

have had no use for Brother Merrill, for Brother Edlesen, for Brother Roskelley, for Brother Leishman, or for any of the men in this temple at Logan; for all ordinances would be stopped throughout the land of Zion. Confusion would reign throughout Israel, and many men would be made prisoners. This trouble would have come upon the whole Church, and we should have been compelled to stop the practice. Now, the question is, whether it should be stopped in this manner, or in the way the Lord has manifested to us, and leave our Prophets and Apostles and fathers free men, and the temples in the hands of the people, so that the dead may be redeemed. A large number has already been delivered from the prison house in the spirit world by this people, and shall the work go on or stop? This is the question I lay before the Latter-day Saints. You have to judge for yourselves. I want you to answer it for yourselves. I shall not answer it; but I say to you that that is exactly the condition we as a people would have been in had we not taken the course we have.

I know there are a good many men, and probably some leading men, in this Church who have been tried and felt as though President Woodruff had lost the Spirit of God and was about to apostatize. Now, I want you to understand that he has not lost the Spirit, nor is he about to apostatize. The Lord is with him, and with this people. He has told me exactly what to do, and what the result would be if we did not do it. I have been called upon by friends outside of the Church and urged to take some steps with regard to this matter. They knew the course which the Government were determined to take. This feeling has also been manifested more or less by members of the Church. I saw exactly what would come to pass if there was not something done. I have had this spirit upon me for a long time. But I want to say this: I should have let all the temples go out of our hands; I should have gone to prison myself, and let every other man go there, had not the God of heaven commanded me to do what I did do; and when the hour came that I was commanded to do that, it was all clear to me. I went before the Lord, and I wrote what the Lord told me to write. I laid it before my brethren—such strong men as Brother Geo. Q. Cannon, Brother Jos. F. Smith, and the Twelve Apostles. I might as well undertake to turn an army with banners out of its course as to turn them out of a course that they considered to be right. These men agreed with me, and ten thousand Latter-day Saints also agreed with me. Why? Because they were moved upon by the Spirit of God and by the revelations of Jesus Christ to do it.

I leave this with you, for you to contemplate and consider. The Lord is at work with us. He is doing things here that you do not comprehend. Make these matters a subject of prayer. Do not worry; do not feel bad about them.

I rejoice that God has revealed to us the gospel. I rejoice I live in a day and generation when we have the Church of God on the earth. We have had prophets and apostles among us. They have worked here in the

flesh and saved many souls. They have died and gone to the spirit world. Joseph Smith holds the keys of this dispensation. He will hold them to the endless ages of eternity, no matter who may lead the Church after him. The Lord has given us power to come here and build temples. We have three temples erected in these mountains, and many of the dead have been redeemed in them, and they will have a part in the first resurrection. Therefore, we ought to be thankful to the Lord. We want to continue in these temples. We want them to be occupied by the Latter-day Saints. We want our brethren and sisters to continue to go there and redeem the dead and bless the living. The Lord will take care of you and your families. He will take care of Zion, and of this generation, and He will fulfil all that He has said.

I say, God bless you. And He will bless you if you will hearken to His counsels.

I want the Latter-day Saints to stop murmuring and complaining at the providence of God. Trust in God. Do your duty. Remember your prayers. Get faith in the Lord, and take hold and build up Zion. All will be right. The Lord is going to visit His people, and He is going to cut His work short in righteousness, lest no flesh should be saved. I say to you, watch the signs of the times, and prepare yourselves for that which is to come. God bless you. Amen.

THE LATE ELDER P. O. THOMASSEN

Elder Peter Olaf Thomassen, who departed this life at his residence in the Eighteenth ward, this city, on Wednesday, October 28, 1891, was born in Drammen, Norway, August 29, 1836. While quite a youth he happened to hear a sermon preached by Elder Canute Peterson (now the president of the Sanpete Stake of Zion), who at that time labored in Norway as one of the two first Utah Elders who preached the Gospel in that country. He and C. C. A. Christensen, the well-known poet and artist, introduced the fulness of the Gospel into Christiania, the capital of Norway, where young P. O. Thomassen was then employed. Being rather religiously inclined through the early impressions made upon him by a good and pious mother, he was at once deeply impressed with the Bible doctrines advanced by Elders Petersen and Christensen, which soon ripened into full conviction under the further teachings of Elder Carl Widerborg, by whom he was baptized June 9, 1854. In April, 1856, he was called by Hector C. Haight, who then presided over the Scandinavian mission, to assist Elder Widerborg in the Church publishing department at Copenhagen, Denmark. Here he remained seven years, laboring as translator and assistant editor of *Skandinaviens Stjerne*, and other publications. April 23, 1863, he left Denmark to emigrate to Utah, crossing the Atlantic in the ship "John J. Boyd," and the plains in Captain Peter Nebeker's ox train, in which Elder Thomassen drove an ox team all the way across the plains. He arrived in Salt Lake City September 25, 1863, and from that time until

his demise his home has been in this city.

Responding to a call of the First Presidency of the Church, he left his mountain home May 17, 1870, to fill a mission to Scandinavia, and on arrival at Copenhagen, Denmark, he was again assigned to the editorial and publishing department of the mission, where he then labored two years and a half. He arrived home from this mission Sept. 26, 1872. Soon after his return he was employed by the Utah Central Railroad Company, and remained with that company until a few months ago.

Elder Thomassen was the editor and publisher of the first periodical ever published in Utah in a foreign language, namely the *Utah Posten*, which first made its appearance Dec. 20, 1873, edited in the Danish-Norwegian tongue. But owing to dull times and the almost total absence of money in the Territory, Elder Thomassen was forced to suspend publication on the 5th of September following. In 1885, for several months, he managed the editorial department of *Bikuben*, published and owned by A. W. Winberg, and in September of the same year he became editor of *Svenska Harolden*, a weekly newspaper started by a Swedish publishing company in Salt Lake City four months previous. In order to perform the editorial labors connected with these positions, and at the same time fill his position as clerk in the employ of the railway company, he had to work much at night. In June last he purchased the *Bikuben* of its former owner, and from that time until his death he labored assiduously to make his paper a success, and among other improvements made he doubled its size.

During many years of his earlier life Elder Thomassen labored zealously for the development of harmony singing in the meetings of the Saints, both in Scandinavia and Utah, and in his leisure hours he copied thousands of songs and distributed them through the conferences in Denmark, Norway and Sweden; and when suitable pieces could not be found to certain popular melodies, he would compose hymns himself—a fact of which the later editions of the Latter-day Saints' Danish-Norwegian hymn book bear ample proof. Thus the latest edition of the book named contains sixteen of his original hymns, besides quite a number which he translated from English.

At the time of his death Elder Thomassen was a member of the thirteenth quorum of Seventies.

ANDREW JENSON.

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 29, 1891.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

This Conference convened at Pacolet Springs, Spartanburg county, South Carolina, on Oct. 24th and 25th. The missionaries present were: J. G. Kimball (president of the Southern States mission), C. F. Emery (president of South Carolina conference), and traveling Elders H. S. Tanner, D. F. Tanner, H. S. Phelps, J. S. Lee, D. S. Wallace, H. Wallace, Richard Parker and W. H. Allen.

A Priesthood meeting was held on Saturday morning. The Elders pre-