

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 3.7

Thomas Reynolds, 1840-1844

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from John Corrill, Quincy, Illinois]

Messrs Samuels & Arthur
Liberty
Clay County

tithing
10th

Mo

Quincy March 21 1841

Sir I have Just returned from Nauvoo and to confess the truth to You I Consider the prospects for collecting debts this Season very poor the fact is the Mormons are naturely poor and what property there is among them Jo and his associates contrives to make use of for public or Church uses buildings &c –

He has got large quantities of land in his hands & although it is encumbered with claims on it, bad tittles &c Yet he sells it to the brethren at a great advance and dreams them of all he can__ And the most that is going among them is building the Temple, & this they do by tithing, that is, each man gives every 10th day & thus they keep the work a going on but this only serves to reduce and enslave these people, & besides this they have a Legion, You know, which they spend much time in disciplining, they trained every day while I was there, Your Missourians must look out. They have about 800 men and more coming in every day

Moreover I discovered by talking with Smith and others that they feel very hostile toward You and Mr Arthur & others there In fact Smith Said to me that if You or Arthur come about collecting debts you would not be safe for he had boys there that would put a ball through you as quick as he would snap his thumb

From all I could learn and discover
I think that You would be in danger
among them unless they were restrained
through feoer alone, and I must confess
that I found their feelings much more
hostile than I expected, and I state the
facts to You, but I do it in confidence
hoping you will not expose me in so
doing---- They say that you and Mr
Arthur turned their enemy &c &c

I am Satisfied that they will not be
disposed to compromise, or do anything
about the debts, and I confess I know
not what course would be best to pursue

Yours with respect John Corrill
N. B. Do not forget to send the pamphlet
as soon as it is out J C

Liberty

Apr

7

Mo

Samuel Arthur

His Excellency Tho Reynolds
Governor of Missouri
Jefferson City
Liberty Clay Co
Messrs Samuel &
Arthur, requesting
Gov: to correspond with
Gov: of Ill: on subject
of Mormon debts

Auser o Apl 16 1841
(see letter Book Gv: page 79)
J L Minor
Liberty, April 5 1841

Sir.

We enclose for your perusal
the enclosed letter from John
Corrill, formerly a Member of
the Mormon church, and late
of the Legislature of Mo
We have claims on the Mormons
to amt sums 6 or \$8.000 dollars
and they are due to other Merchants
of our place Sums \$20 to 25.000.
From this letter of Corrill you will
see what chance we have to collect
it-Now without wishing to expose
Mr Corrill to the vengeance of the
Mormons We respectfully request

you to correspond with the Gov
of Ills in order to see if there be
no way by which innocent
Creditors can go in safety to
Illinois to collect their debts
This letter portrays the true character
of Smith & we have no doubt he
is villain enough to do as he
says he would—

We are [Dprs] very truly
His Excellency yr frd, & obt srvt
Tho Reynolds Samuel, & Arthur
Gvr