

DECEASE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH.

The announcement that President George A. Smith, First Counselor to the President, had departed this life at eight o'clock and forty minutes this morning, will fall with telling force upon the Latter-day Saints in these mountains and throughout the world. All have doubtless heard of his lengthy sickness and all have exercised their faith for his recovery. If the people had the power, and were to be governed by their own natural feelings without reference to the will of God, such men as Brother George A. Smith would never die.

His sickness originated in what appeared to be a severe cold, with which he was attacked early last Spring about the time of his return from St. George, where he had spent the Winter. At the General Conference in April he was so unwell that he was compelled, much to his regret, to refrain from speaking to the people. Subsequently one of the most painful features of his disease was an inability to sleep. From this he has almost constantly suffered during the Summer. It was not that he did not have the inclination to sleep, but frequently, when he did sleep, his lungs would cease to act and he would awake gasping for breath. For the greater part of the time of his sickness he has been compelled to get the most of his sleep while partly reclining in a chair. It can be imagined that his sufferings have at times been severe; but he has endured them with admirable patience and fortitude. For one it has seemed that nothing but his own strong will and determination not to yield to death, backed by the faith of the Saints, has kept him alive. At the very worst times of his sickness he would take his exercise in the open air in a carriage, frequently riding for miles, and no longer ago than the day before yesterday he was out riding as usual. His desire for life was strong, for the sole purpose of promoting the kingdom of God upon the earth. He felt that if it was the Lord's will he could yet render considerable aid in fighting the battle of truth. In conversation last evening with President Young, Elder John Taylor, Dr. J. M. Bernheim and others, he remarked that if it was the Lord's will he was willing to stay and fight the battles of Zion with President Young and his brethren; but if he was wanted on the other side of the veil, he was perfectly willing to go, as he had endeavored during his entire career to properly discharge every duty that had devolved upon him, had nothing for which to reproach himself, and felt that he had a good record on this and the other side of the veil.

For a few days past he has seemed to be more impressed with the idea that he would not be permitted to stay, and in conversation with his family has alluded to his probable decease. A night or two ago he requested his son, John Henry, who has recently returned from England to be with his father in his sickness, to take the Bible and read the 23rd verse of the 10th chapter of Job. He did so, and continued reading until he had completed the 27th verse, when he stopped him. The words are—

"Oh that my words were now written; Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall behold, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

A most appropriate expression of his own feelings, and a dying testimony in favor of the grand and consoling doctrine of the resurrection of the body!

During last night he was very restless, and was up and down many times, alternately lying on the bed and sitting in a chair. In fact there has been no time since he was taken sick that he has not been able to get up and dress himself and move about from room to room. He conversed freely during the night, and in the morning dressed himself and walked out of his bed-room into the garden sitting-room. When he returned to his room, he was attended by Elder Young, who has been his faithful physician and attendant during his sickness, called upon him he described to him his feelings. He was sitting in a chair at the time. Death came upon him suddenly. No struggling, no contortions; two long, drawn breaths and the straightening up of his body were all that gave his family and attendant any intimation of his departure. His hand fell into the arms of his wife, and life had fled. He passed away at twenty minutes to nine o'clock this Wednesday morning, September 3, 1873.

Thus has left this mortal sphere one of the noblest and purest men, through obedience to the Spirit of God, that ever lived, a man of so faithful and upright a character that, though a public man from his boyhood, there is not a word or an action of his which his children and friends cannot reflect upon with pleasure. He was remarkable in his boyhood for his grasp of mind, his wonderful powers of memory and his fearlessness in advocating and defending the truth. Under any circumstances he would have been a man of mark; but under the influence of the Gospel and the circumstances which surrounded his believers, the best powers of his nature were called into full exercise. He was not quite seventeen years of age when he left

