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Truth and Liberty.

VOL. V.

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

AUGUST, 1841.

Thursday, 26.—"AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES TO THE SAINTS SCATTERED ABROAD AMONG THE NATIONS, GREETING!"

BELOVED BRETHREN:—You will perceive by the minutes of a conference held in this city on the 16th inst., that we have returned from the mission which was required of us by the Lord, and have now been called upon to assist in building up the stakes of Zion, and of planting the Saints upon the lot of their inheritance; and feeling as we do a humble reliance upon divine aid at all times, in our unremitting desire to be useful to our fellow men, and especially to the household of faith, that they may be prepared for the great things which God is about to reveal, and which speedily await this generation, we feel anxious to improve the earliest opportunity to make known unto you the mind of the spirit concerning those things which require your more immediate attention.

It will be discovered in the minutes before referred to, that we have already begun to select such individuals as have been with the church, and have had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the principles thereof to some extent; and to designate certain towns and cities where they will locate themselves and build up churches, inasmuch as the people are willing to receive them. These generally will not take their departure from this for their several stations, until after the October conference, previous to which they will have the opportunity of receiving particular instructions in relation to their mission, and of becoming more perfectly acquainted with those principles which are necessary to be acted upon, in order that they may become highly useful in helping to roll forth the kingdom of God in these last days.

All those elders and priests who are now in the vineyard, will communicate with us immediately and inform us of their situations, designs, and all things relating to their ministry, and improve the earliest opportunity of repairing hither, where they will have the privilege of instruction from the First Presidency, and thereby understanding principle and doctrine, not to be learned elsewhere, and which is necessary for them to know, that they may become wise stewards in their master's house.

We are engaged in a great work, and but little comparatively can be known of the magnitude thereof, of the revelations of heaven, and the order of the kingdom, by the Saints while they are scattered to the four winds; and this being well understood by the ancient prophets and apostles was the reason why they so often spoke of the gathering in the last days, and as this is the place where the elders are to receive instruction concerning their ministry, so as to become successful ministers of the dispensation of the fullness of times, so also this is the place where the brethren may receive such instructions as are necessary to constitute them a righteous and holy people, prepared for the reception of the Lord Jesus; therefore, we say to all Saints who desire to do the will of heaven, Arise, and tarry not, but come up hither to the places of gathering as speedily as possible, for the time is rapidly approaching when the Saints will have occasion to regret, that they have so long neglected to assemble themselves together and stand in holy places, awaiting those tremendous events which are so rapidly approaching the nations of the earth.

It will be recollected that in a recent communication from the First Presidency, all places of gathering are discontinued, excepting Hancock County, Illinois, and Zarahemla in Lee County, Iowa Territory, opposite Nauvoo, and we would suggest to those coming up the Mississippi particularly, and all others who are disposed, to look at Warsaw, a beautifully located village about twenty miles below Nauvoo, consisting of about five hundred inhabitants, a steam flour and lumber mill; one mile below is a section already surveyed, on which the town of Warren is to be built, and every facility is now offered to the brethren, for the immediate erection of houses, the location being very desirable at the lowest point of the Des Moines' Rapids.

As we have been called upon to act as agents

for the church, it may be expected that some one or more of our quorum may be found at Nauvoo, Zarahemla, and Warren, ready to render every assistance in our power towards the location of emigrants; and that we shall occasionally visit the other places of gathering, as necessity requires.

We recommend to the brethren in England, &c., to emigrate in the fall or winter; by so doing they will be likely to spare themselves much affliction in becoming accustomed to this climate.

Further communications may be expected from the Twelve.

B. YOUNG,
H. C. KIMBALL,
O. PRATT,
W. RICHARDS,
JOHN TAYLOR,
GEO. A. SMITH."

Nauvoo, Aug. 26th, 1841.

Friday, 27.—Elder Robert Blashel Thompson died at his residence in Nauvoo, in the 30th year of his age, in the full hope of a glorious resurrection. He was associate editor of the Times and Seasons, colonel in the Nauvoo Legion, and had done much writing for myself and the Church.

