

the presidency of the Stake, most of the High Counselors and Bishops were present. The sacrament was administered, after which Elder Roberts addressed the congregation, and delivered an excellent Gospel sermon.

On Monday the 5th in the forenoon the Bishops were called upon to report the condition of the wards. Elders E. N. Freeman, W. H. Gibbons and B. H. Roberts occupied the greater part of the afternoon, and the Stake authorities were unanimously sustained. In order to reach Erastus before night Elder Roberts started for that place as soon as he had finished speaking.

The Saints had a most enjoyable time and much good counsel was given. All seemed to be well paid for attending conference, although some had to travel a great distance and the weather was boisterous.

CHAS. JARVIS, Stake recorder.

### LEONARD'S FINAL REPORT.

City Assessor and Collector Leonard has filed his final report with Auditor Raybould. A summary of it is as follows:

CITY TAX ROLL, 1892.	
Original assessment as returned.....	\$ 52,593,293
Add increase.....	146,910
Total.....	\$ 52,740,203
Less deductions made by council....	1,241,065
Net assessment.....	\$ 51,504,240
INCREASE.	
Rocky Mt. Bell Telephone Co.....	\$ 30,000
Salt Lake Rapid Transit Co.....	22,210
Rio Grande Western Railway Co.....	3,110
Salt Lake City Gas Co.....	40,000
Union Pacific Railway.....	19,590
Total.....	\$ 146,910
REDUCTIONS.	
Commercial National bank.....	\$ 62,820
Deseret Savings bank.....	26,900
Deseret National bank.....	136,000
State bank of Utah.....	100,460
Utah Commercial & Savings bank....	39,120
Zion's Savings Bank & Trust Co.....	58,400
National Bank of the Republic.....	101,400
American National bank.....	37,000
Bank of Commerce.....	20,000
Union National bank.....	68,400
Utah National bank.....	42,000
State street property.....	56,700
Deductions on property by wards.....	423,665
Total deductions.....	\$ 1,241,065
RECAPITULATION.	
Total assessment.....	\$51,704,240 00
Total amount received from taxes.....	252,046 91
Commission at 1% per cent.....	3,962 81

### DRY EARTH SYSTEM.

City Health Commissioner Beatty has become a strong advocate of the dry earth system of sanitation and has prepared an ordinance for passage by the council for its regulation and enforcement. Dr. Beatty says he believes "that the measure will prove to be a thorough solution to the vexatious but extremely important question of the disposal of all excrementitious matter until the sewer system can be extended and completed."

"There can be no mistake in passing the measure," says the commissioner, "as it is no experiment, the system being in vogue in many cities and is the best possible substitute for sewage; furthermore there can be no hardship attached to the compliance with its provisions. The closets now in use may be utilized, merely substituting a box or other receptacle for the vault or excavation. The removal of the

city's expense will not involve a very great outlay under the plan now being considered for the removal of garbage by contract, and only in such a manner will it be possible to properly and thoroughly regulate the system."

The ordinance makes it unlawful for any person to construct or make use of any closet, vault or excavation.

On all inhabited premises, where sewer connection cannot be made there shall be provided a watertight box or other close receptacle of a portable character. This receptacle shall be placed in an outhouse or other suitable place and shall then be known as a dry earth closet. Every closet shall be furnished with a supply of dry earth or ashes. All vaults within the sanitary districts shall be emptied for a depth of not less than two feet below the surrounding surface, the remaining contents shall be disinsected in accordance with the regulations of the health department, and the pit or vault shall be filled in with earth and abandoned. The fee for emptying such vaults shall not exceed twenty cents per cubic foot, which shall include the work of filling in the vault and shall be paid by the owner.

All surface closets shall be cleared, disinsected and abandoned.

No water or kitchen slops or garbage or rubbish of any kind shall be deposited in any dry earth closet.

The contents of the dry earth system shall be removed, at proper intervals, at the expense of the city.