Kirtland to go to Missouri in the Camp of Zion, yet even then, among men who themselves were no common-place characters, he was distinguished for the precocity of his mind. His early ripeness of intellect and manly courage and strength, with the blessing and power of God which attended when it is remembered that in the days of difficulty and trial, just as the Saints were being driven from the State of Missouri, when he was chosen to be one of the Twelve Apostles, he was not quite twenty-two years of age! In his subsequent labors, though a comparative boy in years, he did the work of a fully developed, judicious and experienced man. Whatever work was assigned to Brother George A., no one who knew him ever had the least doubt of his willingness and capacity to thoroughly perform it; they knew beforehand that it would be well done according to the best of his knowledge. Yet his physical health was far from being good at all times. His integrity and devotion to the cause of God, his zeal and public spirit, his frank, genial and unassuming manners inspired the Saints with love for and confidence in him; they took delight in listening to his discourses and addresses, which were models of terseness and brevity. President Young, in speaking of his beloved counselor and friend this morning, said: "I have known Brother George A. Smith for forty-two years, have traveled and labored in the ministry with him for many years and have believed him to be as faithful a boy and man as ever lived, and in my opinion had as good a record on this and the other side of the veil as any man. I never knew of his neglecting or overlooking a duty; he was a man of sterling integrity, a cabinet of history and always true to his friends."

He was aged 58 years, 2 months and 5 days. The following written wish of President George A. Smith respecting his funeral will be interesting to the Saints, as showing his dislike for show and parade. It was written in November, 1873—

"While executing my will of date the 14th Oct., 1872, I inserted the following clause—

"I wish to be buried in a coffin made of pine, or of any other wood, and no more costly than my nature. The expenses of an unostentatious funeral to be paid out of my undivided estate; the slab which designates my resting place shall not cost over one hundred dollars."

"A coffin, made of red pine or other mountain wood, plain but well made, large enough to give ample room for the body to swell, with no unnecessary ornaments about it, and three half-inch holes bored in the bottom, will be sufficient."

"At the funeral I should like to have either the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians, or the vision in the book of Covenants, or an appropriate extract from the Book of Mormon read. A few remarks by the Bishop of the Ward, or some of the Elders, exhorting the audience to faith and good works, such as would be calculated to impress my children with the importance of keeping the commandments of God, and such as would tend to comfort and consolation to the minds of the living, would be in accordance with my wishes. Let those who attend the funeral do so in clean attire, such as they would wear to meeting on other occasions."

The following incidents of his life we briefly extract from his History—

"George Albert Smith was born on the 28th of June, 1817, in Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co., New York. His father, John Smith, was the sixth son of Asael and Mary, and was born on the 16th day of July, 1781. He married Clarissa Lyman, on the 11th of September, 1815.

"His grandfather, Asael Smith, was the second son of Samuel Smith, the second, and Priscilla, and was born in Topsfield, Massachusetts, March 7th, 1744, and married Mary Dyer, Feb. 12, 1787.

"His great-grandfather, the second Samuel Smith, was the son of the first Samuel Smith and Rebecca Curtis, and was born on the 29th January, 1714, in Topsfield, Essex County, Massachusetts, and married Priscilla Gould, 27th May, 1740.

"His father, Asael Smith, was the second son of Samuel Smith, the second, and Priscilla, and was born in Topsfield, Massachusetts, March 7th, 1744, and married Mary Dyer, Feb. 12, 1787.

"He was baptized on Sept. 10th, May 1, 1838, he, in connection with his family, started for Kirtland, Ohio, where he arrived on the 25th of May.

"May 5th, 1834, he started with Zion's camp for the western border of Missouri, and returned again to Kirtland in the summer, walking on foot nearly two thousand miles.

"May 1st, 1835, he was ordained into the First Quorum of the Seventies.

"June 5, 1835, he started on a mission, and went about two thousand miles, without purse or scrip; held about eighty meetings in the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York; baptized eight, and returned to Kirtland, where he arrived the 6th of October.

"In the Spring of 1836 he received his endowment in the Kirtland temple, after which he performed a mission in Ohio, traveling on foot about twelve hundred miles.

"In the Summer and Fall of 1835, he traveled about 6,000 miles, preaching in the middle and eastern States.

"In the Spring of 1844 he attended conferences and preached in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, and was in the bank and State when he heard of the death of the Prophet and Patriarch of the Church. He immediately returned to Nauvoo and took an active part in the councils and deliberations consequent upon that sad event.

"Sept. 17th he was elected quarter-master of the Nauvoo Legion, was selected Trustee of the Nauvoo Home Association and labored actively in forwarding the erection of that building. He continued these labors until the mob commenced its outrages upon the Saints in the Fall of 1845, from which period he was active in counseling, fervent in his labors on the Temple and in making preparations for the exodus of the Saints from Nauvoo.

