling to all that are republicans, indeed I go the whole hog for liberty or I die.

Wm Cooper

V Wright

Spencerburg Mo
Feb 8, 1838

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