

Sabernacle Sunday Morning, ~~to A. M.~~ May 8th 1853: 10 A.M.
 After prayer by Elder Benson Pres. Brigham Young addressed
 an overflowing congregation of Saints, as follows.

I take the liberty to occupy a short time, this morning, in addressing my Breth
 and Sisters.

I ~~am~~ ^{do} not ^{profess to be,} extensively versed in historical lore, still I expect to be able
 to relate a small portion of my own history to you this morning, referring
 especially to the latter part of my life, say for 3 weeks past.

It ^{is} known by you all that I started from this place with the intention
 of journeying South to the extent of our Southern settlements, but I have
 returned short of performing that journey: I will state the reasons
 why, that the minds of the people may be at rest, and freed from anxiety.

We went to the City of Provo, in Utah Valley, where I
 had some business to attend ^{to}; we tarried there a short time before proceeding
 on our journey; The principles items of which I wish to lay before the
 brethren in ~~connection~~ with some circumstances that had transpired
 previous to our leaving this place. These circumstances combined
 together caused a suspicious feeling in my own heart. I have endeavored
 all my life to follow one portion of the instructions of the Saviour to his
 Disciples, that is, to "watch". I am a very watchful man.

Previous to our starting from this City, there was an express
 sent from Iron County that the Indian Waheco manifested
 hostile feelings; ~~suffice it to say~~ for it seems he had drawn out
 his men on a small portion of our ^{supposed thieves} brethren, and commanded
 them to return home when they were in pursuit of ^{supposed thieves} feed for their ~~own~~
 animals; these Indians would not suffer them to proceed any
 further.

This circumstance, small as it might appear to some, caused
~~me~~ suspicion in my mind, that all was not right with this Indian
 Chief; thought I expected to visit him on my journey.

After tarrying at the City of Provo a day and a night, I
 was accosted in a very abrupt manner by a stranger, a person
 that I knew nothing of or had never seen before. I have learned since
 he is an American from the State of New York; ~~he~~ ^{and} has been

living in New Mexico some years. This person came to my carriage, while I was standing upon the steps of it, arranging some luggage preparatory to proceeding onward, ~~with a~~ ~~said~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~rough~~ authoritative tone, "is Governor Young in this carriage?" No sir, I said, but he is on the steps of it; what is wanting? I turned round to see who addressed me, and saw this stranger, dressed in Buckskin pretty well smoked. He said "I have a little privacy with you" ~~and~~ ~~stepping~~ ~~aside~~ ~~far~~ ~~enough~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~heard~~ ~~by~~ ~~any~~ ~~other~~ ~~person~~. ~~He~~ ~~then~~ ~~replied~~. "Say on sir. But I want to see you in private, he ~~again~~ ~~replied~~."

I said I have no privacy with strangers, if you have any communication to make to me you can do it by letter. He would and left me; that was all that passed between us. As soon as he intimated that he wanted a private conference with me, I scanned the man and saw that his pockets were filled with deadly weapons, and of his intentions I had my own thoughts.

I went about my business, but in the mean time sent a man to reconnoiter him; to whom he made some haughty, oppressive about Gov. Young, said he. "Governor Young need not feel so damned important; I ~~have~~ ~~associated~~ ~~with~~ ~~Governors~~ ~~before~~, and ~~could~~ ~~produce~~ money enough to buy out Governor Young and all his wives." ~~He~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~permitted~~ ~~to~~ ~~remain~~ ~~longer~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~house~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~brother~~ ~~where~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~staying~~, ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~he~~ ~~left~~ ~~he~~ ~~said~~, "I have 400 Mexicans ~~at~~ ~~my~~ ~~command~~, ~~and~~ ~~can~~ ~~have~~ ~~as~~ ~~many~~ ~~more~~ ~~I~~ ~~wish~~, besides the Indians here are all at my command".

I soon learned to my satisfaction that he had come into the Territory to buy Indian children, and sell them again for slaves. Therefore I issued the proclamation, which you have no doubt read in the pages of the News; gave orders to the Lieutenant General, and he has done ~~as~~ ~~what~~ he has.

We proceeded on our journey, and found ~~that~~ ~~that~~ ~~man~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~trading~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~Indians~~; he said "he asked no odds ~~but~~ of the authorities of this Territory, but calculated to buy all ~~the~~ Indian children ~~he~~ ~~could~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~". He was told it was against the law, ~~he~~ ~~replied~~ "Catching is before hanging."