"Early in February he crossed his way to find a home in the far west from the rage of mobs and the persecutions of bigoted professors of religion. The ensuing Winter he labored with the main camp at Winter Quarters.

"In 1847 he accompanied Pres. Young and the Pioneer Company in their journey to the Salt Lake and the Great Salt Lake, and after actively assisting in the council and labors incident to the settlement of the Saints, he remained the same season to Winter Quarters, where he arrived October 31st. In 1848 he moved to near Kansas, and in the Spring of 1849, again started for the Great Basin. He reached Salt Lake City, with his family, October 27.

"He was elected a member of the Senate of the provisional State of Deseret, and among other labors reported a bill in relation to building a railroad across the State.

"In December, 1850, he raised a company of 118 volunteers, traveled 285 miles south of Salt Lake City, organized Iron County, and founded a settlement, since called Parowan.

"At the first Territorial election in August, 1851, he was elected a member of the Council of the Territory of Utah, and on the 25th of November was commissioned a Colonel of Cavalry in the Iron military district.

"In 1852 he left Iron county, and was appointed to preside over the affairs of the church in Utah county. He traveled and preached much in all the settlements over which he had the watchcare.

"At the annual conference of the Church in 1854, he was elected Historian and General Church Recorder, and immediately entered upon the duties of the office.

"On February 2nd, 1855, he was admitted a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah.

"On March 26th, 1856, he was elected one of the delegates to present to Congress the constitution of the proposed State of Deseret and the memorial asking the admission of Utah into the Union.

"In 1856-7, during a sojourn of about eleven months in the States, in addition to his duties as delegate, he preached in the States of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

"April 11, 1859, he received from Gov. Durkee the commission of Brigadier-General and was appointed aide-de-camp to the Lieut. General of the Nauvoo Legion.

"At the October Conference, in 1868 he was appointed to succeed the late President Heber C. Kimball, as first counselor to President Brigham Young.

"From the first session of the Territorial Legislature in 1851 until 1864, except one session when absent in the States, he served as a member of the Council, and from 1864 until 1870, as President of the Council.

By Telegraph.

TO-DAY'S DISPATCHES.

EASTERN.

Denied—Browned.

New York, 1.—Sydney Dillon, of the representatives of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Co., in conference with the representatives of the Western Union Telegraph Co., denied that any proposition involving the sale or lease of the A. & P. lines, on the basis of 20 or 25 per cent. of its capital stock, has been suggested or accepted; he also denied that negotiations with the W. U. have been broken off on account of a proposition from the N. Y. National Telegraph Co., or that the president of the latter is in the way of concluding the negotiations. Some months ago Mr. Dillon, on behalf of the New Co., made a proposition, and the Pacific Co. expressed a desire to purchase the latter's lines, or to fuse their interests, but nothing more has been heard from him since. The very about the proposition in the way of concluding the negotiations. Some months ago Mr. Dillon, on behalf of the New Co., made a proposition, and the Pacific Co. expressed a desire to purchase the latter's lines, or to fuse their interests, but nothing more has been heard from him since. The very about the proposition in the way of concluding the negotiations.

A special to the Times, from Calcutta, says that a private telegram from Rangoon says that the King of Burma has refused to receive Col. Duncan; the report is not confirmed, and its authority is doubtful.

Colonel Brown will return from Shanghai soon; it is learned that he has not made much progress in his inquiry into the attack upon his force in Yunnan, owing to the obstructions thrown in his way by the Chinese.

By the terms of the agreement between the Panama Railway and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company the business of both companies, comprising the earnings on freight and passenger carriage, is to be divided. Of the business the Panama Co. is to receive one fourth and the Pacific Mail three-fourths; of the Central American business the Panama Co. is to receive one-third, the business to Panama is to be divided equally. The agreement is for five years, dating from March 1st, 1873.

The Evening Post says that such is the demand for U. S. bonds in Europe that the Rothschild-Morgan-Seligman syndicate, having charge of the sales of the new funding loan 5 per cent. have been able to request the Secretary of the Treasury to issue five million dollars of the five-twenty-fives, six per cent. The call will be issued this p. m., and will be limited to the five-twenty-fives of 1864.

