

# DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - SEPT. 5, 1877

## DEATH OF PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

AT ONE minute past four o'clock this afternoon, PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG departed this life, surrounded by his family and intimate friends. This announcement will thrill the whole Territory with grief. We feel the weight of this great loss to the world, and cannot at this moment express in the faintest degree, our deep sense of the void occasioned by his departure. He was a GREAT MAN in every sense of the term. And he has left a mark upon the age which the future will never efface, but which will grow brighter and broader as the man, his deeds and his sentiments become better known and appreciated.

To the Latter-day Saints he has been for more than thirty-three years a counsellor, a father, a friend, a guide, and a tower of strength. To all mankind he has been a prophet and a benefactor so far as they would accept his advice and receive of his teachings.

He has, under God, rescued thousands from poverty and raised them to independence, opened the deserts of these mountains to colonization, preached the gospel of salvation to many nations, declared the counsel of heaven to the inhabitants of the earth, prepared the way in the Temples of God for the redemption of hosts of the dead, organized and consolidated the order of the everlasting Priesthood, and, having finished his work on earth, gone into the spirit world to join with Joseph, Hyrum, Willard, Jedediah, Heber, George A. and other great and glorious servants of the Lord, to continue the great work they all labored for on earth.

We mourn his loss. But they rejoice in great gain. If a mighty man has left us in grief, a mightier spirit is received among them with welcomes and gladness. For, his freed soul, no longer clogged with the cares and pains of fading mortality, will wield a potent influence behind the veil.

President Brigham Young was born June 1st, 1801, at Whitingham, Windham County, Vermont. He was consequently aged 76 years, two months and 28 days. We have neither time nor space at this late hour to give any lengthy account of his life and career, but reserve further remarks for another occasion.

We join with the Latter-day Saints throughout the world in deep sorrow for the loss of our President, one of earth's greatest and noblest minds, but, bearing in mind that the Father of all knoweth what is best, we submit to the Divine decree and say, "the will of the Lord be done."

## OBITUARY.

THE tidings of the death of President Brigham Young, announced in last evening's DESERET NEWS, were telegraphed to all parts of the Union. The leading papers of the United States have each published an obituary notice, the cable has flashed the word to Europe, and all parts of the civilized world have been stirred to their depths by the sad news. The name of Brigham

Young is familiar all over the globe. His greatness is universally acknowledged, but his goodness is known only to a few.

The marks of his genius are stamped on the history and travels of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on the city he loved so well, and on the towns, farms, orchards, canals, highways, railroads, telegraphs, private and public buildings, and the thousand and one witnesses to his guiding hand and counselling voice over five hundred miles of country redeemed from a desert. They have uttered his fame with a voice that has penetrated to the uttermost parts of the world.

But his goodness, appreciation of the truth, love for that which is pure and right; detestation of vice and iniquity; desires for the welfare of the Latter-day Saints, spiritual and temporal; regard for the benefit of the whole human race, living and dead; his spirituality, refined taste, earnest faith and devotion to God; and his inspirational, prophetic, and soul-winning qualities are known but to the people who have been gathered from all parts of the earth under his administration, and fully understood and appreciated only by those who were intimately acquainted with him.

The subject of this brief sketch was born in Whitingham, Windham County, Vermont, June 1, 1801.

His father, John Young, was born March 7, 1763, in Hopkinton, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the American Revolutionary Army, and served under General Washington. He was in three campaigns in his native State and in New Jersey. In 1785 he married Nabby Howe, daughter of Phineas and Susannah Howe, who bore him five sons and six daughters. He moved to Vermont in January, 1801, and remained there three years, opening new farms.

His grandfather, Joseph Young, was a physician and surgeon in the French and Indian war, and was killed by the falling of a pole from a fence, in 1769.

His parents moved from Vermont to Sherburne, Chinoago County, New York, in 1804, where, as he grew in years, he assisted in the arduous labors incident to opening farms in a heavily timbered region, enduring the privations and hardships common to forming new settlements at that period, and was restricted by circumstances to only eleven days' schooling.

