

A QUAKER FORTY-NINER

THE ADVENTURES OF
Charles Edward Pancoast
ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

Edited by
ANNA PASCHALL HANNUM
With a Foreword by
JOHN BACH McMASTER

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a large Plateau of level land which had been a Prairie, but was now laid out in perfect squares containing four acres each, intersected with broad Streets lined with young Trees. Each square was divided into four equal parts, and at each Street corner was a pleasant-looking Frame House painted white. No more Houses were permitted to be built, so that each Family had its acre of ground; except along the Levee, where there was a Settlement build solid.

We were permitted to view part of the inner Temple, an Artistic work, all frame, and very capacious. The Baptismal Pool stood on the backs of twelve Oxen carved of wood, and was a Wonder in Art. We found that most of the Mormons were at a Camp Meeting in the rear of the Town celebrating the Fourth. We all made our way to the Camp, where we found some of the leading Saints addressing the multitude. As there were about a thousand of us hailing from Missouri, Joe Smith thought it a fitting opportunity to remind us of how much he and his People had suffered at our hands when at Zion,² and to vent his spleen against Missourians generally. I well remember one of his arguments that he intended to confound us with. He said we had accused him of being untrue to his dear Wife Eliza, of having a plurality of Wives, and of being too familiar with his Sisters in the Church. "Now," he said, "all of my Female Flock are here present, and I call upon all or any of them to answer: is there any truth in these charges? I pause for a reply;" and after pausing for a minute and no Female deigning to get up and accuse him, he answered himself: "No, not one! there is the answer

² The Mormons had been expelled from Missouri in 1838 after much conflict with other settlers. They settled Nauvoo in 1839.

to all your lies! now are these infernal lies nailed to the Cross with the indisputable proof before your eyes!" After running on awhile in this strain, he desisted, and Brigham Young took his place; but we all left, by request of our Captain, for our Boats.

Before we came to the River a crowd of miserable-looking Mormons began to hoot and abuse us. Our Officers and elders appealed to us to pay no attention to them; but when they commenced to throw Stones at us our Men became infuriated and chased them away. Our Captains hurried us on the Boats, but as we swung into the Stream they rallied more forces, and showered us with Stones. Pistols were fired on both sides; many of us were hurt by Stones, and one or two by Bullets, but no one was dangerously wounded.

We were soon at the Falls of the Mississippi, where the Channel was very narrow, crooked, and swift, running between Rocks about a foot under water. The men were ordered to the Hold and Lower Deck in order to keep the Boat steady through the devious short turns we had to make. Both Boats ran through at fearful speed, making our hair stand on end. We ran down that evening as far as Hannibal, where we lay all night, and had a grand Ball on the Boat that was kept up until three o'clock in the morning. The next day (the fifth) we landed Miss Block and her Brother at Louisiana, and I was in St. Louis before night.

During this year the Banks all over the West suspended specie payment, except the State Bank of Missouri and its branches. The notes of the suspended Banks were greatly depreciated in value, but were the only money in circulation, and were generally received