

of the great God; and may it there remain until the whole fabric is completed; and may the same be accomplished speedily, that the Saints may have a place to worship God, and the Son of Man have where to lay His head."

The south-west corner stone was next laid by Don Carlos Smith, presiding over the High Priests. The north-west corner was laid under the direction of the High Council, and the north-east by Bishop Newel K. Whitney, representing the Aaronic Priesthood.

This was a time of rejoicing by the Saints. The conference lasted five days, and the Prophet cheered the hearts of the people with comforting speeches.

The work now progressed rapidly. Eighteen stone cutters were dressing the rock for the building. A general tithing record was opened and donations came in freely. Faithful Elders went into the woods to obtain the necessary lumber. It is worth while mentioning that the sisters took a prominent part in contributing cash to the funds. On the suggestion of Hyrum Smith, they were solicited to donate one cent a week, and responded so promptly that large sums of money came in in this way.

In the fall of 1841 a baptismal font was built in the basement of the temple. The Prophet describes this in the following terms: "The baptismal font is situated in the centre of the basement room, under the main hall of the temple. It is constructed of pine timber, and put together of staves tongued and grooved, oval shaped, sixteen feet long east and west, and twelve feet wide, seven feet high from the foundation, the basin four feet deep. The moulding of the cap and base are formed of beautiful carved work in antique style. The sides are finished with panel work. A flight of stairs on the north and south sides, leading up and down into the basin, is guarded by side railing. The font stands upon twelve oxen, four on each side, and two at each end, their heads, shoulders and fore legs projecting out from under the font; they are carved out of pine plank, glued together, and copied after the most beautiful five-year old steer that could be found in the country. This font was built for the baptisms for the dead until the temple shall be finished, when a more durable one will supply its place."

The first person officiating for the dead in this font was Reuben M'Brade. Several miraculous cures from diseases followed the observance of the sacred rite, strengthening the faith of the Saints.

On the 28th of October, 1842, the work was so far advanced that meetings could be held in the temple, and the following Sunday Apostle John Taylor addressed a congregation there. On May 21, 1843, the Prophet preached, on which occasion the sacrament was administered to the Saints, the emblems being bread and water, for the first time.

The martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum delayed the work for some time, but it was soon recommenced, and notwithstanding all difficulties, the capstone was laid on May 24, 1845, about 6 o'clock a. m. There was a large concourse of Saints present. President Brigham Young laid the stone, after which he said:

"The last stone is laid upon the temple, and I pray the Almighty, in the name of Jesus, to defend us in this place, and sustain us, until the temple is finished and all have got our endowments."

The congregation then shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to God

and the Lamb! Amen! Amen! Amen and Amen!"

In the fall of 1845 a meeting was held in the temple, attended by five thousand people, and it was dedicated so far as now completed to the Lord as "a monument of the Saints' liberality, fidelity and faith."

During the months of December, 1845, and January, 1846, many Saints received their endowments, and although the exodus commenced in February, 1846, the work of finishing the building progressed.

On April 30th it was dedicated privately, on account of the persecutions of the mob, and this being done, the Saints fled across the river to join their brethren in exile.

The history of the Nauvoo Temple from this time is a sad one. Like the Temple of Solomon, it was the object of repeated acts of vandalism. The mob took possession of it and profaned it in various ways. In November, 1848, it was set fire to and in a few minutes it was enveloped in flames. The following graphic description in the History of Hancock County reminds the reader somewhat of Josephus on the destruction of Jerusalem:

"It was a beautiful night, and about 3 o'clock (in the morning) fire was discovered in the cupola. It had made but little headway when first seen, but spread rapidly, and in a very short period the lofty spire was in a mass of flame, shooting high in the air, and illuminating a wide extent of country. It was seen for miles away. The citizens arrived, but nothing could be done to save the structure. It was entirely of wood, except the walls, and nothing could have stopped the progress of the flames. In two hours, and before the sun dawned upon the earth, the proud structure, reared at so much cost—an anomaly in architecture, and a monument of religious zeal—stood with four blackened and smoking walls only remaining."

A dreadful tornado swept over the country in May, 1850, and tore down what remained of the walls. The rock was soon hauled away in all directions. It is said that almost every State in the Union has now one or more of the stones that once were laid in the walls of this temple, and that some have even found their way to Europe.

The Nauvoo Temple was built of light grey limestone, and was 128 feet in length, 88 feet in width, and 65 feet from floor to roof. The tower was 165 feet. The amount expended on the building exceeded one million dollars.

#### The St. George Temple.

At a council held in St. George on January 31, 1871, President Brigham Young proposed to build a temple in this place, and the proposition was unanimously sustained. The dedication of the Temple Block took place on November 9th, the same year. On this occasion President Brigham Young took a shovel in his hand and, pointing to a stake which had been driven into the ground, said:

"Immediately under this stake and in the foundation will be placed a stone containing sacred records, and immediately over it, when the building is completed, will be placed another stone containing the record of the temple."

He then said:

"I now commence by moving this soil in the name of Israel's God."

After some further ceremonies, the people joined in shouting hosanna to the Lord.

The same day in the afternoon the work of excavation commenced. Ellis M. Sanders, of St. George, plowed the first furrow in the ground.

The first rock in the foundation was laid on March 10, 1873, and on January 1, 1877, the building was solemnly dedicated to the Lord, President Brigham Young presiding. On the 9th of the same month the administration of the holy ordinances commenced.

On August 16th, 1878, the building was struck by lightning and slightly damaged, but it was soon again repaired.

The St. George Temple is 141 feet 8 inches long, and 93 feet 4 inches wide. The height from the surface of the ground to the top of the parapet is 84 feet. It is surmounted on the east end with a tower, having a square base with octagon-shaped dome.

The quantity of rock in the building is estimated at 17,000 tons. One million feet of lumber is used for it.

There are 11 rooms in the basement. The main room above the basement is 99 feet by 78 feet.

The baptismal font is of iron, and weighs with the oxen and steps 18,000 pounds. It cost \$5,000, and was donated by Brigham Young. The cost of the whole building is estimated at \$800,000.

#### The Logan Temple.

The ground was dedicated on May 18th, 1877, at a special conference, President Brigham Young presiding. It is a beautiful spot, commanding a splendid view of a rich country and numerous settlements.

On the 17th of September the corner stones were laid under the directions of the Apostles. John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Albert Carrington, and Daniel H. Wells were present. Thousands of people gathered from far and near to witness the exercises.

At 12 o'clock a procession was formed under the direction of George Q. Cannon and proceeded to the south-east corner stone. President John Taylor here made a brief speech, alluding feelingly to the death of President Brigham Young. The stone was then laid by the master mason, assisted by the Apostles and Patriarchs. Franklin D. Richards offered prayer. The south-west corner stone was laid by the presiding Bishop, assisted by the president of the lesser Priesthood and the Bishops of the Stake. Bishop Edward Hunter addressed the assembly and Bishop Leonard W. Hardy offered prayer. The north-west corner stone was laid by the president of the High Priests' quorum, assisted by President Moses Thatcher, Wm. B. Preston, the Presidency of the Logan Stake and other stakes. George L. Farrell made a brief address and Moses Thatcher offered prayer. The north-east corner stone was laid by the First Presidents of the Seventies, assisted by the Presidents of the Elders' quorums. A. P. Rockwood made an address and Horace S. Eldredge offered prayer.

Several brief addresses were made, and the ceremonies were brought to a close.

On May 17th the temple was dedicated in the presence of a large gathering of Saints. The presiding Priesthood were seated according to their respective callings. President Taylor offered the dedicatory prayer. Among the speakers were President George Q. Cannon and