At the age of sixteen, by his father's permission, he began engaging in business for himself. Though trained by his parents, who were Methodists, to lead a strictly moral life, he made no profession of religion until he was in his twenty-second year, when he joined that body.

October 8, 1824, he married Miriam Works, and resided in Cayuga County, New York, until the spring of 1829, following the occupation of carpenter, joiner, painter and glazier, when he moved to Mendon, Monroe County, New York. In the spring of 1830 he first saw the Book of Mormon which was brought there by Samuel H. Smith. In the fall of 1831 Elders Alpheus Gifford, Elial Strong and others came to that place to preach the gospel as taught by Joseph Smith. He heard and believed, and after careful and prayerful reflection upon the principles revealed in the Book of Mormon, he was baptized April 14, 1832, a member of the religious organization now known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and ordained an Elder, immediately after confirmation, all by Elder Eleazer Miller. Three weeks after his wife was also baptized. During the following summer he preached the gospel in the regions adjacent to Mendon, baptizing many and organizing branches. His wife died September 8th, 1832, leaving him two little girls, one two years and the other seven years of age. In the fall of 1832 he visited Kirtland, Ohio, in company with Heber C. Kimball and his brother Joseph Young and made the acquaintance of the Prophet Joseph Smith. During the evening of the day when they first met, Joseph

called upon Brother Brigham to pray. While doing so he spoke in tongues. The Prophet declared that he spoke in the pure Adamic language, and after he had left the room he said, "The time will come when Brother Brigham Young will preside over this Church." In company with his brother Joseph he spent a portion of the winter of 1832-33 in and around West Laboro, Canada, preaching, baptizing and organizing branches. He spent most of the spring and summer of 1833 in missionary labors in Canada and northern New York. In July he conducted a small company of Saints to Kirtland, moved his family there in the fall, and labored at his trade, preaching as opportunity offered. In February 1833 he married Mary Ann Angel, who took charge of his children and kept house for him faithfully. On the 5th of May, 1834, he started for Missouri, in Zion's Camp, in which he was captain of ten; arrived in Clay County on the 23rd of June, returned to Kirtland in August, having performed a journey of 2000 miles on foot, and spent the remainder of the year in finishing the printing office and school room and laboring on the Temple. He was selected one of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on the 14th of February, 1835. From this time till 1837, he mostly passed the winter in Kirtland, in laboring at his trade and upon the Temple, and spent the remainder of his time in traveling, holding Conferences, preaching and regulating and organizing Branches in the East. He attended the Hebrew School at Kirtland in the winter of 1835-6, and from February 22nd to March 27th, 1836, he superintended the painting and finishing of the Temple. He attended the Solemn Assembly at the dedication and received his blessings, after which he traveled through New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, attended Conference at Portland, Maine, returned to Kirtland, defended the Prophet Joseph against accusers and apostates, took a special business mission to the Eastern States, in company with Dr. Willard Richards, which he accomplished, and returned. On the 22nd of December, 1837, he left Kirtland, on his way to Missouri, and arrived in Far West, Caldwell County, on the 14th of March, 1838. While in Missouri he purchased land and improved a handsome farm, labored diligently on the duties of his Apostleship, especially in planning for and assisting the Saints in leaving the State under the expelling or exterminating order of Governor Lilburn W. Boggs, and on the 14th of February, 1839, moved from that State with his family, leaving all his landed and nearly all his personal property; tarried a few weeks in Atlas, Pike County, Illinois; then moved to Quincy, where he efficiently continued his labors in furthering the removal from Missouri. On the 18th of April he left Quincy for Far West to assist with a majority of the Twelve in fulfilling a prophecy given by the Prophet Joseph Smith, July 8, 1838, which was accomplished, notwithstanding the mob had said that revelation should not be fulfilled, and returned to Quincy on the 2nd of May, and on the 3rd visited Bros. Joseph and Hyrum Smith, his first interview with them after their escape from their enemies. May 16th he started for Commerce, since called Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, and on the 23rd moved across the Mississippi river to Montrose, Iowa, opposite Nauvoo, and resided in a room in an old military barracks, where he labored assiduously, so far as his health would permit, to aid the Saints in making their new settlement at Nauvoo, until September 14th, when he started "without purse or scrip," on a mission to England, his health so poor that he was unable, without assistance, to go thirty rods to the river, and leaving his wife ill and feeble, with a babe only ten days old, and all his children sick, unable to wait upon each other. After considerable hindrance by sickness on the way, and much teaching and preaching, he sailed from New York on the 9th of March 1840, and arrived in Liverpool, England, April 6th. In Preston, on the 14th of April, at the first council held in a foreign land by a majority of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he was unanimously chosen the standing President of that Quorum. In May he took steps for selecting the hymns and publishing 3,000 Hymn