The following synopsis of his life is from the pen of his widow:—

"Robert Blashel Thompson was born Oct. 1st, 1811, in Great Driffield, Yorkshire, England, was educated at Dunnington, in the same county. He united with the Methodists at an early age, and preached what he believed to be the gospel, in connection with that sect for a number of years. Emigrated to Upper Canada in 1834. Embraced the gospel there; being baptized and confirmed by Elder Parley P. Pratt in May, 1836. Was ordained an elder by Elder John Taylor, at a conference held in Upper Canada July 22nd, 1836. Removed to Kirtland in May, 1837, where he married Mercy Rachel Fielding, June 4th, 1837, and being appointed to take a mission to Upper Canada, he returned in the same month and commenced preaching in Churchville and the villages adjacent, baptized a considerable number, continued his labors there until he was called upon to remove to Missouri.

He arrived at Kirtland in March, and started from thence in company with Hyrum Smith and family, arrived in Far West June 3rd, where his daughter Mary Jane was born on the 14th of June. He remained there until November, when he, with many of the brethren had to flee into the wilderness to escape the fury of the mob, who swore they would kill every man who had been engaged in the Crooked River Battle.

He stood near to brother David Patten when he fell. He with the rest of the brethren suffered much from exposure and lack of food. He arrived at Quincy, I believe, in December, where he engaged as clerk in the Court House, and remained there until the liberation of Joseph and Hyrum from prison; when the Saints settled in Commerce, he removed there, and was engaged as scribe to brother Joseph; he was also Church clerk.

When the Nauvoo Legion was formed, he received the office of colonel, and also aid-de-camp. In May, 1841, he became associated with Don C. Smith in the editing of the Times and Seasons. On the 16th of August he was seized with the same disease, of which Don C. had died on the 7th. The attachment between them was so strong, it seemed as though they could not long be separated. He died on the 27th, leaving one child; was interred in the burying ground on the 29th. By his special request no military procession was formed at his funeral."

Saturday, 28.—At a conference held in Attica, New York, 6 branches, 10 elders, 7 priests, 5 teachers, 2 deacons, and 146 members were represented.

Tuesday, 31.—"At a council of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles at the house of President B. Young, Nauvoo, Aug. 31, 1841, for the purpose of taking into consideration the situation of the Church, it was resolved unanimously, that as we have been called upon by the voice of the conference to attend to the business of the Church, assist the Trustee in Trust in his arduous duties, attend to the settling of emigrants, &c.; we sensibly feel the great responsibility that is resting upon us, and will do all in our power to carry out the wishes of the church, and prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us by the brethren.

Resolved unanimously that, so far as may be practicable, we will attend to the counseling and locating of emigrants in person, and at present we will appoint no agents for that purpose out of our own body.

Voted that Elder Willard Richards be requested to locate himself for a season at Warsaw, or vicinity, for the purpose of selling lots on the town plat of Warren, counseling the brethren, and attending to such other business as may be necessary relating to the Church. (The foregoing vote was taken after hearing a favorable report from Elders Young, Kimball, and Richards, of the quorum, for building the town called Warren, they having visited the location, accompanied by Mr. Mark Aldrich and other proprietors of the plot.)

Resolved unanimously that we deeply feel for our beloved President Joseph Smith, and his father's family, on account of the great losses

they have sustained in their properties by the unparalleled persecutions in Missouri, as well as the other many persecutions they have sustained since the rise of the Church, which has brought them to their present destitute situation. Therefore, voted unanimously, that we for ourselves, and the Church we represent approve of the proceedings of President Smith, so far as he has gone, in making over certain properties to his wife, children, and friends for their support, and that he continue to deed and make over certain portions of Church property which now exist, or which may be obtained by exchange, as in his wisdom he shall judge expedient, till his own, and his Father's household, shall have an inheritance secured to them in our midst, agreeable to the vote of the general conference of the Church held at Commerce in October, 1839.

