

tended his labors into Kentucky, and baptized thirty-one persons after Elder Parish had left for Kirtland.

During the year 1835, he traveled altogether 3,248 miles, held 170 meetings, baptized 43 persons and organized three branches of the Church.

In the fall of 1836, he returned to Ohio and spent the winter in Kirtland. In May, 1837, he left Kirtland on a mission to the Fox Islands, visiting on the way his relatives in Connecticut, to whom he preached, some of whom he baptized. He landed on North Fox Island August 20, and by the month of October two branches of the Church were organized there. He subsequently introduced the Gospel in the City of Bangor, Maine, visited Boston, Providence, and New York, then went to Farmington, Connecticut, where he baptized his father, step-mother, sister and other relatives, and organized a branch of the Church. He then returned to Fox Island. At North Vinal Haven on August 9th, 1838, he received word that he had been chosen by revelation to fill a vacancy in the Council of the Twelve Apostles, and that he was to go to Far West, Missouri, and prepare to take a mission to England. He organized a company of the Saints to emigrate to the headquarters of the Church, and started October 9th, to lead a company of 53 souls who traveled nearly three months in wagons through rain, mud, snow and frost. While crossing the Green Mountains, Elder Woodruff was attacked with a severe illness and brought to the point of death, but was healed by the power of God through faith. In the following spring he went to Far West to fulfill the commandment, and on April 26, 1839, on the spot designated he and Elder George A. Smith were ordained members of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. He started August 8th, on his mission to England, although then suffering severely from chills and fever. He arrived in Liverpool January 11, 1840, and labored successfully in Staffordshire. Being prompted by the Spirit to go southward, he went to the city of Worcester.

In that neighborhood was a body of earnest religious people, called the United Brethren. The members assembled for religious worship in chapels and other places, and had forty-five preachers among them. They believed that the Church of Christ was not on the earth in its fulness, and were praying and waiting for more light and truth. Elder Woodruff commenced to preach among them, and after eight months labor, eighteen hundred persons had been baptized in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, including all the United Brethren but one, and over a hundred preachers of different denominations. He afterwards went to London on a mission also visited Manchester and on the 21st of April, 1841, after a very prosperous mission, he sailed from Liverpool, and arrived at New York May 20th. He went to Scarborough, Maine, where he had left his family two years, and arrived in Nauvoo October 5th.

Wilford Woodruff was appointed a member of the City Council of Nauvoo, October 30, 1841. Feb. 3, 1842, he was placed in charge of the business department of the Times and Seasons. The following July he went on a mission to the Eastern States, from which he returned November 4th. In the spring of 1844 he went on another mission to the Eastern States, and learning of the murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, he returned to Nauvoo, arriving there August 6th. Being appointed by his brethren of the Twelve to go to England again to preside over the British mission, he left Nauvoo Aug. 28th 1844, and returned early in 1846, when

the Mormons were leaving for the West. He traveled with the Pioneers across the Plains in 1847, being one of the first to arrive on the spot where Salt Lake City stands. In 1848 he was sent on a mission to the Eastern States, returning in 1850. He was elected in December of that year, a member of the Senate of the Provisional State of Deseret. He went on exploring expeditions to different parts of Utah, was active in agricultural pursuits, was chosen President of the Horticultural society of Utah at its organization September 13, 1855, and was prominent in all the affairs of the Territory, civil and ecclesiastical.

Although a very hard worker at farming and fruit raising, as well as in the missionary field, Elder Woodruff kept a daily journal from which much of the history of the Mormon Church has been compiled. It contains synopses of discourses and instructions by Joseph Smith, and other leaders in the Mormon Church, which are of great value, and a record of many incidents which would otherwise have been lost to posterity. The journal has been continued in his own hand writing up to the present date. It is a marvel of patience, perseverance and diligence. In addition to his other duties, President Woodruff was active for a great many years in the affairs of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing society, of which he was the president. For twenty-one years he was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Utah; twenty in the Council and one in the House. In the fall of 1875 he was appointed historian and general recorder of the Church, which position he occupied until April, 1889. When the Temple at St. George, in southern Utah, was dedicated by Brigham Young in the spring of 1877, Wilford Woodruff was appointed President of that Temple, and there he performed an extraordinary work on behalf of his ancestors. The Mormon religion teaches that the departed who have not had the opportunity of hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the flesh, will learn of it in the spirit, and that their living posterity who are in the Church of Christ may perform a work for their redemption, by attending vicariously to the ordinances instituted by the Savior. Elder Woodruff and his family attended in person to baptisms for the dead to the number of 3,188. While presiding in that Temple, about two years, there were 41,398 baptisms performed with other ordinances on behalf of the dead, most of which Elder Woodruff witnessed.

