

Virtue Will Triumph.

At four overflowing meetings of the Ladies of Nauvoo, members of the Female Relief Society, (each meeting being composed of different members that all might have the opportunity of expressing their feelings) held at Gen. Smith's large assembly room on Saturdays the 9th and 16th of March 1844. The following preamble and resolutions were read and unanimously adopted at each meeting.

THE VOICE OF INNOCENCE FROM NAUVOO

The corruption of wickedness which manifested itself in such horrible deformity on the trial of O. F. Bostwick last week for slandering President Hyrum Smith and the widows of the city of Nauvoo, has awakened all the kindly feelings of female benevolence, compassion and pity, for the softer sex to spread forth the mantle of charity to shield the characters of the virtuous mothers, wives, and daughters of Nauvoo from the blasting breath and poisonous touch of debauchers, vagabonds and takers, who have jammed themselves into our city to offer strange fire at the shrine of infamy, disgrace, and degradation: as they and their kindred spirits have done in all the great cities throughout the world, corrupting their ways on the earth, and bringing women, poor defenceless women, in wretchedness and ruin.

As such ignoble blood now begins to stain the peaceable habitants of the saints, and taint the free air of the only city in the world that pretends to work righteousness in union, as the sine qua non, for happiness, joy, and salvation: and as such ungodly wretches, burning or smarting with the sting of their own shame, have doubtless, transported with them, some of the miserable dupes of their licentiousness, for the purpose of defiling the fame of this godly city: mildewing the honesty of our mothers, blasting the chastity of widows and wives, and corrupting the virtue of our unsuspecting daughters, it becomes us, in defence of our rights, for the glory of our fathers, for the honor of our mothers, for the happiness of our husbands, and for the welfare of our dear children, to rebuke such an outrage on the chastity of society: to thwart such a death blow at the hallowed marriage covenant: and to ward off such poisoned daggers from the hearts of our innocent daughters, for the honor of Nauvoo: and write with indellible ink upon every such villain: virtue perditurus!

Beware of the wretch! and, so put in every virtuous woman's hand a rod, to scourge such tormentors of domestic felicity, with vengeance through the world: curse the man that preys upon female virtue! curse the man that slanders a woman! Let the righteous indignation of insulted innocence and virtue, spurn him from society: Let the dignity of the mothers of Israel kick the blood thirsty pimp from the pale of social communion. Let the widows and wives who tread in the footsteps of their queenly mother Eve, drive such fag ends of creation, as was Cain, to the land of Nod, and let the timid daughters of Nauvoo dread such CANKER WORMS more than the pestillence that walketh in darkness, and shun them as the serpent on the land and the shark in the sea. My God! My God! is there not female virtue and valor enough in this city to let such men die of the rot: -that the sexton may carry their putrid bodies beyond the limits of the city for food, for vultures, eagles and wolves. Refuse them female courtesy; deny them the pleasure of family correspondence and family intercourse; curse the woman that speaks to such rotten flesh, if she knows who they are; curse the man that will harbor them; and curse the lawyer that

will stoop from the dignity of his profession to plead for them; The apologizer is as mean as the murderer!

Female virtue is a pearl of great price, and should glitter in the abodes of men, as in the mansions of bliss, for the glory and honor of him, whose image she bears and whose help meet she is, and every attempt of man to seduce that virtue, is, next to murder, a robbery that cannot be restored.

If woman swerves from the rules of righteousness 'Ruin ensues, reproach and shame; And one false step bedims her fame; In vain the loss she may deplore, In vain renew her life before 'With tears she must in anguish be 'Till God says, 'set that captive free''

Many of the distinguished females of Nauvoo, have waded to their present habitations through persecution, sorrow, and death, robbed and insulted and bereaved of husbands and children by the combined powers, of priests, and spiritual wickedness in high places, but none of these piercing calamities of man touch the heart of woman with such severe poignancy, as the envenomed slander of O.F. Bostwick, that he could take a half bushel of meal, obtain his vile purpose, and get what accommodation he wanted with almost any woman in the city.

Wo to the wretch that can thus follow the blood stained mobbers of Missouri, in their hellish career, and deal his slander about the streets of Nauvoo, as he may imagine with impunity. Wo to the man or lawyer that filthifies himself by advocating such rotten hearted raven's rights, or recommends him to any but the sympathies of Satan.

Has any man a mother in this city? honor says clear such rubbish from her door. Has any many a wife? benevolence whispers, trap such beasts of the field that they may not worry the flock, nor kill the lambs. Has any man a widowed mother? humanity seems to caution him -thy mother is in danger, protect her, from the stench of such carrion. Has any man, daughters? the voice of reason compels him to exclaim: There is a wolf in the path, beware! Has any man, sisters? the blood of his kindred says, evil be to him that evil thinks: and let the whole virtuous female population of the city, with one voice, declare that the seducer of female chastity, the slanderer of female character, or the defamer of the character of the heads of the church, or the canker worms of our husband's peace: the prostitute, their pimps, whether in the character of elite, lawyer, doctor, or cicisbeo, shall have no place in our houses, in our affections, or in our society.

Wherefore,

Resolved unanimous, That Joseph Smith, the Mayor of the city, be tendered our thanks for the able and manly manner in which he defended injured innocence in the late trial of O.F. Bostwick for slandering President Hyrum Smith, and almost all the women of the city.

Resolved unanimously, That we view with unequaled disapprobation and scorn the conduct of any man or woman, whether in word or deed, that reflects dishonor upon the poor persecuted mothers, widows, wives and daughters of the Saints of Nauvoo; they have borne aspersions, slander and hardships

enough; forbearance has ceased to be a virtue and retaliation, like the dagger or the bowl, ought to close the lips of such cowardly assassins.

Resolved unanimously, That while we render credence to the doctrines of Paul, that neither the man is without the woman; neither is the woman without the man in the Lord, yet we raise our voices and hands against John C. Bennett's "spiritual wife system," as a grand scheme of profligates to seduce women; and they that harp upon it, wish to make it popular for the convenience of their own cupidity; wherefore, while the marriage bed, undefiled is honorable, let polygamy, bigamy, fornication, adultery, and prostitution, be frowned out of the hearts of honest men to drop into the gulf of fallen nature, 'where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched! and let all the saints say, Amen!

EMMA SMITH, Prest.

H. M. Ells, Sec. pro tem