Resolved that on account of the peculiar situation of the Church hitherto, it has been expedient and necessary that the deeds, bonds, and properties of the Church should be, and have been taken and holden by committees of the Church, and private individuals; but that we now have a Trustee in Trust, viz., President Joseph Smith, appointed according to the laws of the land. Therefore, voted unanimously, that we advise the Trustee in Trust to gather up all deeds, bonds, and properties belonging to the Church, and which are now held either by committees or individuals, and take the same in his own name as Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as soon as such arrangements can be made consistently with his various and multiplied cares and business; and that we individually and collectively will use all diligence to render him every assistance possible to accomplish this desirable object.

Voted that Elder Lorenzo Barnes proceed on his mission to England without delay.

Voted that Elder Harrison Sagers proceed immediately on his mission to Jamaica, West Indies; and Elder Joseph Ball to South America, according to their appointment on the 16th, and that they accompany each other to New Orleans.

It was proposed that Elder Simeon Carter go on a mission to Germany; but the vote being taken, it was decided that his mission be suspended for the present.

After much deliberation on the situation of the Church at home and abroad, temporally and spiritually, and in view of the poverty and distress of many who had been robbed of all by unrelenting mobbers, and of others who had sacrificed all they possessed to assist those who had thus been robbed, and others who had borne the burden in the heat of the day; it was voted unanimously, that President Smith, as Trustee in Trust, be requested and instructed by this conference in behalf of the Church, to extend relief to such indigent suffering brethren, either by land or goods, as the properties of the Church will admit, and his wisdom shall judge expedient; so that no one shall be denied the privilege of remaining in our midst and enjoying the necessities of life, who has been faithful in his duties to God and the Church.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,

President.

WILLARD RICHARDS,
Clerk.

Wednesday, Sept. 1.—The New York Sun contains an account of some singular phenomena; viz., a shower of flesh and blood, a pillar of smoke, and a shower of manna.

Thursday, 2.—The town of Cartago, on the Isthmus of Darien, containing 10,000 inhabitants destroyed by an earthquake.

Saturday, 4.—Colonel Charles C. Rich was elected brigadier-general of the second cohort, to fill the vacancy of General Don Carlos Smith, deceased, and Lieutenant-colonel Titus Billings was elected colonel in the place of Colonel Rich, promoted, and Major John Scott was elected lieutenant-colonel in his place, and Captain Hosea Stout was elected major in his place.

The city council elected Brigham Young counselor in place of Don Carlos Smith, deceased; and John Taylor and Heber C. Kimball were elected Regents of the University, in place of Don Carlos Smith and Robert B. Thompson, deceased.

Orson Pratt was elected Professor of Mathematics in the University of the city of Nauvoo; and the degree of Master of Arts conferred on him by the Chancellor and Board of Regents.

A committee was instructed to purchase two blocks for a burying ground; and the city recorder was instructed to procure a seal for the corporation.

Elder Orson Spencer arrived in the city.

Sunday, 5.—I preached to a large congregation at the stand, on the science and practice of medicine, desiring to persuade the Saints to trust in God when sick, and not in an arm of flesh, and live by faith and not by medicine, or poison; and when they were sick, and had called for the elders to pray for them, and they were not healed, to use herbs and mild food.

Tuesday, 7.—Another shower of flesh and blood is reported in the Boston papers to have fallen in Kensington. "There had been a drizzling rain during a great part of the day, until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the rain stopped, and the dark clouds began gradually to assume a brassy hue, until the whole heavens above seemed a sea of fire. The sky continued to grow more bright until about a quarter past

five, when almost instantly it became of burnished red, and in a few moments it rained moderately a thick liquid of the appearance of blood, clothing fields and roads for two miles in circumference in a blood stained garment. The bloody rain continued for about ten minutes, when it suddenly cleared away, and the atmosphere became so intensely cold that over coats were needed."

Elder Willard Richards went to Warsaw, and located himself, for the purpose of counseling the Saints, and settling the town of Warren, and the day following made sale of three city lots.