No dry earth closet shall be constructed or placed in use without first having obtained a permit in writing from the health department.

All premises abutting upon a street or alley, where sewer connection can be made, shall be connected at once with the sewer and all cesspools existing and in use on such premises shall be filled in and abandoned.

Any person failing to comply with, or who violates any of the provisions of the foregoing section of this ordinance shall be fined in any sum not less than \$5 for every twenty-four hours of failure or refusal to comply with the ordinance.

The ordinance will come up at the meeting of the City Council tomorrow night.

### FIRST MARTYR OF THE CHURCH.

In a brief history of the Church written by the late President George A. Smith, for the *People's Journal*, and published in the *DESERET NEWS* of September 5, 1855, the historian in describing the attack on Joseph Smith the Prophet and Sidney Rigdon by a mob in Hiram, Portage county, Ohio, in 1832, refers to a little child who lost its life through being exposed to the night air at the time of the mobbing, and says: She may therefore be called the first martyr of this dispensation."

The account given of the affair is all correct, except that which mentions the sex of the little martyr. It was a little boy, and not a girl who lost his life on that dreadful night. And in order to establish this fact beyond a doubt so that future historians may not, as I have done, perpetuate the error (which perhaps was a mere typographical one in the first place), I will give the particulars as I have obtained them from Elder John R. Murdock, of Beaver, and Bishop Gideon

A. Murdock, of Joseph city, Sevier county, both brothers of the child who died.

On the 30th of April, 1831, in Warrensville township, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, the wife of John Murdock gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl, who were named respectively Joseph (in honor of the prophet) and Julia. The mother died six hours after their birth. The Prophet Joseph, who at that time resided at Kirtland, about 15 miles from Warrensville, heard of the circumstance, and came to visit Brother Murdock, who agreed to let the Prophet have the two little children to raise as his own, Emma, Joseph's wife, having lost a child about the same time and had no other children. In September, 1831, Joseph Smith removed with his family to Hiram, Portage county, about thirty miles from Kirtland, where he still resided in March, 1832, when he and Sidney Rigdon were dragged out of their beds in the night, tarred and feathered and nearly killed. The little boy (eleven months old) who lost his life on that occasion was in bed with the Prophet when the mob attacked the house. The twin sister (Julia) who on the night of the outrage slept with Emma Smith, the Prophet's wife, was raised in the Smith family; and after attaining the age of womanhood married Eleha Dickson, who was accidentally killed by the explosion of a steamboat, of which he was partly owner. Subsequently she married a lawyer of the name of Middleton, with whom she lived until her death which occurred near Nauvoo, Illinois, Sept. 10, 1880. She died from cancer in the breast.

Under date of February (should read March) 22, 1832, Joseph Smith writes in his history: "Before going to Hiram to live with Father Johnson, my wife had taken two children (twins) of John Murdock to bring up. She received them when they were nine days old; they were now nearly eleven months." Referring to the mobbing on the night of March 25th (should read the 24th) the Prophet says: "During the mobbing one of the twins received a severe cold, and continued to grow worse till Friday when it died. (See *Mill. Star*, vol. xiv, p. 148, 161).

As the Hiram mob had no other cause for attacking the Prophet than that he was a servant of the Lord and had been preaching the Gospel with considerable success in the neighborhood, it is eminently proper that the little boy who lost his life under the circumstances here mentioned should be classed among the martyrs. Hence the following corrected item of history

Joseph Murdock, who may be called the first martyr in this dispensation, was a son of John Murdock, and was born in Warrensville township, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, April 30th, 1831; died at Hiram, Portage county, Ohio, Friday, March 30th, 1832, from the effects of an exposure. Being sick with the measles, he slept with Joseph Smith in the night between Saturday and Sunday, March 24th and 25th, 1832, when a mob attacked the house in which the family lived and dragged the Prophet out of bed, leaving the child exposed to the night air, which gave it a severe cold resulting in its death.

ANDREW JENSON.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 22, 1893.