DATE: 25 February 1846

Sugar Creek, Iowa

SOURCE:       Addresses/BY

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President Young stated to the assembly that he had been informed by Bishop Miller, that jobs of chopping cord wood and splitting rails could be obtained to advantage by the brethren on the Desmoines River, at, and above Farmington; Bishop Miller said, that he had received his information from Mr. Crook, a Merchant of Farmington.  President Young.asked, "Shall we go where we can get work," when the brethren responded.in the affirmative.  Then said the President, we will browse our cattle till Bishop Whitney comes up.  He then spoke against thieving, cutting strings from wagon covers, and said the brethren had gone contrary to council in cutting rail timber, etc.  on the camp ground, and they must stop all such practices; that they had not made him the leader of the Camp as yet, but if they should do it, when they got out of the settlements where his orders could be executed, they would have justice done them, and, said he, "I should be perfectly willing to see thieves have their throats cut.  Some of you may say, if that is your feelings Brigham, we'll lay you aside some time.  Well, do it if you can; I would rather die by the hands of the meanest of all men, false brethren, than to live among thieves." He then called upon the Captains of companies to report those who were most destitute and he would divide among them the corn and oats he had brought for horse feed; there is no need of stealing, if one suffers we will all suffer, this great I and little you I cannot bear, if the guard consider the Twelve as privileged characters they must consider the High Council also, and if the High Council, the High Priests, etc. and we should all be privileged characters; and what is the use of any guard?  None at all.  When I want to pass the guard I will go to the Sergeant and get the password, and I want all the brethren to do the same.  Let no man crowd upon the guard and let the guard know no man as a privileged character.