Books, 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon, and a periodical named "The Latter-day Saints Millennium Star." He organized the first company of emigrating Saints, numbering 41, who sailed from Liverpool, June 6. His faithful and diligent labors in England in behalf of the Gospel were signally blessed. In the short space of a year, between 7,000 and 8,000 persons were baptized into the Church, churches were organized in all the principal cities of the land, a permanent shipping agency was established and over a thousand souls emigrated. On the 21st of April, 1841, he sailed from the river Mersey, and on the 1st of July arrived in Nauvoo, and was cordially welcomed by the Prophet Joseph Smith, by his family and the Saints.

In a revelation given to Joseph Smith, Jan. 19th, 1841, occurs the following: "I give unto you my servant, Brigham Young, to be a president over the Twelve traveling council, which Twelve hold the keys to open up the authority of my kingdom upon the four corners of the earth, and after that to send my word to every creature." July 10th; the Prophet Joseph requested the Twelve to take the burden of the church in Nauvoo, and attend to selling its lands, to locating and advising the immigrating Saints, and to transact other business, which request President Young energetically complied with, also with his duties as a member of the city council, to which he was elected Sep. 2nd, occupying the intervals of time in laboring for the support of himself and family, until July 7, 1843, when he started on a mission to the Eastern States preaching, gathering funds for aiding the building of the Temple and the Nauvoo House, and returned on the 22nd of October. He continued his labors as before, was often in council with Joseph and the Twelve, preached frequently in Nauvoo and the neighboring settlements, and on the 21st of May again went on a mission to the East, received information of the assassination of the Prophets Joseph and Hyrum Smith, in Carthage Jail, while under the pledged protection of Thomas Ford, then Governor of Illinois, and returned to Nauvoo on the 6th of August. On the 8th, at a meeting of all the authorities of the Church in Nauvoo, the Twelve Apostles were sustained as the Presiding Quorum of the Church. It was on this occasion that the spirit of the departed Joseph rested down upon Brigham Young in so powerful a manner as to convince all the Saints assembled that he was the man chosen to lead Israel. It was a critical time. Efforts were being made to divide the people, and one of the late Prophet's counselors claimed authority to preside as "guardian of the Church." But when President Young stepped forth in his place and calling at the head of the Twelve, the whole assembly heard, as they thought, the voice, saw the form and felt the spirit and influence of the Prophet Joseph. And even non-members of the Church were startled, and expected to see the presence as well as hear the voice of the departed Seer. All uncertainty fled from that moment, and faith and union banished discord and defeated vain ambition.

Amid threats, houseburnings, plunderings, whippings, murders and the fury of mob violence he stood firm in the steady performance of the many and arduous duties devolved upon him, in caring for and defending the rights of the Saints, planning and directing the organizations and operations preparatory to vacating Nauvoo and forwarding the Temple to completion, and laboring therein until February, 1846, when he crossed the Mississippi River to the camp of the emigrating Saints, a few miles west of Montrose, Iowa, and in March began with them a toilsome journey in quest of a location beyond the pale of bigoted intolerance, where he would be free to worship God according to His commandments.

