

George Temple I had a son, who was in the north country, drowned. He was 21 years of age, and was a faithful young man. He had a warning of this. In a dream he was notified how he would die. We had testimony of that after his death. I asked the Lord why he was taken from me. The answer to me was, "You are doing a great deal for the redemption of your dead; but the law of redemption requires some of your own seed in the spirit world to attend to work connected with this." That was a new principle to me; but it satisfied me why he was taken away. I name this, because there are a great many instances like it among the Latter-day Saints. This was the case with Brother Abraham Cannon. He was taken away to fulfill that mission. And where we have anything of this kind, we should leave it in the hands of God to reconcile.

Let us try as Latter-day Saints to qualify ourselves to do the will of God and bear off His kingdom, and be true and faithful to the end, which may God grant, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

### THE BRIGHAM YOUNG OF 1896.

(Copyrighted 1896 by Frank G. Carpenter.)

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, Oct. 7th, 1896.



HAVE just had a chat with the Brigham Young of 1896. His name is Willford Woodruff. He is the spiritual head of the 300,000 Mormons who are now to be found in Utah and other parts of the world, and as such he is one of the most remarkable ecclesiastical rulers of the world. My appointment for meeting him was at the president's house and I was received there by the honorable Joseph Smith, one of the Twelve Apostles, and Elder Penrose, the historian of the church. I had chatted with them a moment when a short, broad-shouldered, well-built man, who did not look to be more than sixty years of age, came in. He had kind blue eyes, and his square face was almost free from wrinkles. He was about five feet seven inches tall, and his weight, I judge, was about one hundred and fifty pounds. His dress was black broadcloth, and his linen was as white as the thick thatch of silver which covered his head. He walked in with a firm step and shook my hand with a cordial grip, as Mr. Smith introduced me to him. It was President Woodruff, who was born in Connecticut in 1807, during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, and who is still young, notwithstanding that he is in his ninetieth year. I have known several men in their nineties, but none who show so much mental and physical vitality as does this Mormon president. I interviewed the millionaire, Coicoran, when he was ninety. He walked with a cane and tottered about, being supported by his body servant. During his latter years he kept to his bed the greater part of each day, and though intellectually bright, had nothing of the physical vigor of President Woodruff. George

Bancroft, the historian, only pretended to work after he was ninety. He was not strong, and he sometimes dropped off to sleep in the midst of the public dinners which he attended. Mrs. President Harrison's father, Dr. Scott, was able to walk about at ninety-three, but a servant always accompanied him, and in chatting with me he repeated himself and showed that his memory was wandering. Willford Woodruff is still full of vigor. He laughed like a boy several times during our chat, and at times he rose and walked about the room. He took a trip to Alaska last summer, and he stood the journey as well as any man in the party.

During our conversation I asked him to what he attributed his wonderful working powers. He replied:

"I come from a long-lived family, and inherit a strong constitution. I believe that both temperance and hard work lead to longevity, and I have all my life been temperate and a hard worker. These two things have helped me, but outside of and apart from them there is another element which, it seems to me, has had much to do with my strength. In looking back over my life it seems to me that there have always been two powers at work about me, one trying to destroy me, the other to keep me alive. So far the latter has prevailed. Why, I have gone through all kinds of perils and had all kinds of accidents. Nearly every bone of my body has been broken at some time or other. My legs were broken twice. I was twice almost dead from drowning. My ribs were broken at another time, and I have had about a score of attacks of bilious colic. I now suffer from the asthma, which keeps me from sleeping, but, praise God, I am still able to work."

"He has another element which keeps him alive," said Mr. Smith. "This, I suppose, you would not count much, but we count it a great deal. He has the prayers of about 200,000 people going up every day for his health."

"Then you Mormons believe in prayer?"

"We have faith in prayer, and we believe in cures being accomplished by the laying on of hands," was the reply. "By the way, there is a slip which will show you just what we do believe. It was written by Joseph Smith, and it embraces the articles of our faith."

Here Mr. Woodruff handed me a card, which I copy verbatim:

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.

3. We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

4. We believe that these ordinances are: First, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of our sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by "prophecy, and by the laying on of hands," by those who are in authority, to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church,

namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelations, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

8. We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

9. We believe in all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes. That Zion will be built upon this continent. That Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaical glory.

11. We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where or what they may.

12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul. "We believe all things, we hope all things;" we have endured many things and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things. —Joseph Smith.

As I looked the above article over I said: "I see, Mr. Woodruff, you Mormons believe in the Bible; why, you are almost Christians!"

"Why, bless my soul," replied the old man. "We Christians! Why, man, we are the only true Christians. We believe in the precepts of the Old and New Testaments, and we try to practice what we preach. We believe also that the day of revelation has not passed, and that God still reveals himself to man."

"But, President Woodruff, do all of your people believe these things? Many of the gentiles think that only the poor and ignorant of the church actually have faith in what you preach. Do you believe, and do the Elders of your church believe? Are you honest in your belief?"

The old gentleman looked at me a moment and then replied: "Of course, I believe. Do you suppose we would carry on a life of this kind if we did not have implicit faith in its being the right life, and that from God? Do you know what a Mormon engages to do when he enters the Church? He agrees to leave all at the command of the church, to drop his business, his property and his family, and to go wherever the church directs him. Why, we send out every year from 900 to 1,000 missionaries to all parts of the world. They leave all and go where sent to preach the Gospel. They take neither purse nor scrip with them, and have only enough to sustain them. Take my life. I have been sixty-four years a Mormon. I have traveled many tens of thousands of miles. My life has been in danger. I have been twice almost drowned. I have been persecuted. What had I to gain by all this? What have the young men who are now going abroad to England, to Germany, to the islands of the sea, to gain by it?"