

When you reach here and take a survey of the surroundings in person, you can form a more correct idea of the true condition caused by the flood on May 31st, and the prospects of our people for resuming.

With fraternal regards for your favors shown us,

I remain yours,

W. C. LEWIS, Treas. Fund Com.

#### DEATH OF BISHOP WATSON,

The numerous friends of Bishop James Watson, of the Nineteenth Ward, will be shocked to learn that he died at his residence at half-past eight o'clock on the evening of June 27th. His illness was brief, he being first attacked at four o'clock on the morning of Saturday, June 22nd. The complaint was inflammation of the bowels. He suffered considerably for a few days; on the 26th he became comparatively easy, but gradually grew weaker. In the afternoon he was seized with faintness and it was supposed that he had passed away. He subsequently recovered, but soon began again to sink until he fell asleep at the time already named.

James Watson had light-blue eyes, fair complexion and brown hair. He was of medium height and stoutly built, and naturally possessed considerable physical strength. When at rest his countenance had a grave and thoughtful aspect, but was mobile, animated and expressive when he engaged in conversation. His sympathies were acute and his disposition inclined to mercy, but when once convinced that a person had abused his confidence it was not easy for that individual to regain the forfeited place in his estimation.

He was born at Low Walker-on-Tyne, Northumberland, England, June 6th, 1833, and was the son of Robert Watson and Barbara Moralee. He evidently inherited a strong spiritual nature from his mother, who was specially gifted in that direction, while from his father, who was inclined to skepticism, he derived a tendency to question everything before receiving it. So strong were his religious feelings in boyhood that they superinduced a tendency to melancholy, and he was favored with some unusual spiritual manifestations while yet a lad.

James had an elder brother named William, whom he greatly loved. So strong was his affinity for him that when the two would separate even for a short time and William would walk away, James would stand and gaze longingly and affectionately after him until he disappeared from view. When William was 19 years old James went to work at a place about seven miles distant from home. At that time the cholera was raging in that part of England. At four o'clock one morning before James got out of bed, he beheld his brother in open vision. He appeared to be suspended in the air, his feet being a short distance from the floor; on each side of him was a personage dressed in flowing white robes. After gazing upon this

strange sight for some time he was about to speak, when the vision instantly vanished and he found himself sitting up in bed, wondering what it could all mean.

He went to work as usual at 6 o'clock, and about 7 he saw a lad in the distance riding toward the works on horseback. As he came nearer he discovered it was his brother Joseph. He advanced to meet him and addressing him said, "Joseph, William is dead." Joseph burst into weeping and said it was true, and that he had died of cholera. On reaching home James ascertained that his brother expired at 1 o'clock, the precise time when he saw the vision.

In the early part of 1856 a man named Thompson called upon James and invited him to attend a lecture to be delivered by an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints called Hodson, who proposed to prove from the Bible that Joseph Smith was a prophet raised up in this age to usher in the last dispensation. James remarked to his wife that he should go and hear the lecture, that he believed the man to be an impostor, and that he should take his Bible with him, and if he found the matter as he supposed it would be he should arise in the audience and expose the imposition. Mrs. Watson tried to dissuade him from this purpose, but to no effect, so he went imbued with this intention. He listened to Elder Hodson, who spoke on the literal gathering of Israel and the setting up of the Kingdom of God in the latter days and was convinced that his statements were true.

He at once began an investigation of the doctrines of the Church and attending meetings. Bishop Lunt was Pastor of the Newcastle District at that time, and invited him, although not then a member of the Church, to remain during a Priesthood meeting, the occasion being the trial of a man for his fellowship. The man placed on trial objected to his presence, on the ground that he was a non-member and he was about to leave the hall, when Brother Lunt requested him to remain, as his testimony would yet be wanted in a future day as to the validity of the trial. The man was cut off from the Church, and in verification of the prediction of Brother Lunt the question of the validity of the proceeding was afterwards sprung, James being a witness and testifying that the person referred to was justly excommunicated.

On the 5th of September, 1856, James was baptized by Elder William Thompson, the same man who invited him to attend Elder Hodson's lecture. He was shortly afterwards ordained to the office of a Priest, and Elder Lunt said to him, "Go and thrust in thy sickle and reap, for the harvest is ready, the laborers are few, and you shall yet be the means of bringing many into the Church."

Brother Watson engaged in preaching at every available opportunity, and soon after his ordination he had a singular dream. He thought he saw a new line of railroad, excellently and solidly con-

structed. Beside him on this line were a splendid engine and tender, with no cars attached. While he looked at and admired them a voice said to him, "Get on the engine and drive." Turning to a friend of his who he thought was standing by him, he said—"I have no experience in driving; you get on and drive and I will be your fireman." This man declined, saying that Brother Watson should be the engineer and he the fireman. They both got on and away they sped. As they progressed they beheld many inferior roads converging toward the line they were on, with dirty, ugly engines and coal-trucks traveling in the same direction. A collision seemed inevitable. The engineer resolved not to stop, however, but to increase the speed and dash boldly on. As they approached the other trains they bent their heads and there was a tremendous crash. When they recovered from the shock they beheld ruin on every hand among the trains of the other lines, but the engine and tender they were on were unscathed and sound as ever.

Brother Watson told his dream to a brother who was noted for having a gift to interpret. He said—"The new railroad is the fullness of the gospel revealed through Joseph Smith, the other lines are the religious sects of the day and the cars the sectarians; the new locomotive is a new branch over which you will preside and the man who acted as fireman will join the Church and be your assistant. The collision signifies that opposition will be met with, but by strong argument and determination, you will be able to demolish it and vindicate the truth."

It happened that a great opposition arose against the church. It was so intense that all the members were discharged from their work, Brother Watson included, except the man who appeared to act as fireman in the dream. Brother Watson commenced business as a contractor on his own account and pursued his duties in the Church with great zeal. He had been ordained to the office of an Elder and soon effected an opening in a place called Crumlington, where he baptized three persons. Following up this success no less than forty were soon added to the Church, a new branch was organized, with Brother Watson as President, and his fireman of the dream as his chief assistant and adviser. He retained the position until he left for Utah in 1863, the dream being thus verified in every detail.

He left Liverpool on May 30th, 1863, and arrived in Salt Lake City on the 11th of October of the same year, having crossed the plains in the old fashioned way—by ox-team transportation.

He is well and favorably known as a member of the firm of Watson Brothers, builders and contractors, his brother Joseph being his partner. Their reputation for skill in their line is second to none in Utah. Many handsome and substantial structures in this city and elsewhere bear testimony to that fact. Among these are the south section of the main Z. C. M. I. building, the shoe