

## DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE  
DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - AUGUST 3, 1887.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE  
DEATH OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN TAYLOR.

ONCE more the Latter-day Saints are called upon to mourn the death of their leader—the man who has held the keys of the Kingdom of God upon earth. PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR departed this life at five minutes to eight o'clock on the evening of Monday, July 25th, 1887, aged 78 years, 8 months and 23 days.

In communicating this sad intelligence to the Church, over which he has so worthily presided for nearly ten years past, we are filled with emotions too deep for utterance. A faithful, devoted, and fearless servant of God, the Church in his death has lost its most conspicuous and experienced leader. Steadfast to and immovable in the truth, few men have ever lived who have manifested such integrity and such unflinching moral and physical courage as our beloved President who has just gone from us. He never knew the feeling of fear connected with the work of God. But in the face of angry mobs, and at other times when in imminent danger of personal violence from those who threatened his life, and upon occasions when the people were menaced with public peril, he never blenched—his knees never trembled, his hand never shook. Every Latter-day Saint always knew beforehand, on occasions when firmness and courage were needed, where PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR would be found and what his tones would be. He met every issue squarely, boldly and in a way to call forth the admiration of all who saw and heard him. Undaunted courage, unyielding firmness were among his most prominent characteristics, giving him distinction among men who were distinguished for the same qualities. With these were combined an intense love of freedom and hatred of oppression. He was a man whom all could trust, and throughout his life he enjoyed, to an extent surpassed by none, the implicit confidence of the Prophets Joseph, Hyrum and Brigham and all the leading men and members of the Church. The title of "Champion of Liberty," which he received in Nauvoo, was always felt to be most appropriate for him to bear. But it was not only in the possession of these qualities that PRESIDENT TAYLOR was great. His judgment was remarkably sound and clear, and through life he has been noted for the wisdom of his counsels and teachings. His great experience made his suggestions exceedingly valuable; for there has scarcely been a public movement of any kind commenced, carried on, or completed, since he joined the Church in which he has not taken part.

But it is not necessary that we should, even if time permitted, rehearse the events of his long and busy life. To do so would only be to give a greater part of the history of the Church; for with it his biography is inseparably interwoven.

The last time PRESIDENT TAYLOR appeared in public was on Sunday, February 1st, 1885. On that occasion he delivered a lengthy discourse in the Tabernacle, in Salt Lake City. Rumors had been floating around for some time that his arrest was contemplated. In fact, while returning from a trip to the settlements in Arizona, he was advised in California that he was in great danger, and it was suggested that perhaps it would be better for him not to return to Salt Lake City. He listened to these cautions but still resolved to take the risk, and came back and fearlessly went about his business for some time. But on the evening of Sunday, February 1st, he concluded to withdraw himself from the public performance of his numerous and important duties. In taking this step he did so more to preserve peace and to remove all possible cause of excitement, than from any desire for personal safety. He perceived that there was a determination on the part of men holding official position here to raise an issue and, if possible, involve the Latter-day Saints in serious trouble. He had not broken any law. He knew he was innocent and that if he were arrested and could have a fair trial, nothing could be brought against him. He had taken every precaution that a man could take under his circumstances to make himself invulnerable to attack. He was determined that, so far as he was concerned, he would furnish no pretext for trouble, but would, do every-

thing in his power to prevent the people over whom he presided from being involved in difficulty.

From that date, upwards of two years and a half ago, when he left his home in Salt Lake City, he had not had the opportunity of crossing its threshold again. To home and its joys, its delightful associations and its happy reunions he has been a stranger. He has lived as an exile—a wanderer in the land, to the development and good government of which he has contributed so much. While living in this condition, one of his wives was stricken with disease, and though his heart was torn with anguish at the thought of her condition, and with anxiety to see her and minister to her in her deep distress, her residence was closely watched by spies, and when she was in a dying condition, was even searched with the hope of entrapping him! Thus she was deprived of the privilege of looking upon his beloved face, and he had not even the sad consolation of witnessing or taking any part in her funeral ceremonies.

