JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS,
> AT THEIR REGULAR SESSION, BEGUN AND HELD AT SPRINGFIELD,
DECEMBER, 2, 1844.

SPRINGFIELD:
WALTERS & WEBER, PUBLIC PRINTERS.
1844.
Ordered, That the title be as aforesaid, and that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof.
The bill from the House of Representatives entitled "An act to amend the several laws apportioning the representation among the several counties in this State," was read a second time, and

On motion of Mr. Dougherty,
Referred to a select committee.

Ordered, That Messrs. Dougherty, Waters and Crain be that committee.

The bill from the House of Representatives for "An act to permanently locate the county seat of the county of Alexander," was read, and

Ordered to a second reading.

On motion of Mr. Dougherty,
The rule was dispensed with, and said bill read a second time by its title, and referred to a select committee.

Ordered, That Messrs. Dougherty, Waters and Wilbanks be that committee.

On motion,
The Senate adjourned.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1844.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Bergen.
A message from the Governor by T. Campbell, Esq., Secretary of State.

Mr. Speaker: I am directed by the Governor to lay before the Senate a communication in writing.

Mr. J. Smith presented the petition of R. Wallace and other citizens of Marquette county, asking for the re-enacting of the law passed at the last session organizing said county; which was read, and on his further motion,

Referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. G. Smith from the committee on the Penitentiary, to which was referred a resolution instructing said committee to amend the estray laws, reported a bill entitled "An act concerning estray; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Speaker laid before the Senate the communication just received from the Governor, which was read as follows:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Springfield, Dec. 23, 1844.

To the Senate:
I have the honor to lay before the Senate, a special message in relation to the disturbances in Hancock county.
I am most respectfully, &c.

THOMAS FORD.

To the Honorable the Senate, and House of Representatives:

As many versions of the disturbances during the last summer and fall, in Hancock county, have gone abroad to the world, I have thought it proper to state in a solemn and authentic form, every thing connected
know them; could never ascertain, by personal acquaintance, the truth or falsity of the many reports which are always circulated to the prejudice of such innovators; and moreover, if they had armed themselves; and organized into a military legion as the citizens of Nauvoo, and had been guilty of the high handed proceedings carried on against the heretical press, the public animosity, and their persecutions, must have been greatly increased, in rancor and severity.

In addition to these causes of excitement, there were a great many reports in circulation, and generally believed by the people; or at least, they pretended to believe them. I mention these reports and rumors, not because I had any evidence of their truth, but because they had a serious influence in swelling the public excitement.

It was asserted that Joseph Smith, the founder and head of the Mormon church, had caused himself to be crowned and anointed King of the Mormons; that he had embodied a band of his followers, called Danites, who were sworn to obey him as God, and to do his commands, murder and treason not excepted; that he had instituted an order in the church, whereby those who composed it were pretended to be sealed up to eternal life, against all crimes, save the shedding of innocent blood or consenting thereto. That this order was instructed that no blood was innocent blood, except that of the members of the church; and that these two orders were made the ministers of his vengeance, and the instruments of an intolerable tyranny, which he had established over his people, and which he was about to extend over the neighboring country. The people affected to believe, that with this power in the hands of an unscrupulous leader, there was no safety for the lives or property of any one who should oppose him. They affected likewise, to believe, that Smith inculcated the legality of perjury, or any other crime, in defence, or to advance the interests of the true believers; and that himself had set them the example, by swearing to a false accusation against a certain person, for the crime of murder. It was likewise asserted, to be a fundamental article of the Mormon faith, that God had given the world and all it contained, to them as his saints; that they secretly believed in their right to all the goodly lands, farms, and property, in the country; that at present, they were kept out of their rightful inheritance by force; that consequently, there was no moral offence in anticipating God's good time to put them in possession by stealing, if opportunity offered; that in fact, the whole church was a community of murderers, thieves, robbers, and outlaws; that Joseph Smith had established a Bogus factory in Nauvoo, for the manufacture of counterfeit money; and that he maintained about his person, a tribe of swindlers, blacklegs, and counterfeiters, to make it, and put it into circulation.

It was also believed, that Joseph Smith had announced a revelation from heaven, sanctioning polygamy, by some kind of spiritual-wife system, which I never could well understand; but at any rate, whereby a man was allowed one wife in pursuance of the laws of the country, and an indefinite number of others, to be enjoyed in some mystical and spiritual mode; and that he himself, and many of his followers, had practiced upon the precepts of this revelation, by seducing a large number of women.

It was also asserted, that Joseph Smith was in alliance with the Indians