

Udall, who has been superintendent of the Y. M. M. I. Associations of the Stake since December 4th, 1892, was released, and Lee Roy Gibbons was sustained to fill that position, with Nofear Davis as his first and Byron Pace as his second counselors, and Warren J. Mallory as secretary for the Stake.

Elder James N. Skonsen, president of the High Priests' quorum, having been ordained a Patriarch on the 7th of January, 1894, by Apostle Brigham Young, it was thought best to release him, and Elder Niels P. Johnson of the St. Johns ward was sustained as president of that quorum with Prime T. Coleman, of Springville, as his first counselor.

Your Brother in the Gospel,
CHARLES JARVIS,
Stake Recorder.

FIRST ON RECORD.

MESA, ARIZONA, March 4, 1894.

Again "looking backwards" I would much like to learn whose name is on record as being the first Elder in this dispensation to die while absent in a field of mission labor. I am quite certain it was Elder James Brackenberry, who died in the winter of 1831-32, near Fredonia, N. Y., where he had previous to his death raised up quite a branch of the Church. His descendants are now numbered by thousands, not one of the original members of which, and few if any of their descendants ever became apostate.

If anything further upon this subject should be desired, a page from my "Life Review" might be interesting to some.

We have now seasonable showers with continued health and comparative prosperity, but we are in bereavement. Our beloved Stake president, C. I. Robson, has passed to the society of the more blessed in the beyond, while we remain to labor and wait.

He died on the 24 ult. from a complication growing out of heart failure and the fearful kick received from a horse. In character he was a friend to humanity and noble as a man from the ground up. He was respected by all and beloved by those who best knew him, and we mourn his loss.

B. F. JOHNSON.

[Elder Lorenzo D. Barnes, who died in England December 20, 1842, is the first on the Roll of Honor which has been published in these columns by authority of the Church historian.

ED. NEWS.]

LETTERS FROM MEXICO.

COLONIA JUAREZ, Nr. Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 27, 1894.

If people in Utah will be more particular in writing correctly the address on their letters there will not be so much complaint about the loss of letters in Mexico. For instance, there is "Ciudad Juarez" and "Colonia Juarez." Sometimes letters are directed C. Juarez, and this causes confusion, delay and no doubt at times loss. If letters for this place were directed Colonia Juarez, near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico, it would be an improvement on most of the

addresses that come to this office. Care should be taken, as letters have come here without even the name of the person on the envelope.

MILES P. ROMNEY,
P. M. Juarez.

CHURCH THEOLOGY CLASS.

The class met in the Assembly Hall at the time appointed, the session being opened with prayer by Elder Joseph Dean. Elder Talmage then considered briefly several incidental questions, bearing upon subjects already treated, in a very satisfactory manner.

The text for the day's lesson was taken from the eighth article of faith, "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." The Bible, an analysis of it, the many versions, and its authenticity having been considered in the last session, a brief study of the Book of Mormon was taken up.

The Book of Mormon as we have it is a translation of gold plates containing an account of the ancient civilized peoples who inhabited America. These plates contained an abridgement of more extensive records which had been kept on other plates known as the "large plates" and "smaller plates" that were prepared by Nephi. The abridgement was principally made by Mormon, under whose leadership the Nephites fought their last battles; but after his death the records were completed by his son Moroni, who delivered them to Joseph Smith in 1827.

The Book of Mormon was translated from the ancient language in which it was written by Joseph Smith through the power of God.

The class was dismissed with prayer by Elder Jedediah Taylor.

TREATMENT OF ONYX.

The onyx industry of Utah promises to become a great one. Few persons are aware of the immense amount of development work that is now being done much less do they suspect that that precious stone is being shipped to this city in car load lots.

A representative of the NEWS was March 12th shown over and about the big stone yard of Watson Bros. on Sixth West street between North and South Temple streets, and was very much surprised and pleased at what he saw there.

The yard is connected with the Rio Grande Western by means of a private switch and has upon it one of the best if not the very best stone working plants west of Chicago. What attracted the attention of the newspaper man most was the method of sawing, rubbing and polishing the huge blocks of onyx from the beds of the Utah Mexican Onyx company. The most of this material will be used to fill the company's contract in furnishing the onyx for the joint city and county building though the owners and operators have numerous minor contracts to fill and new orders are being received in satisfactory numbers. The company has apparently got a bonanza and is not slow to appreciate that fact.

It was very interesting to note how easily a car could be unloaded by one man. By means of powerful and deli-

cate movable cranes one man is able to lift a stone weighing ten tons from the car and convey it to any part of the yard that is desired. Twenty or thirty tons can easily be unloaded by a single man in as many minutes.

The blocks of onyx are very crude and rough as they come from the quarry, and at first glance the impression is created that tons of stone are on this account shipped at a loss. The onyx being one of the hardest of stones, considerable difficulty is encountered in sawing it into slabs, and the process is a very slow and laborious one, requiring the most patient and vigilant watchcare on the part of the workmen.

The big blocks are first swung on to an elevated platform of enormous strength, directly under a large number of saws of the finest metal which parallel each other and which are about an inch apart. These are adjustable so that the slab can be cut into any desirable thickness. They are operated by a steam engine and are kept constantly cold and wet by sprays of water which are automatically distributed over them, while the grooves that the saws slowly wear are made deeper by the combined use of the water and clean, sharp river sand. When the statement is made that these powerful saws, which are about thirteen feet in length only sink into the stone at the rate of three-quarters of an inch an hour when driven to their utmost capacity the tediousness of the work becomes apparent.

After the blocks are sawn into slabs they are conveyed to a large cylindrical rubbing machine, which is also operated by steam. This device is a very fine one, and was made in this city by Silver Bros. at a cost, said Mr. Watson, cheaper than it would have been possible to import it. The polishing is another interesting process, but this work is mostly done by hand at the present time.

The croakers who have so often said that Utah onyx cannot be found in large flawless slabs should visit Watson Bros.' yards and there see for themselves specimens ten and twelve feet in length, and five and six feet in width, without a crack or mark to in any way mar their beautiful surface.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Eighteenth quorum of Elders of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion held at Union last Sunday, Brother L. Andersen was set apart as second counselor to Brother Thomas H. Walke, president of that quorum, Elders Angus M. Cannon and Joseph E. Taylor, of the presidency of the Stake, officiating. This change was occasioned by Brother C. A. Sundstrom, formerly second counselor, being now in the missionary field.

A vacancy in the presidency of the Fifth quorum of Elders having occurred some time since through the death of Brother Ranch S. Kimball, at the regular monthly meeting held in the Fifteenth ward assembly hall last (Monday) evening, Brother Griffith P. Roberts was set apart as second counselor to Brother James W. Ure, president of this quorum, by Elders Angus M. Cannon and Joseph E. Taylor, of the presidency of the Stake.

Appropriate remarks were made at these meetings by Elders Angus M. Cannon and Joseph E. Taylor.