During the two years and a half that PRESIDENT TAYLOR has been living in this condition, he has been cut off from all the society and loving ministrations of his family. But though this was so hard to bear at his time of life, he never murmured. He was always full of courage and hope, cheering everyone with whom he was brought in contact, and lifting his companions, by his noble example, out of despondency and discouragement. With the same courage with which he stood by the Prophet of God and with a walking cane parried the guns of the mob when they vomited their sheets of flame and messengers of death in Carthage Jail, he confronted the difficulties and the trials which he had to meet when compelled to leave his home and the society of those whom he loved. His demeanor throughout this long ordeal has been most admirable. Every one who has seen him has been impressed by his equanimity and stately bearing. Always distinguished for his courtesy and dignity of character, at no period of his life did he ever exhibit those traits to greater advantage than he has during his exile. He has never condescended even to speak evil of those who so cruelly persecuted him.

By the miraculous power of God, PRESIDENT TAYLOR escaped the death which the assassins of Carthage Jail designed for him. His blood was then mingled with the blood of the martyred Prophet and Patriarch. He has stood since then as a living martyr for the truth. But to-day he occupies the place of a double martyr. PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR has been killed by the cruelty of officials who have, in this Territory, misrepresented the Government of the United States. There is no room to doubt that if he had been permitted to enjoy the comforts of home, the ministrations of his family, the exercise to which he had been accustomed, but of which he was deprived, he might have lived for many years yet. His blood stains the clothes of the men, who with insensate hate have offered rewards for his arrest and have hounded him to the grave. History will yet call them to account for their right names; but ONE greater than the combined voices of all historians will yet pronounce their dreadful sentence.

It is now some months since PRESIDENT TAYLOR was attacked by disease. It came upon him by degrees, manifesting itself in the beginning by a swelling of the limbs for the want of proper exercise. He fought disease with his characteristic pluck and determination. He would not yield. He would neither allow himself nor anyone else to think that his sickness was serious. He would not permit his family to know his real condition, and he did not wish them to have any anxiety on his account, and it was almost against his express wishes they were told how sick he was. When messages were sent by him to them, they were always of a re-assuring character. Up to the last day or two he was able to sit in his chair, and until quite recently he was able to assist himself in getting in and out of bed. The strength he has exhibited and his tenacity of life have been very wonderful; for though so strong, he had partaken of scarcely any nourishment for the past six weeks. So peacefully did he pass away, and so like a babe falling asleep that a brief period elapsed before those who stood around his bed were sure that his spirit had taken its flight.

As the sad intelligence which we now communicate will spread through these valleys and mountains, sorrow will fill the hearts of all at hearing of the last days of their beloved and venerable President. We know how deep has been the sympathy that has filled the hearts of the Saints for him in his advanced years in thinking of his condition and of his being compelled to live as an exile from his family and the people. The expressions of esteem and love which have come to him from all parts of the land have deeply touched him and caused him great pleasure in thinking how much he was beloved and how much his welfare was desired by all the Saints throughout the earth.

His constant desire was to do everything in his power to relieve the Latter-day Saints from the oppressions under which they suffer. Every pulsation of his heart beat with a love of Zion and a desire for her redemption. We desired, and the desire was general, we believe, throughout the Church—that he might live to emerge from his exile and be once more a free man

among the people whom he loved. But this has been denied us. He has gone to mingle with the holy and the pure, and to quote his own eloquent words, written concerning his dear friend, Joseph the Seer:

"Beyond the reach of mobs and strife,  
He rests unharmed in endless life;  
His home's in the sky, he dwells with the Gods.  
Far from the furious rage of mobs."

And though we have lost his presence here, his influence will still be felt. Such men may pass from this life to another, but the love which beats in their hearts for righteousness and for truth cannot die. They go to an enlarged sphere of usefulness. Their influence is extended and will be more widely felt, and Zion will feel the benefit of his labors, as it has the labors of others who have gone before him. The work of God will roll forth. One after another of the mighty men—the men who have spent their lives in the cause of God—may pass away, but this will not affect the purposes of our Great Creator concerning His latter-day work. He will raise up others, and the work will go on increasing in power, in influence, and in all true greatness, until it will accomplish all that God has predicted concerning it.

