DATE: 16 March 1845

Nauvoo, Illinois

SOURCE:       Addresses/BY

HC 7:385-387

Meeting at the stand

I will give a few of my own ideas in short.  Living poor, being in the wilderness, etc., is nothing to me when I am called to endure it, but people who run headlong into misery and bring upon themselves suffering, do not arrive at anything but darkness and despair.  There is not one of Emett's company that can claim the protection of heaven or any blessing of the everlasting gospel; their sufferings add nothing to their exaltation, but if the Lord had called them to pass through trials, they would have visions, revelations and faith (if necessity required) to cause him to feed them like the children of Israel.  We told James Emmett, if he went, he would get into trouble:  this congregation can be led by a thread.  Religion is one thing and fanaticism is another.

Spring is here; we covenanted to labor on the Temple until it was finished and do all we could towards its completion; but we have not done it; if the brethren had continued, they might have worked on those walls four days a week.  The stonecutters and joiners have been at work; the joiners have far exceeded our expectations this winter.  The timber holds out, we keep using and there is enough left; there will be no lack of timber.  If the brethren will go to work now, there will be no lack of provisions.  We want the brethren to pay up their tithing.  If you will haul wood, timber, etc., and help on the Temple you will find that it will be made up to you in your crops.

Since N. K. Whitney and George Miller have taken charge of the business, no man has needed anything but what has been supplied.  I can call scores of men around me, who would sooner sacrifice every dollar they have, than the work on the Temple should stop.  We can set four hundred men to work on the Temple.  I do not want any man to go to preach till he is sent.  If the world want to hear preaching let them come here, and if they really want the gospel, let them clean [up] Carthage jail.

I have proposed to the leading men of the Water Power Company, to start their work on the Temple.  I will call the stockholders together, and give my reasons to them.  We want to press forward the work on the Temple.  I now proclaim to all saints who control means, to go to the Trustees and see if they want means to procure provisions, etc., for the hands; and I ask you to use all your influence to strengthen the hands of the Trustees.

I swear by the God of heaven that we will not spend money in feeding lawyers.  All the lawsuits that have been got up against the saints, have been hatched up to fee lawyers, tavernkeepers, etc.  I would rather have a sixshooter than all the lawyers in Illinois.  I am sworn not to pay lawyers, but to pay our debts, and it will relieve us from an immense tax.  Do not let there be a lot laying vacant in this town, join fences, for there is land enough in this city without going on to the prairie.  I am going to drop the name Nauvoo and call this the "City of Joseph." Tomorrow evening we want the bishops at the Masonic Hall, and we will organize them according to our notion of things.  We have no police; the legislature has repealed our charter, and we mean to have the "City of Joseph" organized.  The streets shall be kept clear; and the poor cared for.

Brother Wm. Marks has gone without being "whittled" out.  He would hire a man for twenty five cents a day and would make a man work two days in the harvest field for one bushel of wheat, which is one of the most low, dishonest, mean things a person can do.