



ZION OFFICERS IN MANSFIELD.

Elder Williams, Evangelist Loblaw and Deacons Lee and Kessler Succeed in Entering the City. Are Sent Out and Return. Mobbed, but Not Hurt

In spite of the boasted vigilance of the Mansfield police, with its fifteen "specials," Zion has several times recently effected an entry into the "forbidden city" and has been successful in reading a few verses from God's Holy Word and commenting thereon at the meeting of Zion members.

In that degree she has already won the victory which will ere long, by the Grace of God, be complete.

The story of Zion in Mansfield for the last week has been a story of calm, quiet, courageous persistence on the part of Zion's brave officers, and of hatred, lawlessness and cowardice on the part of Mansfield officials and hotel managements and the railroads which run through the city.

On Friday evening, October 12, 1900. Evangelist Mark H. Loblaw, of the West Side Zion Tabernacle, left Chicago for Mansfield. Leaving the train outside of the city, he rode in on his bicycle.

He succeeded in reaching the Brunswick Hotel, but on account of the great crowds gathered in the city to attend a political rally, was not able to get accommodation.

He remained about the city all day. He was several times recognized by policemen and driven away, but always returned.

He spent Saturday night at the home of a Zion member, and on Sunday morning wrote, reporting his unmolested presence in the city.

Up to this date, Tuesday, October 16th he was still there.

On Saturday evening, October 13th, Deacons Lee and Kessler, of Headquarters offices, Chicago, went to Mansfield by train, but left the train four miles out of the city, walked in and went to the Brunswick Hotel.

At the same time, Elder Edward Williams, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, went to Crestline, Ohio, by another railroad, intending to ride into Mansfield on his bicycle. One of his tires had been puncture and he was obliged to wait until it had been repaired before he could start.

The following telegram, read in Central Zion Tabernacle, Lord's Day afternoon, tells of the experience of Deacons Lee and Kessler on Lord's Day:

CRESTLINE, OHIO, October 14, 1900

W. H. PIPER.

1204 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Train stopped four miles east Mansfield.

We walked in; breakfasted.

I left Lee Brunswick; found friends at Calver's

While reading Romans twelfth chapter was arrested.

Forcibly taken by officers, followed by hooting, howling mob, who threw missiles of various kinds. Was not hurt by blows I received.

Mayor ordered Chief Police to send me out of town.

Was forcibly put a board noon train.

Refuse to pay fare,

Loblaw stayed at —'s last night.

Williams' wheel punctured on train; repaired.

Left here one o'clock

HOMER KESSLER.

At Crestline, on Sunday evening, Deacon Kessler wrote this following letter, describing the day's doings more in detail:

DEAR OVERSEER:—Your telegram just received. Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

While to the superficial observer there was nothing in our experience at Mansfield today to indicate victory, I noticed that the Chief of Police was not nearly so talkative, and the Mayor wore quite a serious cast of countenance.

The Pennsylvania conductor whom I told, before I was forced upon the train, to put me off, as I would not pay any fare, demanded my fare to Crestline.

When I refused to pay, he wanted to argue the matter. I called his attention to his duty to put me off when I refused to pay. He replied, "That is just what you want? as though he might be standing in with the Mansfield authorities.

He then asked me how long we were going to keep this up. I replied, "Until we are all killed, or die, if necessary," Then he passed on.

After we had gone to our room at the Brunswick Hotel this morning, and had our morning worship, we decided that one of us remain in the room, so that if Evangelist Loblaw came, or Elder Williams later, conference could be had with them.

I missed Brother Calver's house one square, and presume the man living where I inquire sent the officers word.

However, there were nearly a dozen men in front of a barn, across the alley from Calver's house.

My coming seemed to be the signal for a great commotion, as the crowd seemed to gather with great rapidity and showed great curiosity as to what was going on in the house.

We had really not commenced the meeting yet, when the first "special" policeman called and insisted on talking with the "strange Zion man who had just come a few minutes before."

When he asked me to go with him, and I refused, he sent for assistance.

He remained in the room, and when I opened the meeting by commencing to read the twelfth chapter of Romans, he begged me not to do so, for fear of what the crowd outside might do.

By this time they were standing on tiptoe, peering in to see what was going on.

