

ELDER STEVENSON. DEAD.

Elder Edward Stevenson of the First Council of Seventies passed away at his home in the Fourteenth ward at ten minutes past eleven Tuesday night, surrounded by his family.

Elder Stevenson had been ailing for some time, having taken sick on September 11th last at Walla Walla, Washington, while engaged in preaching the Gospel in the Northwest. He was in the hospital there for three days, when he felt somewhat improved, and went to Baker City, Oregon, and filled an appointment. He was worse after this and the authorities thought best for him to come home, which he did, arriving in this city on the early morning train, September 24th.

After reaching home he became so much improved as to be able to get out, and went to Cottonwood and preached to the Saints there, and attended to other duties.

He received a bracket on Dec. 11th, since which time he has been confined to the house. He has felt all along that he was going to get better until a few days ago, when he began to talk about going to rest. Elders Seymour B. Young and C. D. Fjeldsted visited and administered to him about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and when the administration was completed, Brother Stevenson repeated "Amen and amen." These were the last words he uttered that could be understood. He passed away very quietly, as though going to sleep.

Brother Stevenson has been a strict observer of the Word of Wisdom. He has not drank a cup of tea or coffee in the last thirty years. His life has been devoted to the work of the Lord, and he has spent much of his time in the missionary work both at home and abroad.

Elder Edward Stevenson was the son of Joseph Stevenson and Elizabeth Stevens and was born at Gibraltar, Spain, on May 1, 1820. In 1827 he came to America in company with his father's family, consisting of five sons and two daughters, Edward being the third son.

When he was but eleven years of age his father died and he went to live with a Dr. Richardson. In 1833, being then thirteen years of age, he heard Elders Jared Carter and Joseph Woods preach the Gospel, and believed their testimonies. It was about this time the falling of the stars occurred, which Elder Stevenson refers to in his journal, and in the winter of the same year he was baptized. His mother and others of the family also joined the Church. This was in Michigan. They afterwards joined the body of the Church and endured the hardships and persecutions incident to life among the Saints in those trying times. Edward was acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and in his journal are recorded many of the teachings of that great man.

Brother Stevenson came to Utah in 1847, being captain of ten in General Charles C. Rich's company. He has crossed the Plains in all nineteen times, and the Atlantic ocean nine times. He went on a mission to Spain in 1852, and has filled many other missions. He was called to labor as a

home missionary by President Young and spent twelve years traveling among the settlements of the Saints.

In the fall of 1894 he was chosen as one of the First Council of Seventies and since that time has labored assiduously in preaching the Gospel and attending to the duties of his calling. He filled a mission to Mexico and was engaged in missionary work in the northwest when taken sick.

Eleven sons and five daughters survive him, nine sons and three daughters having preceded him to the spirit world. His living descendants number about sixty-four.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Elder Edward Stevenson of the First Council of Seventies, were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, January 31, 1897, at 2 p. m.

Between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock Sunday morning, the time set apart for the remains to lie in state, a large number of the friends of the deceased called at the family residence in the Fourteenth ward to take a last fond look at their departed brother and friend.

Shortly after 1:30 p. m., the family and immediate relatives headed by the members of the First Council of Seventies under whose direction the services were held, formed in procession and moved to the Tabernacle. The first carriage contained Elders Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, George Reynolds and Jonathan G. Kimball, all the members of the Council who could attend, the other two, Elders B. H. Roberts and Rulon S. Wells, being absent on missions; next came the hearse and two carriages of lady mourners, followed by the pall-bearers, and the remainder of the family, followed by officers and members of the ward.

The floral tributes were very appropriate, prominent among which was one from the quorum to which Elder Stevenson belonged, representing the four seasons, made by H. F. F. Thorup florist. In the center of this was a card bearing these words: "Edward Stevenson, born May 1st, 1820. Died January 27, 1897. Ordained one of the Seven Presidents of Seventies October 9th, 1894." Another from the family bore the word "Father," and many other smaller tributes covered the beautiful white metallic casket containing the remains of the deceased. A sheath of ripe barley, indicating the ripened years of the deceased, was most appropriate.

The Tabernacle decorations were very neat and appropriate to the occasion, the white drapery on the stands and the great variety of potted plants, ferns, palms, evergreens, etc., giving an air of cheerfulness and peace, emblematical of purity and hope. The body of the large building was filled with those who assembled to pay their last respects to the deceased.

Shortly after 2 o'clock and directly following a beautiful and appropriate selection on the organ, President Angus M. Cannon of the Salt Lake Stake announced the opening of the services. The pit of the Tabernacle was filled to its capacity.

The choir sang the hymn:

When first the glorious light of truth
Burst forth in this last age.

Prayer was offered by Elder Jonathan G. Kimball.

The choir further sang:

Only Father, Thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place.

Elder Seymour B. Young was the first speaker. He said as an associate of Elder Stevenson he had been called upon to make a few remarks concerning him. He knew of no other missionary in the Church so widely known as Brother Stevenson. He had been engaged in the ministry ever since he was 14 years of age, at the time of receiving a testimony of the Prophet Joseph's divine mission. He had crossed the ocean in the interest of the gathering of Israel nine times and had also traveled over the Plains nearly a score of times. Ever since his boyhood days he had been engaged in the ministry. In the month of October, two years ago, Elder Stevenson was called to act as one of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—a position which he occupied up to the time of his death.

The speakers referred to Elder Stevenson's recent missionary labors in the North Pacific States, accompanied by Elder Matthias F. Cowley. While so engaged the deceased was taken quite ill and although released from his labors to return home, and being relieved from his sickness for a length of time, his recuperation was not sufficiently strong to permit of his complete recovery.

Elder Stevenson, said the speaker, was a true man. He had kept the faith; he had fought the good fight and had now gone to receive his just reward. The latter day Saints knew Edward Stevenson and they had every confidence in his testimony—the testimony that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of the Most High God. He was a man who had implicit confidence in his Heavenly Father, and he revered, honored and loved his brethren and associates in the Priesthood. He always extended the hand of fellowship and love unto them, and in their ministrations unto him in his hours of affliction, he never forgot to thank them and to reiterate his unflinching and never-changing testimony concerning the work of the Lord. He was a pure man and never feared, while treading the path of duty knowing full well that God his Father would guard him at all times and on all occasions. With him duty came first, and all other things were of a secondary consideration. Probably no other man in the Church delivered as many sermons as he, because he was a man always found in the front line as a missionary. His life was such as to make the world better for his having lived and now that he had gone to his reward, the welcome plaudit awaited him, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Elder Young in conclusion asked God's blessings rest upon those heretofore of a loving father, a true and devoted friend.

Elder Jonathan G. Kimball followed. He said his intimate acquaintance with Elder Stevenson, dated back only to the time of his (Elder Stevenson's) having become affiliated with the first seven presidents of Seventies. He could say of him that he was a good, faithful man and one who