

met in council with Brothers Mitchell, Curtis and Stephen Curtis, who left the plucky on Black river the last of January. They were sent by Lyman Wight and Bishop Miller to know whether Lyman should preach to the Indians, the Menominees and the Chippewas having requested it.

I instructed the Twelve Apostles to send out a delegation and investigate the locations of California and Oregon, and hunt out a good location where we can remove to after the Temple is completed, and where we can build a city in a day and have a government of our own—get up into the mountains where the devil cannot dig us out, and live in a healthy climate where we can live as long as we have a mind to."

Wednesday, February 21st—"Council of the Twelve met in my office. I insert the minutes:

"At a meeting of the Twelve at the Mayor's office, Nauvoo, February 21, 1844, 7 o'clock p.m., B. Young, Parley P. Pratt, O. Pratt, W. Woodruff, J. Taylor, Geo. A. Smith, W. Richards and four others being present, called by previous notice by instructions of President Joseph Smith on the 20th inst. for the purpose of selecting a company to explore Oregon and California, and select a site for a new city for the Saints. Jonathan Dunham, Polycarp H. Young, David D. Yarsley and David Fullmer volunteered to go; and Alphonso Young, James Emmett, George D. Watt and Daniel Spencer were requested to go. Voted, the above persons to be notified to meet with the council on Friday evening next at the Assembly room."

—Willard Richards, clerk.

Friday, Feb. 23rd: "Met with the Twelve in the Assembly room concerning the Oregon and California exploring expedition. Hyrum and Sidney present. I told them I wanted an exploration of all that mountain country. Perhaps it would be best to go direct to Santa Fe. Send twenty-five men; let them preach the Gospel wherever they go. Let that man go that can raise \$500, a good horse and mule, a double-barrel gun, a single-barrel rifle and the other smooth-bore, a saddle and a bridle, a pair of revolving pistols, bowie knife and a good sabre. Appoint a leader and let him beat up for volunteers. I want every man who goes to be a king and a priest. When he gets to the mountains he may want to talk with his God. When with the savage nations have power to govern, etc. If we don't get volunteers, wait till after the election."

George D. Watt said: "Gentlemen, I shall go." Samuel Bent volunteered; Joseph A. Kelting ditto; David Fullmer ditto; James Emmett ditto; Daniel Spencer ditto; Samuel Roll ditto; Daniel Avery ditto; Samuel W. Richards ditto.

Saturday, Feb. 24th: "At home. Had an interview with Brother Phelps at 9 o'clock. Seth Palmer, Amos Fielding, Charles Shumway and John S. Fullmer volunteered to go to Oregon and California."

Sunday, Feb. 25th: "I preached at the Temple block. Hyrum also preached. Evening I attended prayer meeting in the Assembly room. I gave some important instructions and prophesied that within five years we should be out of the power

of our old enemies, whether they were apostates or of the world, and told the brethren to record it, and when it comes to pass they need not say they had forgotten the saying."

Monday, Feb. 26th: "Ira S. Miles volunteered to join the mountain exploring expedition."

Tuesday, Feb. 27th: "Almon L. Fullmer and Hosea Stout volunteered to go on the western exploring expedition."

Wednesday, Feb. 28th: "Thomas S. Edwards volunteered to join the exploring expedition to the Rocky Mountains."

Thursday, Feb. 29th: "Moses Smith and Rufus Beach volunteered to join the Oregon exploring expedition."

Under date of Monday, March 4th, Joseph Smith's journal says:

"I instructed a letter to be written to James Arlington Bennett to consult him on the subject of nominating him for Vice President. I here insert the letter."

The letter which appears in full in the journal of Joseph Smith, contains this paragraph:

"All is right in Nauvoo. We are now fitting out a public company to explore Oregon and California, and progressing rapidly with the great temple which we expect to see this season."

Under date of March 11, 1844, we find the following:

"At home till noon. Then spent the day in council in the Lodge room over Henry Miller's house. Present: Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, John Taylor, George A. Smith, William W. Phelps, John M. Bernhisel, Lucian Woodworth, George Miller, Alexander Badiam, Peter Hawer, Erasmus Snow, Reynolds Cannon, Amos Fielding, Alpheus Cutler, Levi Richards, Newell K. Whitney, Lorenzo D. Wasson and William Clayton, who I organized into a special council to take into consideration the subject matter contained in the above letter. (Received from a committee at Black River Falls) and also the best policy for this people to adopt to obtain their rights from the nation and insure protection for themselves and children, and to secure a resting place in the mountains or some uninhabited region, where we could enjoy the liberty of conscience guaranteed to us by the Constitution of our country, rendered doubly sacred by the precious blood of our fathers, and denied to us by the present authorities who have smuggled themselves into power in the state and nation."

On March 28th the Prophet Joseph Smith addressed a memorial to the Congress of the United States, asking for authority to raise a company of 100,000 men in the United States, to proceed to the West in the neighbourhood of Oregon and California, the purpose of which is thus described in the memorial:

"To open the vast regions of the unpeopled west and south to our enlightened and enterprising yeomanry; to protect them in their researches, to secure them in their locations, and thus strengthen the government and enlarge her borders; to extend her influence; to inspire the nations with

the spirit of freedom and win them to her standard; to promote intelligence; to cultivate and establish peace among all with whom we may have intercourse as neighbors; to settle all existing difficulties among those not organized into an acknowledged government bordering upon the United States and territories; to save the national revenue in the nation's coffers; to supersede the necessity of a standing army on our western and southern frontiers; to create and maintain the principles of peace and suppress mobs, insurrections, and oppression in Oregon and all lands bordering upon the United States and not incorporated into any acknowledged national government; to explore the unexplored regions of our continent; to open new fields for enterprise for our citizens and protect them therein; to search out the antiquities of the land, and thereby promote the arts and sciences, and general information; to amalgamate the feelings of all with whom we may have intercourse on the principles of equity, liberty, justice, humanity, and benevolence; to break down tyranny and oppression, and exalt the standard of universal peace."

On March 30th, Elder Orson Hyde was appointed by the City Council of Nauvoo to carry the memorial and an ordinance accompanying it to Washington, for the consideration of both houses of Congress. This appointment appeared of record on the City Council minutes, with the seal of the corporation, signed by Joseph Smith, mayor, and Willard Richards, recorder.

Elder Orson Hyde made a lengthy report of his labors to the general council, dated Washington, D. C., April 28th. In speaking of the difficulties in the way because of the personal desires and ambitions of prominent men he says:

"Now all these politicians rely upon the arm of our government to protect them there; and if government were to pass an act establishing a territorial government west of the Rocky Mountains there would be at once a tremendous rush of emigration. But if the government pass no act in relation to it, these men have not stamina or sufficient confidence in themselves and their own resources to hazard the enterprise."

In the same communication, Orson Hyde states that Orson Pratt was with him, and they drafted a bill to present to Congress, and he goes on to say:

"In case of a removal to that country, Nauvoo is the place of general rendezvous. Our course from thence would be westward through Iowa, bearing a little to the north till we come to the Missouri river, leaving the State of Missouri on the left, thence up the North Fork of the Platte into the mouth of Sweetwater river, in the longitude of 107 degrees 45 minutes west, and thence up Sweetwater river to the south pass of the Rocky Mountains; and from said south pass in latitude 42 degrees, 28 minutes north to the Umpqua and Klamet valleys in Oregon bordering on California is about 600 miles, making the distance from Nauvoo to the best portion of Oregon, 1,700 miles."

All this goes to prove, beyond a doubt, that the Prophet Joseph Smith had in his mind the establish-