The Central Trust Co. opened for business this morning, with offices at the corner of Pine and Nassau streets. This company has been organized with a capital of one million dollars. The promoters and officers of the company are among the best known merchants of New York. The President is Henry A. Spaulding.

A dispatch from London says that at the opening of business this morning there was a fair demand for American securities, and although the prices, as a rule, are lower, the markets generally are steady. Consols advanced 1/8. U. S. 5-20s, 1867 advanced, and are quoted at 108 1/2, and white ones of 1881 declined 1/8, and are quoted at 109 1/2.

Probable Termination of the Indian "Peace Policy."—A Washington special says the statement is made upon high authority that the forthcoming message to Congress will contain a most urgent recommendation that the Indian Bureau be turned over to the management of the War Department. This is accepted as evidence that the President has finally become convinced that, at least, some of the frauds charged upon the present management of the Indian service have a foundation in fact. It also gives further color to the rumor that Delane will be superseded by J. Russell Jones, of Illinois, as it is probable that he is negotiating in this manner reflected upon Secretary Delane, the President would retain him in the Cabinet. The President has always been in favor of having the control of the Indians vested in the War Department, but has had a desire to give the people policy a fair opportunity to demonstrate their fitness for the work, and now that they have failed so miserably, he has decided to transfer the management of the Indian service to the War Department.

Baltimore, 1.—The schooner W. J. Miller, eighteen days from San Domingo city, for Boston, has arrived here, and reports that when five days out of San Domingo, the master, were taken down with fever; Aug. 28, she spoke to an English bark who refused assistance, and the schooner was abandoned. Captain Lewis of Bath, Me., who rendered prompt assistance. Two crew members, four are still dangerously ill.

Pottsville, 1.—There was much excitement at Shenandoah, this a. m., occasioned by the shooting of Thos. Sanger, at the Lehigh colliery; Sanger was the inside boss of the Lehigh colliery, and was shot by five men, all strangers, receiving six bullets; he expired immediately. The cause of the assassination is said to be that the miners became dissatisfied with Sanger's management, and refused to work under him; they resumed labor, however, but since then he has received coffin notices, and was killed. A later telegram says that two more men have been shot.

St. Louis, 1.—The investigation of the charges against Indian Agent Gibson, of the Osage agency, Kansas, has been concluded so far as the Indian Department is concerned, and the commission have adjourned to Lawrence, to examine certain documents and make up their report. It is stated that the evidence against Gibson is very damaging, and his removal will probably be recommended. It is shown that he has made a practice of issuing vouchers signed in blank, and then filling them up with larger sums than were actually paid; also that he has received money from certain charges of irregularities against Superintendent Hoag, but failed, mainly because the witnesses kept out of reach or declined to testify.

A Big Robbery.—Pittsburg, Pa., 1.—An extensive robbery was committed some time during last night, at the pawnbroker's establishment of H. W. Chambers. The burglar, armed in entering the safe and carrying off 72 gold watches, 32 silver watches, and diamonds and jewelry, amounting in value to \$7,000.

Part of the Washington, 1.—A commission composed of persons from different parts of the United States, under the auspices of the California Im-

FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Denied.

LONDON, 1.—Captain Nares, of the British Polar expedition, in a communication to the admiralty has stated that the supplies of food appear to be in a fair state of preservation, considering the time they have been exposed. The Danish officials have taken great pains to prevent their deterioration. The foreign office denies the truth of the telegram published yesterday, that the King of Denmark has refused to receive the British Polar expedition, and that the government of China has refused to receive the expedition.

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To make room for our Fall Importations, our

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White and Colored Toilet Quilts, Linen Sheetings and Pillow-casing; Bleached, Brown and Turkey Dam-asks and Napkins; Bleached, Brown, and Stripe Turkish Towels; Huck and Damask Towels; Nottingham Laces; Nottingham & Tam-bour Lace Curtains; Piano Covers, and Damask Table Cloths.

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Has Commenced Striking in his Old Shop, known as the

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Where he will be pleased to receive his Friends and Patrons and to do all the Business will be carried on in an amicable manner.

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Everything in the Building Line.

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POUNDS OF WOOL.

Of Good Merchandise Quality.

25 CENTS A POUND.

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At President Brigham Young.