



MANSFIELD OFFICIALS ACT WITH THE MOB.

Overseer Piper, Evangelist Fisher and Elders McClurkin and McFarlane Prevented From Leaving the Train at Mansfield, Ohio.

Another chapter in Mansfield's record of mob rule, official connivance, lawlessness and cowardice was enacted last Lord's Day.

Since then the press and public sentiment of the Nation have been busy condemning that city, until the very name Mansfield has become a by-word.

But neither press nor public sentiment go deep enough to throw the blame upon the real leaders of the mob: the Masonic Lodge and its representatives in press, pulpit and executive offices.

On Monday evening, August 6, 1900, at a meeting of the guests in Zion Home, Overseer Piper gave the following account of the outrageous and illegal action of the Sheriff and police of Mansfield in preventing him and the Evangelist and Elders with him from getting off the train to perform their duties as ministers of God at Mansfield:

We reached Marion junction Sunday Morning about 5:10. We heard some remarks on the outside of our apartments that sounded like threats, with reference to these d—d Dowieites. We said nothing, of course.

At this time the porter opened the door of the drawing-room which we were occupying, and told us about some threats that were being made on the outside. We said that was all right, we understood it.

At Marion we were joined by Elder McFarlane.

When we reached Galion, a town about fourteen miles this side of Mansfield, we were met by Attorneys Douglass and Seward, begging us, in the name of all the gods at once, not to think of trying to get off at Mansfield. They plead, and plead, and plead. I told them it was no use to talk, we were going to get off at Mansfield if there was any possibility of getting off. That was what we came for.

"Well," they said, "do have some sense, and give the authorities some chance to get hold of things in Mansfield."

How they did protect that mob from us four men!

Finally, I got tired of them, and said: "You men will pardon me, but please let us have this room alone. We desire to go into Mansfield thinking about God."

They left the room and we locked the door and prayed.

Soon the train entered Mansfield. We got together with our grips, and the Evangelists and Elders followed very close to me. Before the train stopped one or two policemen jumped on the steps, and before I got through the door a policeman was inside and blocked the way.

I had instructions not to resist an officer. I believed then and still believe it was an illegal action on the part of the officers.

The Mayor, on the opposite steps, was talking to the mob. I suppose he was calling them "law-abiding" citizens, as he did when addressing the mob on previous occasions. I begged the officers to allow me to say just a few words before the train pulled out. I felt like a caged lion.

As the train started the Conductor came around for the fare. I said, "Conductor, it was not my fault I did not get off at Mansfield; I will not pay you any fare; stop the train and put us off." He said, "I will get into trouble with the authorities at New York for not collecting these fares." I said I was sorry for him, but he should do his duty and stop the train. We wanted the train stopped, but he would not do it until we reached Ashland.

We got off at Ashland and had breakfast. I then went to a livery stable and tried to get a team. I tried a number of places, but was unsuccessful.

I sent Elder McClurkin out another way, and we finally succeeded in finding a man who we thought would take us, but he said he was afraid his rig would be torn to pieces. I told him I would indemnify him against any loss. He said he would take us for \$10. I gave him the money and took a receipt.

By this time a number of men had gathered, and every now and then one would come up to the man and use his influence against us; but I always followed up what he had to say, and offset it. I finally promised him that if he would haul us toward Mansfield, and there were the slightest demonstration, we would immediately get out of the carriage and let him return. By this time there were about a hundred men around.

A man who followed us from Mansfield to Ashland next talked to the proprietor, and that settled it. The proprietor handed back my \$10.

We went to the hotel, procured a room and prayed for guidance.

We had not been there long before we had visitors. One



"In God, have I put my trust, I will not be afraid; what can flesh do unto me? All the day long they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, even as they have waited for my soul." — Psalm 56:4, 5, 6.

ZION'S DEFIANCE TO THE WORSHIPPERS OF THE POINT WITHIN THE CIRCLE.

"And now, Lord, look up on their threatenings; and grant unto Thy servants to speak Thy Word with all heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Thy Holy Servant Jesus." — Acts 4:29, 30.

man in the number introduced the Mayor of Ashland, and the Mayor introduced the Sheriff of the county.

We began to see that things were getting interesting in Ashland. A policeman came in and three or four reporters.

The Mayor began to tell us very kindly about the grave situation in Ashland; that the rougher element of the town was being agitated a good deal by our presence there, and especially because a number of officers in official garb had followed us from Mansfield to Ashland.

