

jocular, frank, openhearted manner all his former ideas of the solemn gravity and venerable appearance of a Prophet vanished like smoke, but instead of being disappointed he was intensely delighted. He had no difficulty in feeling at home in the presence of a live prophet, as he discovered, when he conversed with him for the first time, two days, after his arrival.

He was baptized in the Mississippi River on 2nd of August, 1841, by whom he did not recollect, and confirmed on the river bank by Elder Joseph Cole. On April 10th, 1842, he was ordained an Elder by Willard Richards.

Soon after becoming an Elder he was called to go on a preaching mission through the States of Illinois, New York and Connecticut, and started accordingly without purse or scrip. He passed through many hardships and vicissitudes, but on the whole greatly enjoyed his labors. In the course of his travels he reached Chicago, and was seized with an ardent desire to visit his father's house, but was totally without means. He prayed hard for the Lord to open up his way, and started one morning bright and early to perform the journey on foot, going around the edge of Lake Michigan. On the way he met a gentleman, who asked him where he was going. On being informed, the stranger remarked that it was too long a journey to go on foot and invited him to take passage with him, which he did, going by boat to Oswego.

Brother Atwood had heard of some members of the Church being in the latter town so he made diligent inquiry in the hope of discovering them and was sent by different people from one place to another, each time to find that he had been hoaxed. Being directed to a particular house he called to inquire, and finding nobody at home, and being tired as well as ravenously hungry he sat down on a hitching rail to rest. Presently he saw a man approaching driving a span of horses. Brother Atwood asked him if he was the man he was looking for, when he yelled, "No, but I'm the Devil." Discovering Elder Atwood's calling he abused and threatened him shamefully, ordering him to get off the hitching rail, or he would knock him off, at the same time shaking his fist at him. Brother Atwood mildly told him he was tired and wanted to rest and would not

get off till he was ready. Suddenly the man's manner changed to one of the softest gentleness. He took the Elder into the house, entertained him hospitably and procured the schoolhouse for him to preach in, a large congregation being present, including this erratic man, whose name was Le Roy Burt. Before Brother Atwood left he begged his pardon scores of times for his rudeness, and fully made amends for his rough conduct.

During the same mission Elder Atwood and a missionary companion applied for entertainment at the house of a Baptist preacher, who was very bitter against the Saints. He said he would take them in not as servants of the Lord, but as "vagabonds of the earth." They stayed overnight and in the morning Brother Atwood said, as they were leaving, "Inasmuch as you have entertained us as servants of the Lord you shall have the reward of a servant of God." The old Baptist shouted savagely that he had entertained them as "vagabonds." Then you shall have a vagabond's reward replied Brother Atwood, and departed.

Brother Atwood arrived at his father's house July 18th, 1844, and soon afterwards went to New York, where he heard for the first time of the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith. He continued preaching until March 17th, 1845, when in response to a call upon all the Elders in the mission field, he returned to Nauvoo, reaching there April 7th. Three days after his arrival he received his patriarchal blessing under the hands of Patriarch Father John Smith, and about the same time was ordained a Seventy and set apart a member of the Tenth Quorum.

On the 15th of April, 1845, he commenced working on the Temple, continuing until August 15th, when he began laboring on the Nauvoo House, remaining at this occupation until, with his fellow-workmen, he was driven off by the mob. From hardships and exposure he was laid up with the ague, and was very ill. But before he had entirely regained his strength he went to work building wagons to enable the Saints to move West, as the people were constantly harassed and maltreated by merciless mobs.

Having been peremptorily ordered to leave he and others crossed the Mississippi February 6, 1846, remaining in encampment until March 1st, when they started

through rain, mud and cold weather, for the Missouri River, enduring untold hardships and distress.

In February, 1847, Brother Atwood responded to a call to go to Pisgah for Charles C. Rich, this being the hardest and most difficult trip he had ever undertaken.

On his return from Pisgah he was appointed one of the Pioneers to go into the Great West and explore to find a resting place and home for the Saints. With the other members of the advance guard of those who opened up this vast region to civilization, he left Winter Quarters April 8th, 1847, and traveled 1031 miles westward, passing through the many trying scenes incidental to that marvelous journey.

One day, while passing through a stretch of hostile Indian country, President Young told the brethren to keep close to camp and not scatter out. Food being scanty, however, the horses kept going out a considerable distance, a number of the brethren accompanying them as guards. All at once a host of Indians swept down upon them like a whirlwind, greatly frightening the horses and causing much excitement in camp. Brother Atwood held a lariat in his hand, the other end being attached to a horse, which ran at a pretty high rate of speed, but he kept his hold and shouted "Whoa!" As the beast slackened his pace an Indian would give it a whack and off it would go, until Brother Atwood's position was getting desperate, as he was flying over the sagebrush at a tremendous rate. He relaxed his grip and went head over heels, coming off without further injury than having the skin stripped almost entirely from his face. The Indians got away with quite a number of the horses, but nobody was killed in the raid.

Brother Atwood was one of that noble band who arrived in Salt Lake Valley on the 24th of July, 1847. By call, in August of the same year, he started back to Winter Quarters, and arrived there on Nov. 30th. On the 15th of Jan., 1848 he went to Nauvoo, and gathered up a quantity of goods and conveyed the load to Winter Quarters, which he reached in March. He was there introduced by President Brigham Young to Miss Relief Cram, whom he married April 20th, 1848. On the 19th of May he again started for Utah and reached here September 19th, in President Young's company.