



Mansfield, Ohio,

Rev. Cyrus B. Fockler, Elder-in-Charge.

Zion in Mansfield is again passing through the fires of persecution.

As readers of this department of LEAVES OF HEALING will remember, Elder Fockler was arrested on a false charge of resisting an officer, about ten months ago.

At that time he was thrown into a cell and compelled to spend the night there, and was only released on excessive bond.

A few months later God gave Zion in Mansfield victory over the wicked men who were persecuting her, and Elder Fockler was cleared from the unjust charge by Judge Wolff, of the Circuit Court.

But the Devil never forgot the defeat he suffered on that occasion.

Zion's enemies in press and pulpit have been biding their time, waiting for an opportunity to take some little incident as a peg upon which to hang their tissue of lies.

The opportunity came when the child of one of the Zion women whose husband was not a Christian died.

The Corner investigated the death of the child and, according to the Mansfield papers, found that its death was caused by "unlawful" treatment by Elder Fockler.

However, Elder Fockler was not arrested for this alleged violation of law.

The newspapers began a series of sensational lies concerning the case.

By means of these highly-colored false statements, they aroused the murderous passions of the ignorant and vicious.

By means of veiled hints that the law could not be involved against Zion's Elder, and that "something must be done," they incited idle and

rowdy young men into the formation of a mob.

The mob was rendered bolder because of the bitter hatred of Zion by the city officials, who were still smarting from their defeat in the previous fight.

This mob, seven or eight hundred strong, marched to the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Leiby, faithful Zion people with whom Elder Fockler boards while in Mansfield.

It was their boast and threat that they would "Give Fockler a taste of tar, feathers and rail-riding."

But God had cared for His servant, and Elder Fockler, all unconscious of the approaching danger, had gone to his home in Canton, Ohio, several hours before.

The mob searched the house of Mr. and Mrs. Leiby, with rough talk and uncouth behavior, frightening the ladies and children, and treating one lady with violence.

Zion people who are neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Leiby were assaulted and bear the marks of blows and kicks upon their person. They were also cruelly threatened with worse treatment.

When these murderous devils found that their intended victim had slipped through their fingers they were very angry and went away, threatening terrible things when the Elder should next appear in Mansfield.

Then they gave vent to their hate and anger by smashing the windows of Zion Tabernacle.

Although this disorderly mob thus invaded the sanctity of the home of a peaceable citizen, ill-treating helpless women and destroying property, there was no attempt at police interference, although it was requested.

No step has been taken to arrest and punish those who participated, or at the very least their ringleaders.

The reputable and respectable people of the city, while they do not openly favor Zion, are very indignant that ignorant and irresponsible rowdies who should have brought such disgrace upon their city.

These poor, misguided young men should not be, however, the object of the greatest indignation.

These respectable people should rather call to account the false pulpit and lying press which have deceived the people and stirred them up to deeds of violence.

But Zion in Mansfield, as does Zion everywhere, goes forward fearlessly in the blessed work of her Master, glad to be accounted worthy to suffer persecution for Jesus' sake.

Notes from Zion's Harvest fields Leaves of Healing July 14, 1900 vol 7 p 371