

## Simplified Text

**Document 7. These words were given in a sermon [church speech] by George A. Smith, after returning to Salt Lake City after traveling through southern Utah. It comes from a report called “Report of a Visit to the Southern Country.” This speech was given in the Bowery [a large covered meeting place] in Great Salt Lake City, Sunday afternoon, September 13, 1857. The talk was written down by G. D. Watt and J. V. Long. (Some of the words have been changed from his original words to make it easier to read).**

I visited the different settlements, until I reached Parowan, in Iron County, the first settlement in southern Utah. When I got there, it seemed like they had heard a rumor [of the US Army coming] because there was a lot going on. They seemed to be preparing for something that would happen soon. As I drove in at the gate of the city, I saw the militia [volunteer army] in the middle of town practicing, and I was soon surrounded by the "Iron Battalion," which seemed to be in good shape since it was organized there. They got together thinking that their land was going to be invaded by an army from the United States, and that they needed to prepare by checking each other's guns, and to get everything ready by preparing to move anywhere and march to the places that they might need to do defend their homes.

You probably remember that I was the President of the group that first settled there [in Parowan]. I was welcomed with enthusiasm, and I never found them happier. They were willing any moment to burn their homes and hide in the mountains and to defend their country with everything they had.

Now, I hadn't been told to do this, but I felt in my bones that I needed to visit all these settlements in the South. Colonel Dame was organizing the military of that area like he had been told to do last winter. Because Colonel Dame was traveling around to organize the military, I got into the carriage and went with him on a mission of peace, to preach to the people. When I got to Cedar City, I found the Battalions practicing, and Colonel Dame talked to them and helped them get organized.

The next day I spoke to the Saints [Mormons] at their church. I felt like I could talk about whatever I wanted, but I found myself preaching about war; and I told them, in case of invasion, it might be necessary to burn our property, and hide in the mountains, and leave our enemies to do their best [without any food]. People were excited about my sermon just like the people had been at Parowan. That was the same Sunday that Brother Young was preaching the same way [in Salt Lake City]; and I am sure that all the people in southern Utah agreed with our plan.

Then I went to Harmony. Brother Dame spoke to the military, and I spoke to the other leaders; and I must say that I spoke more about the military than religion. But it seemed like I was overflowing with it, and so I had to say something about it.

I then went to Pinto where I spoke to a lot of people in the evening, and then went to Cedar City the next day. They had heard a rumor that they were going to have an army of 600 US soldiers, riding horses, invade the town from the East. The Major seemed very hopeful about it. I asked him, if this rumor was true, if he would wait for instructions. He replied, that there was no time to wait for any instructions; and he was going to take his battalion and kill the enemy before they could get down the canyons; because, he said, “if they are coming here, they are not coming for any good.”

## Original Text

**Document 7. These words were given in a sermon [church speech] by George A. Smith, after returning to Salt Lake City after traveling through southern Utah. It comes from a report called "Report of a Visit to the Southern Country." Delivered in the Bowery, Great Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, September 13, 1857. The talk was written down by G. D. Watt and J. V. Long.**

I visited the different settlements hurriedly, until I reached Parowan, in the county of Iron, the place of the first settlement in the southern part of the Territory. When I arrived there, it appeared that some rumor or spirit of surprise had reached them; for there were active operations going on, seemingly preparing for something that was near at hand. As I drove in at the gate, I beheld the military on the square exercising, and was immediately surrounded by the "Iron Battalion," which seemed to have held its own very well since it was organized in that place. They had assembled together under the impression that their country was about to be invaded by an army from the United States, and that it was necessary to make preparation by examining each other's arms, and to make everything ready by preparing to strike in any direction and march to such places as might be necessary in the defense of their homes.

As it will be well recollected, I was the President of the company that first made the settlement there. I was received with every feeling of enthusiasm, and I never found them in better spirits. They were willing any moment to touch fire to their homes, and hide themselves in the mountains, and to defend their country to the very last extremity.

Now, there had been no such preaching as that when I went away; but the Spirit seemed to burn in my bones to visit all these settlements in that southern region. Colonel Dame was about organizing the military of that district under the law of last winter. As the Colonel was going along to organize the military, I got into the carriage and went on a mission of peace, to preach to the people. When I got to Cedar, I found the Battalions on parade, and the Colonel talked to them and completed the new organization.

On the following day, I addressed the Saints at their meetinghouse. I never had greater liberty of speech to proclaim to the people my feelings and views; and in spite of all I could do, I found myself preaching a military discourse; and I told them, in case of invasion, it might be necessary to set fire to our property, and hide in the mountains, and leave our enemies to do the best they could. It seemed to be hailed with the same enthusiasm that it was at Parowan. That was the same Sabbath that brother Young was preaching the same kind of doctrine; and I am perfectly satisfied that all the districts in the southern country would have given him their unanimous vote.

I then went to Harmony. Brother Dame preached to the military, and I to the civil powers; and I must say that my discourse partook of the military more than the religious. But it seemed that I was perfectly running over with it, and hence I had to say something about it.

I then went to Penter, and there addressed a houseful of people in the evening, and then proceeded to Cedar the next day. They had heard they were going to have an army of 600 dragoons come down from the East on to the town. The Major seemed very sanguine about the matter. I asked him, if this rumor should prove true, if he was not going to wait for instructions. He replied, There was no time to wait for

any instruction; and he was going to take his battalion and use them up before they could get down through the canyons; for, said he, if they are coming here, they are coming for no good.