The war between England and China continues. The English have fitted out a new expedition to proceed against her with the utmost rigor; and his celestial Majesty on the other hand has issued order for the raising of a "grand army," and the extermination of the English.

Wednesday, 8.—Wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, tempests, pestilence, and great fires, connected with every kind of wickedness, distress and destruction of property are heard in almost every land and nation.

Saturday, 11.—"The Legion was out for general parade, in conformity with a special act of the court martial, and was reviewed by Lieutenant-general Joseph Smith, who delivered a military speech to the troops in his usual energetic style. The official returns of the Legion show the aggregate to be 1490 men.

HOSEA STOUT, Clerk."

Monday, 13.—Brother Edward Hunter, sen., of Chester county, Pennsylvania, visited Nauvoo, and purchased \$4500 of town lots and farming land; paid me \$2000 in cash, and made arrangements to pay the balance in two months.

Received an invitation from Brigadier-general Ezekiel M. Swazey, and Colonel Amos B. Fuller, of the militia of Lee County, Iowa, to attend the military parade to-morrow, at Montrose, as visitor. Generals Hyrum Smith and J. C. Bennett received a similar invitation.

Tuesday, 14.—Went over to Montrose, accompanied by bros. Edward Hunter and William A. Gheen. I was very courteously received by General Swazey, the officers and militia.

Mr. D. W. Kilbourn attempted to get up an ill feeling by reading the following proclamation at noon, during the recess of exercise, to a considerable number of persons collected round his store; which I insert verbatim: "Citizens of Iowa: The laws of Iowa do not require you to muster under, or be reviewed by Joe Smith or General Bennett, and should they have the impudence to attempt it, it is hoped that every person having a proper respect for himself, will at once LEAVE THE RANKS." This, however, had no effect whatever on the people.

Myself and brother were not in military uniform, but were treated with every respect that visiting officers of our rank could be, through the entire day. At the dismissal of the military I went to Mr. Kilbourn's store, and desired to have some conversation with him, but was peremptorily ordered out of doors. This conduct greatly disgusted his few friends, who upbraided Kilbourn with his ungentlemanly conduct, and accompanied me to the ferry, where I left them shewing me every manifestation of friendship.

Tuesday, 21.—The ship "Tyrean" sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, with 204 Saints bound for Nauvoo.

H. B. M. war steamer "Madagascar" totally destroyed by fire in the Chinese seas, and fifty seven lives lost.

Wednesday, 22.—The high council of Nauvoo adopted the following "Preamble and resolutions. Whereas this high council in times past, had of necessity, and by the advice and instruction of the First Presidency, to transact business of a temporal nature for the Church, and thereby involve itself with debts and other temporal burdens which, under other circumstances would not have devolved upon it; and as the proper authorities to which such temporalities belong are now organized and acting in their proper places; therefore, be it resolved that this high council are prepared to transfer all debts and temporal business; and that all business of a temporal nature, be, and the same is in readiness to be transferred to the proper authorities.

Alpheus Cutler stated that he was going to the Pinerias the ensuing winter, and nominated Elias Higbee counselor pro tem.

A company of the brethren started for the Pinery, some 5 or 600 miles north, on the river, for the purpose of procuring lumber for the Temple and Nauvoo House.

The Jews in Smyrna are suffering great persecutions on account of their religion,—"one was thrown into prison because a cat was missing"—say the journals.

BURNING OF THE ETOWAH BRIDGE.—The Cassville (Ga.) Standard, in an extra dated the 2nd Feb. says: "About twelve o'clock on yesterday, the railroad bridge over the Etowah river, two miles below Cartersville, was found to be on fire. The fire was first discovered on the south end, by the bridge keeper, who could have extinguished it with a single bucket of water. Finding the water in the tubs frozen, he ran to the river, a distance of several hundred yards, and on his return found that the fire had made such progress as to render it impossible to stop it. An effort was made to stop the flames by blowing up a portion of the bridge, but it failed.

"This was the longest and most costly bridge on the road, its length being 1920 feet, and its original cost about one hundred thousand dollars."