Having established two settlements, Garden Grove and Mount Pisgah, resting and recruiting points for such as could not well keep pace and for others who would follow, he reached with the main camp the Missouri River, near Council Bluffs, in July. From this point, at the request of the Government of the United States he sent 500 volunteers (the "Mormon Battalion") to aid in the war with Mexico, who raised and sustained the flag of the Union in Mexico and California until the treaty of

Guadalupe-Hidalgo. He crossed the Missouri and camped a few miles above where Omaha has since been built, at a point named Winter Quarters, since called Florence, Nebraska, and laid out streets and blocks upon which numerous comfortable log-houses were soon erected; planned to the utmost for the comfort and well-being of the people during their sojourn there; built a much-needed grist mill, and in May, 1847, with a company of 142 men, who elected him their leader, started to pioneer a location where the Saints could build and inhabit in peace, and on the 24th of July arrived where now stands Salt Lake City, and unfurled the "Stars and Stripes" on Mexican soil.

He at once took steps for surveying the beautiful city site, designating the blocks around which houses were to be built, joining each other, with porticoes and gates until the people should be strong enough to build on the lots in safety; was busily engaged in directing and assisting in the daily labors and visiting neighboring localities; and, on the 26th of August, started on his return to Winter Quarters, where he arrived on the 31st of October, having met nearly 2,000 of the Saints on their way to Salt Lake City, where they arrived in good season.

December 5th, he was elected President of the Church by the unanimous vote of the Quorum of the Twelve, and also, on the 27th, by the unanimous vote of all the authorities and members assembled in a Conference held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, with Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his Counselors. On the 26th of May, 1848, he started from Winter Quarters, with his family, for Salt Lake City, leaving his houses, mills and other property (this being the fifth time he had left home and property for the Gospel's sake) superintended that season's emigration of over 2,000, arrived in Salt Lake City, September 20th, and at once began to give counsel conducive to the general welfare. At a Conference held on the 8th of October he was sustained President of the Church by unanimous vote.

A provisional government being requisite until Congress should otherwise provide, on the 12th of March, 1849, he was elected Governor of the then named State of Deseret, which continued until Feb. 3, 1851, when he took the oath of office as Governor of the Territory of Utah, Commander-in-chief of the militia, and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, to which positions he had been appointed by President Millard Fillmore, and performed the duties of those offices with signal ability and integrity, until the arrival of his successor, Governor Alfred Cumming, in the spring of 1858. During the thirty years past in which he resided in Utah, he labored indefatigably for the welfare of all who love truth, liberty and equal rights; engaged in and encouraged agriculture, the erection of mills, and factories, the manufacture and importation of machinery and labor-saving implements, the opening of roads and the construction of bridges and public edifices; pursued a conciliatory policy with the Indians, wisely deeming it not only cheaper but much more human to feed than to fight them; instituted the Perpetual Emigration Fund for gathering the poor, by which thousands upon thousands have been brought from poverty to the acquisition of pleasant homes and the comforts of life; successfully completed a contract to grade over 100 miles of the Union Pacific Railroad, much of it the most difficult portion; was the prime mover in the construction of the Utah Central Railroad also of the Utah Southern R. R.; aided in building the Utah Northern and Utah Western narrow gauge roads; introduced and fostered co-operation in all branches of business, as the plan best adapted to equalize the benefits of trade; extended telegraph wires to most of our principal towns and cities; promoted the spread of the everlasting Gospel among the nations, and the gathering of the honest therefrom; traveled and preached year after year in the settlements of the Saints; and in his teachings, acts and administrations uniformly pursued a course characteristic of an able and upright man laboring with all his might for the happiness of mankind and the prevalence of righteousness upon the earth. Like all great men, he has had bitter enemies. No man has been