~~When~~ ~~I~~ ~~arrived~~ ~~at~~ ~~San~~ ~~Pete~~ ~~I~~ ~~learned~~ ~~that~~ ~~150~~ ~~Yampag~~ ~~Utes~~, ~~had~~ ~~come~~ ~~over~~ ~~to~~ ~~Walker's~~ ~~Camp~~. I did not believe ~~who~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~encamped~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~west~~ ~~fork~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Siber~~ ~~river~~

This Mexican Trader

that he had 400 Mexicans laying on the lower head waters of the Severn, for I did not think that ~~men would~~ ^{so many} ~~would~~ ^{patiently} wait in the snow and frost ~~waiting for~~ ^a ~~man of~~ ^{this appearance} such a mean looking ~~scape~~ ^{scape} ~~grace~~ ^{grace} as he appeared to be. Instead of Mexicans they turned out to be those Yampok Utes.

I sent out ^{a reconnoitering party, consisting of thirty men,} ~~the~~ ~~whore~~ ~~and~~ ~~of~~ ~~who~~ ~~had~~ ~~gone~~ ~~previous~~ to learn their intentions, if possible. Also, ~~Bro~~ ~~D.~~ ~~B.~~ Huntington, but I have not heard from them, nor him, since they left us at Salt Creek, about a week ago last Tuesday morning. Amasy Siman and Charles C. Rich proceeded on their journey, ~~they~~ ^{and} omitted calling at Sandpete.

I went to Sandpete to learn the ^{situation and} proceedings of the Indians. A rapeen it appeared from some cause, had ~~been~~ ^{dissatisfied} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~so he had left,~~ before he left he gave them to understand that he desired peace, and wanted to live in peace. However I was prepared ~~however~~ ^{however} for ~~the~~ whites, reds, or blacks, by night and by day, and always intend to be.

This is ^{a short} ~~the~~ ^{of our} ~~our~~ ^{of our} ~~short~~ ^{of our} ~~journey.~~ I wished to lay it before you as it was, in consequence of the different ^{statements} which have been made, ~~which~~ ^{that} ~~vary~~ ^{considerably} from the truth, after passing through a few hands. After relating these simple facts as they existed, ~~they~~ ^{you} ~~can~~ ^{may} ~~there~~ regard them as ^{you} ~~they~~ please, but when you tell them over again to your neighbors, tell them as they were, or not at all.

I hear a great many different stories since I came home, and find the ^{heads of the} people very much agitated about the probable result of the hostilities of the Indians, and the ^{presence} ~~appearance~~ of the Mexicans among them. I will tell you the reason why I returned home ~~soon~~ before accomplishing the remainder ^{any contemplated} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~journey,~~ it was because I wished to return. You may inquire why I wished to return? I will tell you. I am a great coward myself, - I do not wish to rush into danger imprudently. If there should happen to be any trouble with Indians, and I away from this place, there would be more trouble here than ^{with me.} ~~where~~ ^{should be} ~~I should be~~; of this I was fully aware and it was proved to my satisfaction when I returned home,

~~that~~
 they ever shall, if watching, and praying, and being ready
 for them will prevent it.

I have always acknowledged myself a coward, and
 hope I always ~~shall~~ ^{may} be enough to make me cautious enough
 to preserve myself, and my brethren from falling ignobly
 by a hand of Indians. I am satisfied that the men
 who follow Walker, who is the king of ^{the Indians in} these mountains,
 do it out of fear, and not because they have ^{real} regard for
 their ~~own~~ leader. If he becomes hostile and wishes to
 commit depredations upon the persons, or property
 of this people, he shall be wiped out of existence, and
 every man that will follow him. This is my calculation
 and I wish you to be ready for it.

Yesterday Morning ^{we} received a ^{communication} ~~letter~~ from Father Morley,
 in which ^{we} ~~are~~ informed that Walker and Arapsee came
 down to pay him a visit. The morning ~~that~~ that we left
 Sandpete, we sent back ^{by} ~~some~~ the hands of Arapsee's two
 messengers, some little presents in the shape of shirts and
 tobacco. Walker said to Father Morley, "tell Bro. Brigham
 we have smoked the tobacco he sent us in the pipe of
 peace, I want to be at peace, and be a Bro. to him." That
 is all right, but it is ^{truly characteristic} ~~the character~~ of the cunning Indian,
~~wh~~ when he finds he cannot get advantage over his enemy
 to curl down at once, and say "I love you". It is enough
 for me to know ^{that} Walker dare not ^{attempt to} hurt any of our settlements.
 I care not whether they love me or not, I am resolved however
 not to trust his love any more than I would a stranger's.

I do not repose confidence in persons, only as they prove
 themselves ^{confidential}; and I shall live a long while before
 I can believe that an Indian is my friend, when it would
 be to his advantage to be my enemy.