At this time there were quite a number of boys and men outside the hotel, probably too to 150. They began to do as they did in the days when Jesus was on earth. I was much reminded of this. They began to "entreat us to depart out of their coasts." They were very much afraid.

Strange how four innocent, unassuming parsons could scare the police and Sheriff and Governor of the State!

I said we would be glad to go, but there was no train. He said they might furnish us with a team. I told them that was just what I wanted, and I would be very much obliged to them if they would take us to Mansfield. But they would not do that. They wanted to take us to the next station, but we would not do that. Then the Mayor suggested that we might give up Mansfield and save ourselves some trouble; that we might "deny our Lord,"—as he put it—for a little while, as Peter did, who afterwards become an apostle.

He was down on the Mansfield authorities and threatened to arrest the police who came over to Ashland.

The Sheriff was pretty glum. He was a Presbyterian, and he found out that two of the ministers had come out of the Presbyterian Church. Then he began to quote Scripture. It is amusing to hear these fellows quote Scripture.

He said: "You do not obey the Scriptures, after all." I said, "How is that, Mr. Sheriff?"

"Does not the Bible say when you join a Church you shall be steadfast?" I said, "I beg your pardon, Mr. Sheriff. Will you kindly tell me in what chapter and verse that is to be found?"

Then the whole party had the laugh on him.

Finally the Mayor said, "Then you really do expect to leave on the 1:17 train?"

I said, "Certainly; Ashland is not our point now. Your time is coming later."

We went to the train at the regular time, and there were about 500 people there to see us. You just ought to have seen that curious crowd. We beat Barnum all to pieces.

As we got on the train, I knew, under God, we were simply taking our lives in our hands.

It did not take long to run to Mansfield. As the train began to slow up, we went to the door. I noticed a great big fellow, whose back seemed twice as broad as mine, walk out on the platform. He is the man who shadowed us all along, and who finally prevented our securing a team from Ashland to Mansfield.

I was getting a little uneasy; I wanted to get out. I said, "Excuse me, sir; will you stand aside?"

He said, "You stand back."

I said, "What authority have you to tell me to stand back?"

He pulled back his coat and there it was. I not only saw his star, but he had weapons—revolvers, billies and clubs. If you rubbed up against him you could feel them.

Before the train stopped, the Chief of Police, Sheriff and half a dozen other officers were in the train. I protested and told them they knew they were acting illegally.

By that time the Sheriff was right alongside of me, and said: "As Sheriff of Richland county I command you to sit down."

I was not there to resist authority, even though illegally exercised.

I asked them among other things why they did not take care of the mob; why they did not turn their forces on them.

They said they wanted to take care of us. I do not believe we would have been injured had we been allowed to get off. I do believe there would have been a fight between the officers and the mob. I told the officers right to their teeth that they were cowards. They were afraid of their own skins.

There were three things which made them act as they did. The first was that they had to make good the promise of the Mayor to the mob, calling the howling fiends "law-abiding citizens" when the other officers left on a previous occasion, namely, that if any other officers came, he would send them back the same way. Another was that the officials were afraid to face the mob, and another was that they did not want any further disgrace upon

their own town. They did not want to call upon the Governor to send in troops.

About a hundred leading business men had met in conference Saturday morning and had agreed that we must be kept out of the town. A special Grand jury was to be impaneled today to investigate the leaders of the first mob and to punish them.

The Prosecuting Attorney bore to me a personal message from Judge Wolfe, asking me to cooperate with the Judge by staying away for a few weeks until he could get the Grand jury in operation.

We cannot cooperate that way. We can never give up, willingly, our services one Lord's Day in Mansfield.

It is amusing to think how many messengers—Satan had out along the line to terrify us, from the time we decided to go and Attorney Douglass telegraphed us not to. Attorneys, police officers, civil authorities and railway porters and conductors all joined in the attempt to frighten us.

All of these, at least some of them sincere, wanted to protect us; nevertheless, it was the Devil's way of inspiring us with fear.

I thank God that, after all of that, not once was I afraid.

I knew what it meant if we got off the train. If we had not been opposed by the civil officer, we would willingly have faced the demonized mob.

I thank God not only for the courage He gave me, but for the courage He gave to Evangelist Fisher and Elders McClurkin and McFarlane.

We went to Mansfield to die, if necessary. I told the officials they wouldn't even give a man a chance to die.

