

St Louis Mo. Sept 4th 1842

To His Excellency Tho Reynolds

Dear Sir

I hope you will not think it a presumption, my writing you on the subject of the late requisition by yourself, on the Executive of Illinois, (upon the affidavit of Ex Gov. L W Bagg against J B Rockwell as principal, & Joseph ^{Smith} as accessory before the fact for an attempt, to commit Murder upon the body of said Bagg in the county of Jackson State of Missouri) First I will briefly state the circumstances of the arrest of said Smith & Rockwell by the officers Mr King & Pitman of Adams County Ill. We had heard a rumour that a writ had been issued upon your demand for Rockwell & Smith, as fugitives having fled the justice of your State and taken shelter in Illinois, but did not believe it, it being a notorious fact that said Smith has not been in Mo. within the last three and a half years past. Therefore could not have been guilty of the charges alledged, and further, on the day the deed was committed he attended an officers drill, and the day after reviewed the Militia in the City of Vannoy. Now that he could have fled the justice of your State is a matter impossible, the distance being about 300 miles, and with these facts before him, he issued a writ of Habeas Corpus, under a provision of the City Charter, and an Ordinance growing out of the same, passed by the City Council. The officers that apprehended them (Smith & Rockwell) presuntorily refused to acknowledge the validity of any city ordinance in the case - but however left the prisoners in charge of the City Marshall until they could return to Quincy for legal advice - The Marshall having no authority to hold the prisoners let them go. And having learned that Gov. Carlin was determined to have them delivered to your agent, regardless of Habeas Corpus. The Council for the prisoners

advised them not to be forced on the return of the officers
from Quincy (which they observed) believing the prisoners
would fall victims to the fury of the populace of Illinois
or Missouri, and that the arm of the Law would not
be able to protect them, or could they get an impartial trial
by due course of Law, prejudice running so high, on account
of our peculiar religious tenets, which my dear Sir you are
very well aware of. — The above is an unvarnished account
of the facts in the case. It is now rumoured that the agents
you sent to review Smith & Rockwell have again returned
to Ill. having a new demand upon the Executive of Ill. ^{the} ~~the~~
illegality of the former being amended, whether it be true or
not, I can not tell. I now beg the ~~patience~~ ^{patience} of your
Excellency whilst I indulge my feelings in stating things
as they are, and I will do so more freely knowing who
you are, and I feel assured you will believe
me, I have known Joseph Smith intimately for
near three & a half years, having been a great portion of
that time in his society every day, there being an intimacy
between us like that of Brothers, he having frequently unboasted
himself to me, and I unhesitatingly aver, that in every sense
of the term, a more generous, liberal, honorable, high
toned virtuous man, never existed on the face of
the globe, than Joseph Smith. — And why
let me ask you, should innocents be hunted and sacrificed
to the caprice of popular prejudice & phurozy, and
we as a religious community denied the liberty of conscience
and the common Constitutional rights of Citizens.
I make this appeal to your Excellency. Having learned
from good sources, that you are a learned jurist,
a good man, & honorable patriot, therefore I own the
more free to speak my sentiments. — Now in regard
to our peculiar religious tenets, we believe, and teach
nothing other than the doctrine, the prophets, Jesus Christ,
and the Apostles taught, and should that, in the
nineteenth Century, be esteemed criminal, surely

your Excellency will say with me, it can not, But
if those Tenets be wrong, then we as religionists are guilty
of error. - I do hope that your Excellency will
not permit your mind to be prejudiced by the
facts & slanders of those amongst us, as also those who
are opposed to us, on account of our religious notions,
but that you will rather exert an influence to avert
the growing prejudices, and also the daily persecutions
that are continually heaped upon our religious
community. - I have seen forty nine winters, and
have no recollection of any religious body in
these United States having been so cruelly
persecuted as we have been; And not a person,
needed in our behalf, nor an influence
existed. Should such a state of things be
allowed, in a Government where the liberty of
conscience is guaranteed to all its citizens and
all religions said to be tolerated, it never the less
is so, and will you, exert an influence against
such a state of things.

In haste
Most Respectfully
George Miller

Geo. Miller
The Monitor about
Smith & Rockwell

1812
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To His Excellency

Thos. Reynolds Esq.
Jefferson City
Missouri

