

THE MORMONS.

Washington City, Jan. 21, 1850.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Will you be good enough to give place in the *Globe* to the note of the Hon. Truman Smith, of the United States Senate, which you will herewith receive, and the accompanying extract of a letter from General Wilson, of Missouri, Respectfully

Yours,

JOHN M. BERNHISEL.

Washington City, Jan. 19, 1850.

DEAR SIR: In conformity with the wish expressed in your late note, I subjoin an extract from a letter which I have recently received from General John Wilson, of Missouri, dated at the city of the Great Salt Lake, September 6, 1849, he being on his way to California, in the public service, if I mistake not, as Indian agent, or sub-agent. The extract you may use at your discretion. General Wilson is a gentleman of mature years and of the first respectability. Implicit reliance can therefore be placed in the accuracy of his statements. I will add that it gives me much satisfaction to afford you the means of repelling injurious statements recently put afloat, and also to learn, as I do, from a source so trustworthy, the good conduct, order, and happiness of your people in the Great Salt Lake country. And as they are in the interior of this continent, separated by vast deserts and mountains from the scenes of disorder and confusion in which they were so long involved in Missouri and Illinois, it is my desire that they should become a great, prosperous, and truly christian community.

With sentiments of true respect,
I am faithfully yours,

TRUMAN SMITH.

For Dr. J. M. BERNHISEL, Agent at Washington from the Salt Lake country.

Extract from the letter referred to in the above note:

"A more orderly, earnest, industrious, and civil people I have never been amongst than these,

(meaning the inhabitants of Great Salt Lake City,) and it is incredible how much they have done here in the wilderness in so short a time. In this city, which contains now, as I believe, about from four to five thousand inhabitants, I have not met in a citizen a single idler, or any person who looks like a loafer. Their prospects for crops are fair, and there is a spirit and energy in all that you see that cannot be equaled in any city of any size that I have ever been in, and, I will add, not even in 'Old Connecticut.'"

WASHINGTON, March 26.

Mr. Foote moved that the bill organizing territorial governments in Utah and New Mexico be taken up, for the purpose of making it the special order for an early day.

A most exciting passage between Mr. Benton and Mr. Foote ensued. Mr. Benton, as a friend of California, gave notice to those who desired her admission, that they must now stand by her; California was entitled to the consideration of the Senate, and her rights were not to be postponed.

Mr. Foote replied with warmth, indulging in a personal attack upon Mr. Benton's course, impugning the motives of his action, and intimating that his new born friendship for California, was not for the sake of the people, but because of the presence here of her Senator, whose admission to back him up and sustain in the Senate he was looking for with the most feverish anxiety; he also contended that the California question, had of right, no precedence.

Mr. Benton: I believe this is the American Senate. I believe that by the laws of the Senate, and rules of decorum personalities and attacks upon motives are forbidden; the attacks which have been made upon my motives are false and cowardly.

Mr. Foote, after some remarks, replied to the charge of cowardice, and said, I feel bound to say now that when the Senator removes certain stains which cling to his

escutcheon, of which I know the history as well as any man in christendom, allusion to which ought to cause his cheeks to be suffused with blushes and shame; or if the Senator remains in his present attitude without the special decree, with which he knows I am familiar, and which that paleing acknowledges, as well as the terrific fear which he knows I have witnessed. Whenever he comes out frankly and boldly, instead of shielding himself behind his established cowardice; whenever he is prepared to hold himself amenable to the laws which govern gentlemen, I am prepared to meet him on that footing.

Mr. Benton: I pronounce it cowardly to give insults when they cannot be chastised. (Loud cries of order.) Is a Senator to be black-guarded?

Mr. Foote: He is a blackguard!

Mr. Benton: Is language to be used here, which would not be used in any oyster cellar or tavern?

Vice President: The Senate is called to order.

Mr. Benton, continuing, it is time to stop such language here, in a place where a cudgel cannot be applied to him.

The Vice President repeated the call of order.

After some further colloquy, Mr. Foote said he would stand by all he had said, and if Mr. Benton was willing to proceed in the matter, he would meet him.

Mr. Dickerson moved to lay the pending motion on the table, which was agreed to.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of Mr. Clay's resolutions.

Mr. Chase, having the floor spoke upon the general question of slavery, vindicating the course pursued by the great body of slavery agitators—he had not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 27.

SENATE—After the reception of petitions, Mr. Benton rose to a personal explanation. He charged Mr. Foote with incorrectly reporting himself yesterday, and denied

the right of any Senator to modify his expressions in a personal manner, as reported. Mr. Foote was represented to have said that Mr. Benton was shielded by his age, and his open disavowal of the obligations of the laws of honor. It was false: let any man offer him (Benton) an insult, where it could be properly chastised, and he would soon learn his age. He would now give notice to the Senate, that if it failed to protect itself from the use of language which would not be used in the veriest brothel, he would henceforth protect himself, cost what it might.

Mr. Foote said he made no unjustifiable alteration and avowed the report as his own. In conclusion, he wanted to know if Mr. Benton considered himself amenable to the law of honor. If he does not, let him say so.

Mr. Benton made no reply, but indulged in a contemptuous laugh.

Guardian.