

men in the East, describing the position that we occupy and the influence we have. Their words are in direct fulfillment, as far as we have gone, of the words of the prophets concerning this people and our influence; and I know I say that which I understand when I say that if this people would only listen to and be governed by the wisdom that God has given, by the intelligence that He has bestowed, by the revelations that He has given, we could begin now to do that, in a small degree at least, which has been predicted concerning us; for it is admitted now that with our union—of which we have got very little now—but with the union that we have been credited with having, with the influence that leading men have been credited with having among us in holding things level, in steady things, we can do an immense amount of good, and perhaps be the saviors of this nation. But a blindness has seemed to seize our people. It is one of the most astonishing things that I have ever seen in all my life, the spirit that has seized the Latter-day Saints. I know the Lord is overruling and controlling everything for good, and that He will teach us by experience. But what I have feared is that we may have to be scourged to get the experience. It would seem so, there is such—I would not like to call it stupidity, because that would seem offensive, but there is a blindness that to me is almost incomprehensible. And one thing that is wonderful: only a few years ago every effort was made that was possible by certain parties to take away from us our votes and to leave us in the condition of Chinamen and Indians. We should have been stripped of the right to vote if it had not been for the exertions that we made and, the blessing of God upon those exertions. There was a determination on the part of a great many people who are now in this State to strip the Latter-day Saints of their franchise, and you can imagine what a condition we would have been in then by looking at the Chinamen. They have no rights that a white man is bound to respect. Has an Indian any rights that white men are bound to respect? Why, they are merely tolerated, and all that is done for them is that which would be done for an animal. Men would not abuse an animal, and they would not abuse a Chinaman or an Indian—that is no rightly constituted man or woman would. But there are lots of men that would rob them, because they know they are defenseless before the law. They have no votes, they cannot make themselves felt. Imagine the condition we Latter-day Saints would have been in if this had occurred, and there is nothing in the world prevented it but the most extraordinary exertions on the part of some of the Latter-day Saints and the blessing of God upon those exertions. And yet, for some time past, the very men that were most active in trying to bring about this dreadful consummation, are the men that Latter-day Saints turn to, and listen to, and take advice from, and are controlled by. To me this is the most extraordinary spectacle. I remember very distinctly the condition we were in when we came to these valleys, and for years afterwards. President Young was the President of the Church. He was listened to as a man of God. He had great influence among the people. They saw he

was a wise man, and that the Lord blessed his counsels. His word went through among the people, and as I said to you yesterday morning, they abandoned all their homes again, because he counseled it—ready to destroy them and to go out into the wilderness and take their fate there. And he had that influence that the people all obeyed him without hesitation. Today President Woodruff occupies the same position, holds the same keys; but instead of being listened to, are there not those who almost shun him? Do they not look upon it as uniting church and state and as almost criminal to listen to him or to ask his counsel, as though it were a violation of some rule of propriety to have anything to say to him about many things concerning which, as a pioneer and as one of the founders of the commonwealth, he might be supposed to know a great deal? Now, this is not what I expected would be the case fifty years ago. I expected that the influence of the Prophet of God, instead of decreasing, would increase; that it would spread, and it would be felt all through the land more and more. I never expected that it would decrease. I got a letter a week or two ago in ten days from Liverpool. I got a message from Liverpool that came quicker than the revolution of the earth—that is, it reached me before it left Liverpool several hours. The Queen of England used to have children and we would get the news of their birth before they were born. We can stand at the telephone and talk great distances, and we have a great many wonders of this kind. You can talk to a machine and you can put away the roll, and months and years afterwards, after the man has died that talked, you can put that roll or cylinder in the machine, start it, and you can hear his voice, although he may have been dead years, and you can hear the tones of his voice and that which he said. You can also hear songs that have been sung in distant lands years ago, the singers now dead; and you can hear music in the same way. Now, if I had been told when we came to the valley that the time would come when I could travel from New York—as I did last week—to Salt Lake City in a few hours less than three days; that I could receive a letter from Europe in ten days; that I could receive news of events that took place in Europe hours before the time of their occurrence there; that I could hear the voice of the dead speaking the very things that they said, the very songs that they sang, the very music that was played, or that I could stand at a little machine and be heard miles away, and I could hear the voices of others, and could distinguish the tones of their voices and tell who they were that were talking—if I had been told all these things at that time I should have said, "Yes, that is the Millennium, if those things can be done. They are so miraculous, that must be the time spoken of by the prophets; the Millennium must have dawned upon us." Then if I had been told that which I see now concerning the President of this Church, and the influence he has, the way our people treat him, and the manner they go to others for advice and counsel, and had got a description or seen that which is now taking place in our midst, I should have said, "That is hell!"

## GOLDEN WEDDING.

HARRISVILLE, Weber county, Feb. 11, 1897.—On Monday, Feb. 8th, 1897, was the three-score-and-ten years landmark of Patriarch P. G. Taylor, and also with it his golden wedding to Ciara Lake Taylor. The event was celebrated by a large gathering of his family at his residence that day.

His life's career has been a remarkable one. He was born in Kentucky, Feb. 8th, 1827. His parents were early identified with the Church of Latter-day Saints, and gathered with the Saints to Missouri, from which place, on his birthday, Feb. 8th, 1838, they were driven from their homes and took up their line of march with the Saints to Illinois. On this journey the father died from exposure, leaving a widowed mother with fourteen children. The family were familiarly acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith, and on one occasion when a sister was quite dangerously afflicted, upon importuning the Prophet the latter said he had not time to come but sent his silk handkerchief with instructions to wipe the sick girl's face with it and she would recover, which promise was verified. The widowed mother and family were again driven from their home; and started with the Pioneers from Nauvoo. The subject of this sketch crossed the Missouri river on his birthday Feb. 8th, 1846, and settled in Kanawville, Iowa, at which place, one year later, he married Miss Ciara Lake. These two have traveled the journey of life together fifty years to this his eventful birthday. Beginning in very destitute circumstances from the drivings they had undergone, so much so that he walked fifty miles to get employment for which he got \$8 per month to support himself and wife, the family saved some means and started their western journey, arriving in Utah in 1850, and since 1851 their home has been identified with Harrisville. Here Elder Taylor has become the father of thirty-six children, for the raising of which in honor, and at a time when the youngest was of ripe age, he underwent siding and afflictions; but he has come out of it all unscathed except slightly broken down in health from the perilous driving. Twenty-five of his twenty-six living children are married. The ceremony of them all being performed according to the eternal order of marriage; the youngest girl, Miss Lucy Ann, being married to Mr. Joseph Sprocher in the Salt Lake Temple yesterday, Feb. 10, 1897. The youngest boy who is of mature age may soon follow suit. Bro. Taylor's descendants now number over 250, and he is highly elated that they are all lovers of the "watchmen upon the towers of Zion," and are performing their part in the good work.

In all the vicissitudes of his life, Bro. Taylor has gathered around him quite a competency, so that his family are well housed and cared for, with a well filled larder to last them for years; and he wished me to say that in all his career there has never seen a time out he has supported and upheld the name of God's honored servants, from the Prophet Joseph to the present authorities. P. L.