I had only read a few verses and commented on them, when a big, burly "special" came in and took the Bible out of my hands, partially apologizing as he did so.

When I refused to go (walk), they each taking me by an arm walked me out of the house, and to the Square, where we met the Chief. He relieved one of them.

I presume my pulling back so that the "special" had to pull me along may have encouraged the crowd to be very offensive.

The mob seemed fairly to spring up out of the ground as we passed along, in addition to those who had congregated at the house.

Nothing that was thrown struck me, and while one blow from behind came with sufficient force to have lifted me off my feet, if I had not been held up on either side, I was immediately relieved of the pain.

As we approached the Square, the crowd dispersed.

The officers apparently did their best to hold the crowd back and protect me from blows from the more daring ones.

Our God is great and greatly to be praised.

Faithfully yours in Him,

HOMER KESSLER.

This left Deacon Lee and Evangelist Loblaw still in Mansfield, with Deacon Kessler and Elder Williams at Crestline with orders to enter the city.

On Monday, Elder Williams rode his bicycle into the city. He was recognized as a Zion Elder by the police and sent back to Crestline.

He telegraphed to Headquarters as follows:

CRESTLINE, OHIO, October 15, 1900

REV. W. H. PIPER.

Driven from Mansfield by policemen and threatened hanging if I return.

Advise me Crestline.

E. WILLIAMS

Overseer Piper sent the following reply:

CHICAGO, October 15, 1900.

REV. E. WILLIAMS,

Continental Hotel, Crestline, Ohio.

Telegram received.

"This an old threat.

Acts four, twenty-nine.

Go back tomorrow and each day this week.

Write me tonight.

Zion is praying.

God will protect.

W. HAMNER PIPER.

On Monday afternoon, October 15th, Deacon Lee, who had spent the night safely in Mansfield, went to the home of one of the Zion members to pray for a sick woman. He was recognized by the police and sent to Crestline, Ohio, by train.

He wired as follows:

CRESTLINE, OHIO, October 15, 1900

W. H. PIPER,

1201 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Arrested at Mrs. Bauer's four P.M.
Taken by Mayor, Sheriff and police to Pennsylvania train.
Mob wild. Wire Continental.

A. F. LEE.

Deacon Kessler, in obedience to orders from Overseer Piper, returned to Mansfield on Monday. He succeeded in entering the city and put up at the Hotel Brunswick.

He thus tells of his experience in a telegram:

GALION, OHIO, October 15, 1900

REV. W. HAMNER PIPER,
1201 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

After had retired at Mansfield landlord ordered me to leave the hotel.

I refused, but parties came in through window.

I then opened door; was forced to dress; taken through mob in hack by Mayor and policemen and forced on train.

Refused to pay fare and conductor took my hat.

Hotel keeper and wife very bitter because of my refusal to leave.

No one else will be kept.

HOMER KESSLER.

The act of this conductor was nothing short of highway robbery and the company which employs him is guilty of aiding and abetting in an illegal abduction.

On Tuesday, October 16, 1900, Deacon A. F. Lee went from Crestline to Mansfield again. His reception and the conditions there are thus told in his telegram to Overseer Piper:

CRESTLINE, OHIO, October 16, 1900.

W. H. PIPER,
1201 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Brusnwick closed against us.

Arrested, sent out.

Now at Continental.

Mob desperate.

A. F. LEE.

On Tuesday, October 16th, Deacon Kessler again went to Mansfield and was arrested by the police. While he was being taken to the station, *habeas corpus* proceedings were begun and a writ served at the station. The mob grew angry and threw bricks and stones, striking one of the deputies who served the writ. These deputies placed Deacon Kessler in jail for safekeeping,

where he was when the telegram giving the information was sent to Overseer Piper.

This, then, is the manner in which upright, godly, Christian ministers are treated in so-called "Free America," under the government whose foundations were laid by brave men who had fled from the lawless intolerance of the Old World!

Shame upon the cowardly Mansfield officials!

Shame upon the Governor who sits weak and nerveless in the executive office at Columbus!

Shame upon a President who fears to do his duty because the Moslem scimeter of the Mystic Shrine flashes out of the darkness in menace!

Shame upon a people who will sit as laughing spectators of such an outrage!

God, who sitteth in the heavens, will judge them all.

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