

has not been chosen by the direct inspiration of God the Eternal Father. There may not have been a written revelation in every instance; but I say that every Apostle and every man chosen to preside over the Seventies has been selected by the power and inspiration of the Almighty. They are men chosen of God, and trusted with His authority, and He will arrange in regard to their term of office. He has done it from the day of the Prophet Joseph to the present, and He will do it to the end.

God bless Israel. May the Lord bless our President, and Elder Brigham Young also, that they may be healed. I humbly ask this, with all the blessings that we require as the Israel of God, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PIONEER'S LIFE.

Shortly after the death of the late Bishop Jacob Weiler, of the Third Ward of this city, the Chester County, Pennsylvania, Local News published the following, written by a resident of West Chester, Pennsylvania; the article was furnished to us by Elder E. F. Sheets, Bishop of the Eight Ward of this city:

The announcement of the death of Bishop Jacob Weiler, of Salt Lake City, on the 24th inst., recalls to memory many incidents connected with the long and eventful career of an honored old friend. A brief sketch of some of them may be of interest to relatives and old companions who have almost forgotten that he lived once amongst us.

Bishop Jacob Weiler, although born in Lancaster county, was by adoption a citizen of Chester county from the age of ten years. He was the son of Joseph and Rosanna (Styer) Weiler, being the third son of a family of fourteen children, eight boys and six girls, all of whom grew to man and womanhood. His eldest brother, John, like himself, was a man of a large and powerful frame.

John was one of, if not the first, conductor of passenger trains on the old State Railroad, being transferred from the old Pittsburg stage line to the railroad on its completion. A man of rare integrity and sobriety in his calling at that period, who held his position for many years and until incapacitated by the infirmities of age. The second son, William, moved with his father to Wayne county, Ohio, in the year 1833, where they were very successful as farmers.

At the age of ten years, Jacob Weiler came with his father and family to Brandywine township, Chester county, where his father went into the milling business. Jacob remained with and assisted his father until twenty years of age; he then hired with Joseph McClure, receiving ten and one half dollars per month for the first year, which was considered good wages at that time. He remained in Mr. McClure's employ for seven years. On starting out in life Mr. Weiler resolved to save his money and make a home for himself. His first year in the employ of Mr. McClure netted him just \$100 in savings, which he loaned to Mr. McClure at six per cent. To this loan he added \$400 in the following six years.

In the year 1830 he married Anna Maria Malin, daughter of Elijah and Catherine Malin, of Chester county. In 1836, he purchased a small farm of forty acres, for which he paid \$1,637, on which he remained five years, and by

close application to business and economy added something to his possessions.

In the autumn of 1838 Elders E. D. Woolley, Lorenzo D. Barnes and Ellisha Davis, of what was called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, followers of their accepted Prophet, Joseph Smith, made their appearance in Chester county on mission service, and created very considerable excitement in religious circles. E. D. Woolley preached at the West Nantmeal Seminary, and Mr. Weiler attended the same. Being much pleased and edified by the discourse, he at once sought to investigate the doctrines of the Mormon Church. After two years of earnest study and examination, being convinced in his own mind as to the saving effects of the doctrines of that Church, he was baptized by immersion into membership in the Church, with which he ever afterward expressed his satisfaction and confidence. Soon after admission he was ordained a Priest in the Church. In December of the same year he sold his little home to James Arters for \$1,775. In the following May, in company with several families, having ten wagons in all, he with his family started for Nauvoo, Illinois, where converts of the faith were gathering at that time, intending to make it their Jerusalem.

Arriving there on the 6th of July, 1841, he bought a lot of the Prophet, Joseph Smith, paying him \$800 for it, and then erecting a neat brick house upon it. His home stood him in the sum of \$1,200.

Here at Nauvoo the Mormons had built a great temple and attempted to establish their Zion.

It was a beautiful location on the banks of the "Father of Waters." Under their industrious hand a beautiful city began to arise. All promised prosperity and comfort to the Saints. The Mississippi River was at this date still the frontier of civilization, and the surrounding population was largely composed of that rough, disorderly element that has ever followed up the footsteps of the red man from the Atlantic Coast as he has been driven westward, ever seeing their gain in rapine and plunder of the less savage Indians. This element, encouraged by many professing Christian zealots, sought methods by which to annoy the more prosperous steady-going Mormons, and thus drive them from their envied possessions. This lawless class and their backers made charges, many of them notoriously false, of a criminal character, against all Mormons and sought in every way possible to excite public opinion against them. Even violence, robbery and murder became common and went unpunished. On the 27th day of June, 1844, the Prophet, Joseph Smith, and his brother Hyrum, were murdered in the jail at Carthage by a cowardly mob. By the winter of 1845-46, the leaders of the Mormon Church, finding that it would be impossible to live in peace in the state of Illinois, a one-sided compromise was finally made with their enemies and the Mormons determined to seek a home in the far West. Mr. Weiler reluctantly parted with his comfortable home, getting but \$200 for what had cost him \$1,200, but probably lost no more in proportion than did most of his fellow-churchmen.

In February, 1846, the first company

of emigrants crossed the Mississippi into the then territory of Iowa. Mr. Weiler did not start with his family until the first of June, when he crossed the river on a flat boat, with all his worldly possessions, which narrowly escaped sinking in transit. He joined the advance party a few miles from the river. On leaving Nauvoo none knew where they were going to seek a resting place, no objective point had been fixed upon, but it was hoped that pioneers to be sent in advance would be able to find some unoccupied valley in the Rocky Mountains where they might rest in peace and secure permanent homes for their people free from intrusion. True, two or three exploring parties had within a few years passed over what was then called the great American desert, but all had gone on to Oregon or California. Soon after leaving Nauvoo the government called upon the Mormons for 500 volunteers for the Mexican war. Many of the young and active men responded to the call, and for this reason the exodus was delayed during the summer of 1846, so that by the latter end of September the exiles had only crossed the Missouri near where Omaha now stands. Here they camped on a flat known as Cutler's Park, and made preparations for the winter by cutting prairie grass for their stock. The winter proved to be a long and severe one, causing them much sickness and suffering for want of adequate food and shelter for all. Many died and were buried here. Mr. Weiler built a sixteen-foot square one-roomed log cabin for the protection of his family, then consisting of himself, wife and four children. In April, 1847, a body of pioneers, of which Mr. Weiler was one, were chosen from the ablest men of the party, to proceed in advance to reconnoitre and select some site suitable for a permanent location. Brigham Young was the chosen leader of this party, which he at once proceeded to thoroughly organize and prepare for the march. The pioneer party consisted of 140 men, three women and two children, having seventy two wagons and the stock, consisting of ninety-three horses, fifty-two mules, sixty-six oxen, nineteen cows, seventeen dogs and some chickens. On starting out the aged and feeble with women and children were left in camp, and were expected to follow more leisurely after the road and route was opened.

The wisdom of their leader was shown in the thorough military organization of his party, which was well supplied with small arms and one cannon, for they were about to traverse an unknown trackless desert, inhabited only by savages, supposed to be hostile, by herds of buffalo, wolves, bears and other wild animals. The rules of the camp were very strict, yet all were cheerfully obeyed. No profanity of any kind was permitted. Morning and evening prayers were said at bugle call; and, on the march, when danger from Indians was apprehended, each driver walked by the side of his team, with loaded rifle in hand. The long line of wagons were bunched, and, in camping, the wagons formed a corral for the protection of all stock from chance of being stampeded by the wily Indians. Early in July the party arrived at Fort Bridger, where they met with very discouraging reports in regard to Salt Lake valley, a point towards which they were now aiming. One old trapper and mountaineer agreed