

DEATH OF A PIONEER.

By telegram to his son in this city we learn of the death at St. George, Tuesday, August 19th, of Brother Wm. A. Empey, long and favorably known in the community, and formerly a resident of the Fifteenth Ward of this city.

Deceased was born in the Township of Osnabrook, County of Stormont, Canada, July 4, 1808, embraced the Gospel in 1839, being baptized by Elder Arza Adams, and in the autumn of the same year removed to Nauvoo, where he remained until a few days prior to the final banishment of the Saints from Illinois. During his residence in Nauvoo he was among the most active of the supporters and defenders of the leaders of the Church, and an energetic workman on the Temple there erected. At the time of the organization of the 13th Quorum of Seventies he became one of its presidents, which position he held until called to be a High Councilor in St. George. He started as one of the Pioneers to Utah in the year 1847 but on arrival at the Platte River he was counseled by President Young to remain there with eight others and earn supplies for the pioneers on their return journey by ferrying travelers over to Oregon. In view of the exposure of this small party to Indians, it was of the utmost necessity that they should be united and remain together, and they were cautioned by President Young so to do; but all the party with the exception of Brother Empey and two others soon deserted the post. It was a characteristic of the deceased never to betray a trust or desert a post of duty, and, in the midst of danger from hostile Indians who frequently visited their camp, and from whose ferocity they were most marvelously preserved, he remained there with his two companions until the first company of migrating Saints had passed there and the counsel had arrived from the leaders for them to proceed on to Laramie. There they remained until President Young and party returned from the valley, when deceased joined them and proceeded to his family at Winter Quarters.

In the spring of 1848 he started with his family to Utah in President Young's company, and, after their arrival here, wintered at the mouth of North Canyon, about ten miles north of this city. He became a resident of the Fifteenth Ward at the time the city was platted, where for several years he acted as counselor to the Bishop. In 1851, in company with Elder George A. Smith, he explored Southern Utah and helped to establish the settlement of Parowan, from which mission he was released in the year 1852 to go to Bear River, north, and establish a ferry. He remained there, making friends among the Indians and assisting travelers, until called to go upon a mission to Europe, upon which he started in the fall of 1852. He labored in various parts of England, a portion of the time as President of the Hull Conference. He there witnessed many manifesta-

tions of the power and goodness of the Almighty, among which may be mentioned one that was certainly remarkable. Having been sent into a strange district to labor, he was at a loss to know where to find any of the Saints. While walking along the road he noticed a venerable looking man with snowy white hair some distance ahead of him, and endeavored to overtake him in order to inquire his way, but after a long and hasty walk finally saw the stranger turn from the road and enter a house. Determined still to accomplish his purpose he, too, on arriving at the house, entered it and announced to the lady who met him at the door that he was in search of Latter-day Saints. The lady replied that she and her family belonged to that class whereupon he asked who the old gentleman was who had just entered her dwelling. The lady was puzzled at his question and declared that no such person had been there, and the only way they could account for the mystery was that it was a spiritual and not a mortal man who had led the way there.

Brother Empey was released from his mission in 1854 to return to the Missouri River and there purchase wagons, teams and supplies, and superintend the emigration business for the Church.

At the time of the settlement of St. George he was called to locate there, and though it involved the abandonment of a comfortable home in this city, he remained there and devoted his means and energy to the development of that region. He visited the members of his family in this city last month, and at that time appeared to be in his usual health. What particular ailment carried him off is not yet known to his relations here.

He was a man of great faith and integrity, enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his acquaintances during life, and has doubtless through his faithfulness earned the boon he sought for—eternal life. Two of his wives survive him, one having died some years since. Of the twenty-two children born to him, fifteen are now living, and his living grandchildren number between forty and fifty.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JUDGE MINER.

The following sketch of the life of Hon. James A. Miner, the newly appointed associate Justice of Utah, who succeeds Judge Henderson on the bench of the First District Court at Ogden, is given by the *Tribune's* Ogden correspondent:

The subject of this sketch is the Hon. James A. Miner, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and Judge of the First District Court of the Territory of Utah.

Judge Miner was born at Marshall, Michigan, September 9, 1842. His parents, G. and Betsey L. Miner, emigrated from Connecticut

in 1832, and settled on a farm in Marshall township, where his father died in 1864. Until the year 1859, Mr. Miner worked on his father's farm in the summer, and attended school in the winter.

After graduating from Lyons Institute, he commenced the study of law in the office of Governor Baker, of Clinton, Iowa.

At the breaking out of the war he returned to Lyons, and assisted Col. Fox in raising the Ninth Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He remained in service until the death of his father, when he returned to Marshall and resumed his law studies, first in the office of the late Hon. H. A. Noyes and afterwards in that of Hon. J. C. Fitzgerald. He was admitted to the bar by Judge B. F. Greaves, in 1864, since which time he has practiced most of the time at Marshall, Michigan. In 1868 he was admitted to practice in the United States courts; and in the same year was appointed United States commissioner for the eastern district of Michigan. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Miner was elected recorder of the city of Marshall and held the office one year.

In the fall of 1866 he was elected circuit court commissioner for Calhoun county. He was re-elected in 1868, and thus held the office four years, performing the duties to the general satisfaction of the bar and the community. In 1870 Mr. Miner was elected prosecuting attorney for Calhoun county by a larger majority than was received by any other candidate on the ticket. In 1872 he was re-elected, and, by his able performance of the duties, gained the well-earned reputation of being one of the most efficient officers the county has ever had.

He married, September 1, 1869, Hattie L. Baker, and has three children. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He formerly attended the Episcopal Church at Marshall, of which his wife is a member.

Mr. Miner is a profound believer in the principles of the Republican party, and has eloquently advocated them in every campaign since 1861. As he is a very forcible speaker, the large Republican successes formerly gained in Calhoun County were in a great measure due to him. In January, 1876, he formed a law partnership with F. A. Stace, and continued in the practice of his chosen profession under the firm name of Miner & Stace until his removal to Ogden.

He has had charge of many difficult cases, both civil and criminal, in the Circuit and Supreme Courts of Michigan. He has remarkable tenacity of purpose and is possessed of executive ability of no common order. He has always borne a high reputation as an honorable man, a successful lawyer and an eloquent advocate.

His commission as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of the First District Court of this Territory was signed by President Harrison July 2nd, and went into effect August 2nd. His term expires July 2, 1894.