



Letter, John Taylor to E. Snow, (Sept. 28, 1886)
 Snow is at Juarez, Mexico.

Letter book 19-20

Letter written the day following the 1886 revelation.

"Your esteemed communication of 11th inst. with its encouraging statements regarding the material condition of the Saints in Chihuahua, and its characteristic enclosures, reached us a few days ago. We were happy to hear of the well being of yourself and the brethren associated with you in that mission, and we trust that increasing prosperity will attend the efforts of our people to procure pleasant homes and comfortable surroundings in that important region of the Lord's footstool. Your letter, like your (not clear, looks like "precious lines") for some time past, found us in the possession of good health and cheerful spirits, but with surroundings unchanged and conditions unimproved. For the situation of affairs with regard to ourselves, the Saints and the conduct of our persecutors ~~xxxx~~ shows but little alteration. Arrests, during the past few weeks, appear to be more than ordinarily numerous, and indictments, so-called trials, and ready convictions are following in due course. Day by day the spirit of mercy appears to grow dimmer and fainter in the hearts of those opposed to the principles of God's holy gospel, and sterner and harsher interpretations of the laws are steadily increasing; and, without doubt, there will be a strenuous and desperate effort made as soon as Congress re-assembles to obtain the passage of yet severer and more outrageous laws, to enable them to effect their desired ends; in which, however, we know ~~xxxx~~ they will fail, and be, as was foretold by the Prophet so long ago, as a hungry man who sleepeth and dreameth, and behold he eateth, but he awaketh and his soul hath appetite. So will it be with all those who fight against Zion. Their efforts never accomplish exactly what they wish; and no matter how much they may harass, annoy, vex, and despoil the people of the Lord, yet His purposes will be fulfilled, His Kingdom will grow, His cause will

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 triumph, and His Zion be redeemed, and what our enemies are now doing is but one of the means to reach this end. Through their intolerance the Church will be purified, the Saints be united and strengthened, and dignity and growth ~~will be given to the cause of truth.~~ In this we rejoice, knowing that all things work together for the good of the faithful and obedient; and as the fir tree in putting forth its leaves, so we comprehend that the summer is nigh, and the end is not afar off. If we but abide the Lord's time and possess our souls in patience, the triumph is surely ours. Indeed, the patience of the Saints is one of our greatest safeguards; it is already an enigma to our foes, and sometimes a marvel to ourselves. Our opponents may ascribe it to cowardice, but they know different. We understand better what it is; it is the spirit that has been infused in the people from on high, to bear, and bear patiently, until the purposes intended by God in our present tribulations are fully accomplished, whether they relate to ourselves or have their bearing on the unconverted world.

"You have doubtless noticed, by the public prints, the annoyances and vexations to which our immigrants have been put on their landing at New York by bigoted and tyrannical commissioners. These troubles, together with the attempted extortions of the railroads running out of New York City, which have formed a pool, has led us to earnestly consider the advisability of selecting some other port of debarkation. We have written to Prest. D.H. Wells, at Liverpool, and Elder James H. Hart, at New York, on the matter. At Baltimore the latter found a condition of affairs that appeared very advantageous; a line of steamships which furnished excellent accommodation at a little lower rate of transportation, though occupying a little longer time and the passage through having to call at other ports, and landing the passengers close to the railroad, making transfer very easy, and a railroad anxious to secure our trade. We encouraged him to continue his investigation, and if nothing should come to light to cause him to change his ~~xxxx~~ views as to the advantages to be gained by landing the passengers at Baltimore, to make his preparations for a transfer

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of our business to that line. We spoke in the highest terms of the Guian(?) Company and desired him to express to them, for us, our full appreciation of the exceedingly pleasant relations which had existed between us for so many years, and that our only reason for severing them, was the ill-treatment of which they were fully aware that our people received in New York. We think New York is preferable on many accounts to any other port in the country; but we cannot submit to such treatment as we have received there this season for any length of time, if we can do better by having our people land elsewhere. The Baltimore and Ohio people, we understand, would like to secure our business; it is a first class road, and can, if it will, do as well by us as any road in the country; besides, it wields considerable political power, and agreeable business relations with it might well advantageously in this respect. Of the 51 persons of the last company detained, 46 were released, and five (a woman and four children) were returned.

"We think there are ways and means by which they also can be brought here in a short time without the knowledge of the arbitrary commissioners."

Letter, John Taylor to E. Snow.

Nov. 10, 1886

Book 29-30

Erastus At Juarez, Canton Galeana, Chihuahua, Mexico.

"By the accompanying copy of letter written by Daniel W. Jones to Joseph West, you will see the inducements which he is holding out to our people to employ him as their agent in securing places for settlements in Mexico."

"This letter came to us enclosed in a communication from President L. W. Shurtliff, and Bro. Jos. A. West. They seem favorably impressed with Jones' proposition, and desired our counsel about sending two competent men down, to examine the country, with a view to purchasing, as there were several in that State whom, they said, would like to avail themselves of such an opportunity to settle in Mexico."

"Brother F. D. Richards, also has written us, to know what counsel he shall give to persons who apply to him, who are in jeopardy, and who are too aged to go on preaching missions. He wishes to know if it will be prudent for him to advise such to go to Mexico."

"Before replying to him upon this business, we think it better to write to you, and learn from you whether affairs are in such a condition in Mexico, that men who are persecuted and who are under the necessity of taking refuge somewhere, can go there and make themselves homes, with a reasonable prospect of their being satisfied with their location and of making a living. There is no doubt that many persons in different parts of the Territory will be pleased to move with part of their families to that region, if they could hope to get settled there and sustain themselves by their labor."

"An early reply upon this subject will be acceptable."