

in thankful remembrance of all they have done for us.

Elder West left Salt Lake City April 13th, 1895, I on the 29th of June 1895, in response to a call from the first presidency of our Church to labor, as they had done, and hundreds of others, to carry glad tidings of great joy to the meek and the lowly, to warn the people of the judgments that will overtake the wicked.

We with the other boys placed ourselves under the directorship of our beloved president, Elias S. Kimball.

In November Elder West was called to take charge of the Florida conference, the time previously being spent in Alabama.

I first labored in the South Alabama conference, and afterwards was assigned to labor in the Florida conference. While laboring here we witnessed much of the power of God; our Elders went forth in great humility without purse or scrip. At the beginning of December we had twenty-six Elders in the Florida conference, boys who are true, whose parents and the Church need to be proud of. Many have believed our humble testimony and we have blessed the name of our God, that we were counted worthy to go forth as messengers of His divine word.

On the 19th of September, Elder West was stricken down, his voice and lungs had given way some time previously, but now all the vital parts of his body seemed to fail him. He would grow so weak that the Elders who were with him and the friends whom God had raised up for us, would almost think that he was gone forever. Then with the zeal of Paul, the Elders would anoint him with the holy oil and time and time again was he healed by the power of God. The Elders and Saints throughout the Southern states, with parents and loved ones at home, fasted and prayed for him, and through the blessings of the God of Israel those spells of great prostration began to grow lighter. I well remember on the 4th of November last, when our beloved President West was attacked by one of those bad spells, his blood quit circulating, his whole body grew stiff and cold, his jaws were even locked together so that it was impossible to get his mouth open, he could not speak and we could scarcely tell whether there was a breath of life in him or not. After administering to him the fourth time his jaws were loosed, he breathed the breath of life freely and could talk to us once more. We could only praise God for the priesthood we held and for His power being made manifest through His servants in behalf of our dear president. While he lay helpless upon his bed, one day a dear little girl, Mamie Hurst came running to tell us that such a lot of men on horseback were coming. We knew it was a mob. We in great haste had Elder Fisher clad in disguise and sent him off, as greater threats had been made against him than us.

The mob, for such it proved to be, one hundred and fifty men armed to the teeth, came up to the front gate. The lady of the house with little Mamie stood at the gate and tried to reason with the men who were drunken with wrath against the Mormon Elders.

They told the mob they could not come in only over their dead bodies unless they would solemnly swear that they would not injure the sick man nor

those who were nursing him. They finally agreed that if three of their leaders could come in and talk to them that they would not harm them at this time. So Messers J. R. Newlan, Thomas McClain and Henry Platt with the consent of the lady of the house came in. We had previously in great humility kneeled by the bed side of our sick brother and prayed God to protect us and we dedicated ourselves, the house we were in, the inmates thereof and all unto him.

They came in and were quite civil. We told them of President West's long sickness; the spirit of God rested upon us in mighty power. We told them they had come to take our lives or drive us from the country. They said they had come to warn us to leave; that our doctrines were making great disturbances, turning father against son, mother against daughter, and neighbor against neighbor, and they would have no more of it. We bore to them a faithful testimony of the truth of the Gospel and the divinity of Joseph Smith's mission and that we were sent to carry the glad tidings to all who would hear us. We told them that they might commence at our finger ends and unjoint our whole bodies yet with our last breath our testimonies would be the same. We warned them to cease their persecution against the work of God or the judgments of God would follow them.

They had come with the full intention of making us take an oath that we would leave the county, but they seemed to forget all their mission and they solemnly vowed not to molest us while one of our number was sick. Thus our lives were spared from the grasp of an angry, ignorant band of men who had lent themselves to the service of Satan.

Yet of a truth we only felt sorry that we had but one life to give for so great a cause. We were afterwards informed by a gray haired veteran that not more than fifteen of the one hundred and fifty men could read and write. During the next week president West was released and I also to attend him as his nurse and see him safely in the care of loving parents and friends in Snowflake, Arizona. We enjoyed the trip quite well under the circumstances. Arriving at the place above mentioned, December 13th, I returned via San Francisco after a sojourn of two weeks with Elder West and friends in Arizona which was spent very pleasantly among the Saints.

We bear our testimony to all who read these words, that God lives and that He hears our prayers and that His servants are protected by a divine power. We would urge the young men of Israel to awake and put on the armor of humility, seek wisdom in prayer and thus prepare themselves to go forth as meteors of light, not in word alone, but that their very appearances will be a testimony of the truth they bear. Let us say to the fathers and mothers in Zion, hold on to your wild, wayward boys, as we have seen the power of God made manifest in healing the bodies of the Elders abroad and have heard the thousand of testimonies of our parents and the Saints at home, so can the same power touch the hearts of these thoughtless boys and open their eyes that Satan has blinded.

Let our Father's work go on until it fills the whole earth, until every son and daughter of Adam shall have the privilege of hearing the true Gospel of Christ. For this Gospel of the kingdom

must be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.

In praise of the Southern states people will say; for their kindness and hospitality, their equal would be hard to find and in behalf of Elder Joseph A. West, I feel to thank all who have aided him in any way during his long siege of sickness. After one hundred and fifteen days illness he is now able to walk around the yard. Respectfully,

THOMAS F. WADSEN.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the Priesthood of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, today, Saturday, February 8th, at 11 a. m., Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presiding. Also present Counselor Joseph E. Taylor.

The roll was called and responded to by one High Councilor, three Patriarchs, Elder Elias Morris, and William C. Dunbar, of the presidency of the High Priests quorum, twelve presidents of Seventy, and six home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented excepting the Twelfth, and Sixteenth city wards, and Mountain Dell, Riverton and Granger of the country.

Upon the recommendation of their respective Bishops seventeen young brethren received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, each of whom promised to honor and magnify his calling as Elder if ordained.

A letter having been received from one of the associations in the country with reference to dancing parties, the question of dances came up before the meeting.

The circular of the Twelve Apostles and the resolution of the High Council regarding "Dancing parties and kindred amusements" were read. All the Bishops are or should be familiar with the printed instruction on this question.

Elder Brigham Young, of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, addressed the meeting in a very spirited and persuasive manner, the burden of his remarks being the great importance there is for all walking in the fear of the Lord continually; the throwing of all the safeguards possible around the youth of Zion that none whatever be led down to destruction, and death by the many sins introduced among us by the Evil One.

He read from the book of Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 82, verses 1 to 10, and urged upon all present to observe strictly the divine command of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to always watch and pray.

Adjourned to meet in Stake conference on Saturday, March 13th, at 10 a. m.

IN SOME countries there are laws against blasphemy. We believe it would meet with the approval of a public to which sacred things are sacred, if certain cartoon drawers were taught that the religious sentiments of that public are entitled to respect. Has the public not a right to protect itself against the fangs of vipers?