

human family. Among the foremost of those notable ones was Brigham Young, the Pioneer, the colonizer, the statesman, the theologian, the master mind, the evidences of whose towering genius are visible to all beholders in this western region. We assemble today to do him such justice and honor as lies within our power, and the monument, in silent bronze, which is to be erected on this spot, will be an expression of the unspoken sentiments of a grateful people, who have been benefited by the works and counsels of that great leader.

Brigham Young was born June 1, 1801, at Whittingham, Windham county, Vermont, and was the son of John and Nabby Howe Young. His father served in the revolutionary war, and was by occupation a farmer.

In the spring of 1829, Brigham moved to Mendon, Monroe county, in the state of New York. In the spring of 1830, he first saw a copy of the Book of Mormon, and was impressed with its extraordinary character. He subsequently investigated the principles of Mormonism, and April 14, 1832, was baptized, confirmed and ordained an Elder in the Church. In September, 1832, with his brother Joseph and Heber C. Kimball, he went to Kirtland, Ohio, where he made the acquaintance of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and there received a testimony from God of his divine mission.

He afterwards went on two missions to Canada, traveling there on foot through snow and ice, and bringing a number of persons into the Church.

In the spring of 1833 he made his home in Kirtland, and was intimately associated with Joseph Smith in the affairs of the Church. He traveled with him on that notable journey to Missouri, with a company of picked men, known as 'Zion's Camp.' Returning to Kirtland in July, he assisted in building the temple there.

On the 14th of February, 1835, he was chosen one of the Twelve Apostles, and after the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, performed a mission through the states of New York, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. During the troubles that arose in Kirtland, and afterwards in the state of Missouri, Brigham Young was the close friend and undaunted supporter of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and when Joseph was arrested, Brigham Young, through the defection of Thomas B. Marsh and the death of David W. Patten, became the President of the Twelve Apostles and the temporary leader of the Church. Here his ability and kindness of heart were conspicuously made manifest. Persecution and mobocracy drove the Saints from Missouri, and those able to move fled into Illinois, but Brigham Young induced all who had means, to enter into a covenant that not one of the worthy poor should be left behind, but that all should be aided and cared for in the expulsion from that state.

On the 26th of April, 1838, Brigham Young, with others of the Apostles of the Church, met on the site of a temple which had been selected at Far West, in the state of Missouri, where they ordained Willard Woodruff and George A. Smith to the Apostleship, to fill vacancies that had occurred. This was in fulfillment

of a revelation received by Joseph Smith, in which a commandment was given that the Twelve should assemble at that place on that date, and bid farewell to the Saints, having been appointed to cross the Atlantic and perform missionary labors in Europe. The anti-Mormons of Missouri had sworn that the purported revelation should not be fulfilled, but Brigham Young, with his characteristic determination, resolved that it should not fail to the ground, and at the risk of his life he saw that everything commanded was accomplished to the very letter.

On the 19th of March, 1840, though sick in body and destitute of this world's goods, he sailed from New York, with others of the Twelve, to fulfil a mission to Great Britain. He superintended the work in that country until April 20, 1841, during which time the Millennial Star was commenced, the publication of which has continued till the present date. A publishing house was opened, the work of emigration from that country begun, branches of the church were established in the leading cities and towns of that country, 7,000 persons were brought into the Church, 5,000 Books of Mormon, 3,000 Hymn Books, 2,500 numbers of the Millennial Star, and 50,000 tracts were printed; 1,000 Saints were shipped to the United States, and a great mission was established, which is still in operation. All this was accomplished by Brigham Young and his associate Apostles in the short period of thirteen months.

Returning to Nauvoo, Brigham Young labored under the direction of Joseph Smith in regulating the affairs of the Church, and when Joseph and his beloved brother Hyrum fell at Carthage, slain by a cruel mob, Brigham Young, at the head of the Twelve Apostles, became the acknowledged leader of the Church. And when the bores of the enemies of the Saints determined upon their extermination, of expulsion, from Illinois, once more under his direction the body of the Church was successfully conducted from the scene of trouble, danger and death. The thousands of exiled people, fleeing again from their foe, were organized into companies, taken over the Mississippi river, many of them upon the ice, and were led by Priest Brigham Young to the spot now known as Council Bluffs, on the banks of the Missouri river. Nauvoo, with its grand Temple, commodious dwellings, homes, industries, fields and gardens, was left behind, a prey to the enemy, and its people, gathered under the leadership of Brigham Young, camped on the western side of the Missouri, where they established "Winter Quarters," with a population of about 4,000 souls.

On the 26th of June, 1846, Capt. James Allen, U. S. A., appeared upon the scene with a requisition for 500 men to aid the government in the war with Mexico. It was regarded at that time as a scheme for the destruction of the Mormon people. They believed that the design was, if they refused, to treat them as traitors, and if they complied, that with the male strength of their numbers withdrawn, they would become a prey to the relentless savages, through whose country they expected to pass. But the genius

of Brigham Young rose to the occasion. His answer to Capt. Allen was: "You shall have your Battalion, sir. If there are not enough young men, we will take old men; and if they are not enough, we will make up the number with women." On the 16th of July, three weeks after the call, the Mormon Battalion, comprising 549 souls, started on their unexampled and wonderful journey. Brigham Young gave them his blessing, and the promise that if they would be true and faithful, not one of them should fall in battle.

In no way discouraged by the loss of the chief strength of the camp, Brigham Young proceeded to establish and thoroughly organize the people gathered in that wilderness of the west, and on the 7th of April, 1847, he started with the company of Pioneers, who have become celebrated in history, on their famous journey across the great plains, to find a home for the Saints in the midst of the Rocky Mountains. There were in that company 143 men, 3 women and 2 children. With them were 72 wagons, 93 horses, 52 mules, 66 oxen and 19 cows. They were thoroughly organized by President Young, and at their head he safely conducted them over alkali plain and lofty mountain, weary-sand-hill and rushing river, through an Indian country, until he gazed upon the broad expanse of the houseless and almost treeless valley, with the glittering saline lake reflecting the rays of the scorching and pitiless sun, and exclaimed: "This is the place; drive on." He had seen this land in vision, before he left the Missouri river. When he saw it in reality he had no doubt that this was the spot for the home of his people. He laid out the plan for this city; its broad streets, its running streams, its beautiful foliage, were all in the mind of the founder of this commonwealth, when there was not a house erected throughout its broad domain. Striking his cane on the spot where this grand Temple now rears its towers to the skies, he exclaimed: "Here we will build the Temple of our God." This was on the 28th day of July, 1847. The work of building this city was commenced under his immediate direction, but on the 26th of August, with a company of 107 men, the great Pioneer and leader started on a return journey to Winter Quarters, to organize and direct the emigration of the Saints, that all who so desired might gather with their people to the mountains.

On the 27th of December, at Kaneasville, now called Council Bluffs, Brigham Young was called and chosen and sustained President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world, with Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, two of the Apostles, as his counselors.

In 1848, Brigham Young once more started for the West, leading the emigration, which consisted of three divisions, number 2,417 souls with 822 wagons. He arrived with the first company September 20, 1849, and the rest of the companies arrived within a month.

President Young not only engaged in the direction of Church affairs in this region, but proceeded to lead out