

giving and gratitude for preserving our bodies from injury, and permitting us to return home with our health unimpaired.

GEORGE GODDARD.

A NAUVOO VETERAN.

PINE VALLEY, Feb. 24, 1895.

Though it may be somewhat late to do so, I will now endeavor to report to the friends of the Pioneer cause as made manifest at the celebration last year at Saltair, that it would have been very inconvenient indeed for me to be there, and also that my present place of residence is Pine Valley district for ward, Washington county, Utah. From some cause I am under the impression that it is rather desired at the present time that the remaining members of the Pioneers, the early settlers of the valleys, and such as had personally known the Prophet Joseph, should report themselves in some way. As I am one of each of those three classes, I thought I would do so through the medium of your excellent paper, should you feel disposed to insert the same therein.

My acquaintance with the Prophet commenced soon after the expulsion from Missouri and the settlement at Nauvoo, upon a visit at my father's in McDonough county, Illinois, with his family—it must have been in the summer of 1839 or 40—Brother Joseph suggested to me that I come and stay with him and work on the Temple, which I afterwards did. My work on the Temple applied as tithing for my father, and my board answered the same purpose for Brother Joseph. I was now some 18 to 20 years of age, consequently capable of judging of men considerably for myself. I watched the Prophet closely; I was anxious to know whether he was a Prophet of God, so, of course I watched him, and from all I could discover, he was not only a Prophet of God, but a mighty and great, as well as a good man. Joseph was a large man, I think a little over six feet tall, and very heavily built, well-balanced and proportioned, his limbs all rounded off and beautiful; his weight, I think, was from 210 to 220 pounds, his complexion light with fall, blue or gray eyes, which when turned upon you with his searching gaze you would instinctively feel that he was reading your very thoughts. He certainly had a very peculiar expression in his face, always pleasant, cheerful and lively, he was very elastic in his movements, I think the most so of any other man I ever saw. His manner of talking was very simple, plain and forcible. The expression of his words was of such a nature as to make an impression upon the mind not easily effaced. He was sympathetic and kindly perhaps, even to a fault, but Oh! when necessity or motive demanded it, with what vehemence and force he could attack his foe! Joseph's time at home with his family was very limited on account of the enormous amount and variety of business he necessarily had to attend to—of all kinds and descriptions—the building up of a new city, and settling down of a great community of people, all looking to him as their guide and director, not only in religious matters, but about everything else; still he was with us enough to enable us to witness

much of his peculiar faculties, powers and disposition which were always exercised in nobleness and kindness.

One more trait of Joseph's general character that I noticed I want to speak of here, and after that I would be pleased to relate several incidents, or anecdotes perhaps they might be called, as connected with Joseph and other individuals, but to do so would require another endeavor or article, as this, perhaps, is lengthened out almost enough:

After common laborers stopped working on the Temple on account of winter, I had more time at Joseph's. His family was very large, consisting, besides his own and other persons, of whomsoever came there to stop awhile or to see the Prophet. There were many travelers, and sometimes men who we there called "winterbound" would make their way to the Prophet's, sometimes, perhaps, out of curiosity, sometimes would stay quite a while, that is, several days, maybe a week or more; when Joseph would discover that such a man or men were honest, honorable and sincere, I noticed he would always appear to be anxious to enlighten them upon the subject of the Gospel, bearing his testimony as to what the Lord had made manifest to himself in relation thereto. This is the trait of character I wished to refer to.

W. P. VANCE.

IN WAYNE STAKE.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

Minutes of Wayne Stake quarterly conference, held at Loa, Wayne county, Utah, Feb. 23 and 24, 1895. Pres. Willis E. Robison, presiding. There were present on the stand, Bishop Henry Teeples and Elder Jos. Whitehead, of Burville; Elders John R. Young and Ira Hatch, the Stake Presidency, High Councilors and Bishops.

Pres. W. E. Robison reported the Stake in a very prosperous and progressive state. The Saints generally are seeking to observe the Word of Wisdom, and we are paying more tithes and fast offerings than ever before in the history of the Stake.

Counselor Hans M. Hanson said he was greatly pleased to note the progress being made by the Saints of this Stake. He remembered in the year 1876 that this valley was a wild, desolate country. At that time the Apostles visited the place and promised the people they should be blessed and the elements should be tempered for their good. We have lived to see the realization of these promises, and if we continue to serve the Lord, this valley will become rich in the products of the earth. He exhorted ward teachers to be exemplary men, walking in the fear of God continually.

Elder F. W. Young believed the Church is general was making very rapid progress. He referred to the institutions established among the Saints wherein the young men are being trained for the ministry and our young ladies to become good, wise and noble mothers. Spoke upon the necessity of every member of the Church keeping a record of their lives, that the rising generation may profit by reading the same. Spoke briefly upon the Word of Wisdom.

Bishop Matt. W. Mansfield reported

the Thurber ward in a very healthy and progressive condition. He spoke in regard to the power and efficacy of prayer, showing that adherence to the principle brought the Father and the Son from their mansions in glory to administer to the humble boy Joseph Smith; later the Gospel was restored and all the powers Priesthood conferred in this dispensation were given in answer to prayer.

The Lyman and Teasdale wards were reported in good condition by their respective Bishops—Peter J. Christensen and Geo. Coleman. Bishop Hiatt E. Maxfield addressed the Saints in the afternoon. Today many principles are being taught to the Saints that if taught a few years ago would have been ridiculed by some; but we are living in a day of progression, and God has designed to make of the Saints a good and holy people. No person can break any law of his being without suffering. God's laws are natural, and if we wish to escape punishment we must obey the law. God is merciful and if we repent of our sins He will forgive, for Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. He believed the Fremont ward to be in good condition, the various quorums of the Priesthood and ward organizations in good running order.

Bishop Benj. F. Brown took pleasure in reporting his ward to be in a better condition than before. The Saints in Loa are trying to live the laws of the Gospel. Ward teachers are doing their duty, the various organizations of the ward are in a healthy state and all is prosperous.

Bishop W. E. Hanks said the "Gospel is the power of God unto salvation," and all who will test the truths of heaven will prove the matchless power of God to save. He said the Caineville ward was in better condition than he had ever been able to before report.

The Blue Valley ward was reported to be in an excellent condition by Elder Jonathan Hunt. The youth are very exemplary in keeping the Word of Wisdom; not a young man in the ward under twenty-five years of age who uses tobacco.

Bishop Henry Teeples addressed the youth, exhorting the young men to prepare themselves for the ministry. He was happy to know God was working in the hearts of the people and felt the day of redemption is drawing nigh.

Elder John R. Young spoke at some length upon the life and ministry of the Savior and the great work established in this day by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He briefly alluded to the persecutions endured by the Saints in our day.

Counselor Gearsen S. Bastian spoke of the various beliefs extant in the earth. The subjects of the Godhead, tithing and the proper training of children was treated by the speaker.

A Priesthood meeting was held in the evening at which much good instruction was given by the Stake presidency and Elder F. W. Young.

Sunday morning Patriarch E. H. Blackburn was the first speaker. He said he had been connected with the Church for more than fifty years and had always taken pleasure in hearing testimony of the truths of heaven.