When John Taylor succeeded to the Presidency of the Church, Wilford Woodruff became the President of the Twelve Apostles, and after presiding with the rest of the Twelve until April 7, 1889, he was then sustained at the General Conference as the President of the Church, with Geo. Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as his counselors in the Presidency.

Under the administration of President Woodruff a general Church board of education was formed in 1888, to direct and perfect the system of Church high schools, academies and colleges throughout Utah and the surrounding regions, not, however, to interfere with the secular schools of the territory.

From the year 1834 to the close of 1895, Wilford Woodruff traveled 172,369 miles, held 7,555 meetings, attended 75 Semi-Annual Conferences, and 344 quarterly conferences; preached 3,526 discourses; established 77 preaching places in the missionary field; organized 51 branches of the Church; received 18,977 letters; wrote 11,519 letters; assisted in the confirmation into the Church of 8,952 persons. St. George Temple, labored 603 days in

sons, and in addition to his work in the Enwoden House in Salt Lake City. He traveled through England, Scotland, Wales, six islands of the sea, twenty-three of the United States, and five territories.

President Woodruff has been remarkable, not only for the work he has done, but for the vicissitudes and mishaps which he has encountered through his eventful life. When three years of age he fell into a caldron of boiling water, and it was nine months before he was considered out of danger. When five years old, he fell from the great beam of a barn, striking on his face; three months later he fell down stairs and broke an arm. Soon after, he broke his other arm. At six years old he was chased by a mad bovine, but he fell into a post-hole and the animal leaped over him. The same year he broke both bones of one of his legs in his father's saw mill. When 7 years of age, a load of hay on which he was riding was tipped over upon him, and he was nearly suffocated. When eight years old, a wagon in which he was riding was turned over upon him, but he was not seriously injured. When nine years old, he fell from an elm tree, through the breaking of a dry limb, fifteen feet to the ground, and was supposed to be dead, but he recovered. When twelve years old, he was drowned in Farmington river, Conn., but was brought up by a young man from thirty feet of water. He suffered greatly in his restoration to life. When thirteen years of age, he became benumbed with cold, while walking through the meadows, and went into the sleep of death, becoming insensible, but was found and was restored. When fourteen years old, he split his lip-step open with an axe, and was nine months getting well. At fifteen he was bitten in his left hand by a mad dog. At seventeen, he was thrown from an ill-tempered horse over the horse's head on a steep hill amid the rocks; he landed over the rocks on his feet about a rod ahead. It broke his left leg in two places and dislocated both his ankles. In eight weeks he was out of doors on crutches. In 1827, while attempting to clear the ice out of a water-wheel, a full head of water was turned on, his feet slipped into the wheel, but he plunged forward head first into three feet of water and escaped being crushed to death. In 1831, he was again caught in a wheel twenty feet in diameter, but leaped through to the bottom and was thrown out against a ragged stone wall, and escaped with a few bruises. During the winter of that year he suffered severely from lung fever. In 1833, the day he was baptized, a horse, newly sharp shod, kicked a hat off his head, and ten minutes afterwards he was thrown from a sleigh, without any box, on which he was driving, lighting between the horses, and was dragged with the sleigh on him to the bottom of a hill on a snow path, but escaped unharmed. In 1834 he narrowly escaped death twice from the discharge of fire arms, a rifle ball passing within a few inches of his breast, and a musket, heavily loaded, being snapped with the muzzle pointed at his breast. In April, 1839, in Rochester, Ill., while riding on the forward axle tree of a wagon, he was thrown so that his head and shoulders were dragging. His horses took fright and dragged him about half a mile till they ran into a high fence. He was bruised, but no bones were broken. While going to St. Louis, in July 1842, he had a severe attack of bilious fever, and on returning to Nauvoo, in August, was confined to his bed for forty days, and appeared to be stricken with death, but he recovered by the manifestation of the power of God. September 12, 1843, at 5 p.m., he left Boston on the Portland Express; six miles south of Kennebunk. After