It was a time in which you simply had to realize that your life was "hid with Christ in God."

I have frequently talked about being willing to die for Christ, but this was the first practical test I have ever had. I thank God for the assurance of His promises—"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength"; "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee."

The following telegrams from the General Overseer to Ohio and Mansfield officials, sent while he was en route from Chicago to New York, and from Ohio to Overseer Piper, tell their own story of the General Overseer's thoughtful care of Zion's Messengers and of the cowardice and wickedness of the officials and mob in Mansfield:

August 10, 1900.

GOVERNOR GEORGE K. NASH, Columbus, Ohio.

Two Zion Elders will conduct services in Mansfield on Sunday next, and minister to the members of the Christian Catholic Church and to all others who desire to be present at such services.

I am informed that your Adjutant General was a silent spectator, and to that extent a participator in the action of the mob at Mansfield last Sunday, when, led by the Mayor and the Sheriff, they forcibly prevented an Overseer, two Elders and an Evangelist of the Christian Catholic Church from leaving the train and exercising their civil and religious rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and by the laws of the State of Ohio. You are, therefore; *particeps criminis* in my judgment, and I believe in that of every honest man.

I know not whether any further appeal to you to do your duty will be of any avail, but since we are determined never to take the law into our own hands, we shall never cease to demand that the lawful authorities shall protect us in the exercise of our rights which you have hitherto practically assisted the mob at Mansfield to deny.

On the eve of my departure for Europe, I give you notice that I have instructed the Rev. W. Hamner Piper, Overseer-at-Large, to continue to send Elders weekly, and, if necessary, daily, into Mansfield, until the door of Liberty is opened by the force of the law, which is now shut by the vile passions of the local authorities, stimulating those of the ignorant and brutal mob.

Our last man and our last dollar will, if necessary, be used in pressing this peaceful determination to a successful issue.

JOHN ALEX. DOWIE.

August 10, 1900.

SHERIFF OF RICHLAND COUNTY, Mansfield, Ohio.

Two Zion Elders will conduct services in Mansfield on Sunday next, in connection with the Christian Catholic Church

in Zion.

Your shameful cowardice and leadership of the mob last Sunday and on previous occasions has convinced the whole country that you are a wilful violator of the law and an associate and protector of housebreakers and outragers of public decency, whom you knew well, but failed to arrest when they assaulted, stripped naked and shamefully abused our Elders.

I give you notice that I have appealed once more to Governor Nash for the protection of our Elders by the State authorities in the exercise of their undoubted rights to minister to the members of the Christian Catholic Church in Mansfield. I shall continue to hold you responsible for all past and all probable future violations of your oath of office, and I shall also hold the county responsible, which you disgrace.

JOHN ALEX. DOWIE.

August 10, 1900.

MAYOR HUNTINGTON BROWN, Mansfield, Ohio.

Two Zion Elders will conduct services in Mansfield on Sunday next, and will thereafter continue to minister to the members of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion.

Is it not time that you abandoned your shameful policy of open incitement of and association with the cruel and cowardly mob who have repeatedly assaulted Christian gentlemen and ministers to gratify your evil passions? At all events, I give you notice that I have again appealed to Governor Nash for the protection of the State authorities, and you will be held strictly accountable for all past violations of the law of which you were criminally cognizant.

We shall never surrender our rights under the Constitution, which you vainly imagine that you can successfully destroy.

JOHN ALEX. DOWIE.

WILLIAM HAMNER PIPER, Chicago.

Elders here; hotels refuse them admittance.

Have gone to private house to hold services.

City authorities now in consultation; will keep you posted. Send instructions in my care. Dinius asks me to send this.

A. A. DOUGLASS.

MANSFIELD, OHIO, August 12, 1900.

WILLIAM HAMNER PIPER, Chicago.

Elders just now forcibly put aboard carriages by city officers; destination Crestline, Ohio, fourteen miles west.

Very little show of violence by populace. Wire any instructions.

A. A. DOUGLASS.

W. HAMNER PIPER, Chicago.

At Crestline; safe; ready to return; may drive; no train.

W. O. DINIUS.

MANSFIELD, OHIO, August 12, 1900.

CRESTLINE, OHIO, August 12, 1900.

REV. W. HAMNER PIPER, Chicago.

No mob; hotels closed ; officers will intercept our return every way. Advise us; we are happy.

MOOT AND DINIUS.

CRESTLINE, OHIO, August 12, 1900.