We feel to say to the Latter-day Saints: Be comforted! The same God who took care of the work when Joseph was martyred, who has watched over and guarded and upheld it through the long years that have since elapsed, and who has guided its destinies since the departure of Brigham, still watches over it and makes it the object of His care. John has gone; but God lives. He has founded Zion. He has given His people a testimony of His love. Cherish it in your heart of hearts, and live so each day that when the end of your mortal lives shall come, you may be counted worthy to go where JOSEPH, BRIGHAM and JOHN have gone, and mingle with that glorious throng whose robes have been washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

This is the earnest prayer for all Saints, and for all the honest in heart, of your unworthy servants in Christ,  
GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

## PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR.

THE death of President John Taylor, officially announced in this issue of the DESERET NEWS, although not unexpected, will cause a shock that will be felt in every fibre of the body of the Church. Throughout this Territory the mourning will be general. Apart from the position which our brother occupied, in which he received the respect and honor which was due to him, he was enshrined in the hearts of the people as a great, fearless, talented and honorable man, whose life has been devoted to the cause that is first in every faithful heart, who has never faltered and never swerved from the path of duty, whose blood was mingled with that of the latter-day martyrs, and who has passed away in exile, into which he was driven by the relentless hand of persecution, directed against the truths for which he lived, suffered, struggled and died.

John Taylor was born in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland County, England, Nov. 1st, 1808. He was educated in his native country, and being naturally devout, he was impressed early with religious influences and became a consistent member of the Methodist Church. In 1830 his parents, James and Agnes Taylor, emigrated to Canada, and two years later he joined them there, and making the acquaintance of Miss Leonora Cannon, daughter of Captain Cannon of the Isle of Man, he married her and settled in Toronto, engaged in the business of wood turner.

Here he became associated with a number of progressive Methodists, and being convinced by study of the Scriptures that modern Christendom had departed from the primitive simplicity, power and divinity of apostolic times, he and another preacher boldly proclaimed these views and pointed out prevailing errors. Those utterances brought them into conflict with the Methodist authorities, but the reformers would not, when brought to trial, swerve one iota from their conscientious convictions. A little body of devout worshippers met from time to time, read the scriptures, exhorted to lives of morality and obedience to God and prayed for the restoration of primitive Christianity. Mr. Taylor was a prominent worker in this preparatory movement.

In 1836 Elder Parley P. Pratt who had been sent on a mission to Canada, with the prophecy that he would find a people in Toronto prepared to receive his message, called at the house of Mr. Taylor and was afterwards introduced to the little congregation of enquirers. Mr. Taylor and his wife and several others received the Gospel, after diligent investigation, and were baptized. In 1837 he went to Kirtland, where he stood up valiantly against the defamers of the Prophet Joseph, and after purchasing some land returned to Toronto. On the 8th of July 1838 a revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith named John Taylor, John E. Page, Willford Woodruff and Willard Richards to be ordained Apostles to fill vacancies in

the Council of the Twelve. Brother Taylor therefore left Canada and moved to Missouri where, on the 19th of December, 1838, he was ordained to the Apostleship.

In the fall of 1839 in company with Elder Willford Woodruff Elder Taylor started on a mission to England. They were both sick with fever and ague, Elder Taylor being nigh unto death, but they proceeded nevertheless, arriving in Liverpool on the 11th of January, 1840. He labored with great success in that seaport town, bringing many to a knowledge of the truth. In July of the same year he went to Ireland, preached in several places and baptized the first convert in Ireland—a farmer by the name of Taite. He then went to Scotland, preaching in Paisley and Glasgow, and returning to Liverpool, proceeded to the Isle of Man—where he preached the Gospel, debated with and repelled to printed attacks by sectarian ministers, and succeeded in establishing the Church upon that island. Before returning to Nauvoo he had the satisfaction of testifying that he had traveled 5,000 miles without purse or scrip, besides his journeys in the British Isles, on railroads, steamboats, coaches, on foot and horseback, had never lacked for anything nor asked anyone for a farthing.

After filling this mission he became the editor of the *Times and Seasons*, and also of the *Nauvoo Neighbor*, a member of the Nauvoo City Council and a trusted adviser of the Prophet Joseph. When the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum went to Carthage under the pledged protection of Governor Ford, Elder Taylor voluntarily shared in their captivity, and when they were murderously assailed by the mob with blackened faces and cruelly shot to death, he struck down the loaded weapons with his cane and received four balls in his body. His life was saved by another bullet which struck his watch and hurled him from the window back into the room, and Elder Willard Richards covered him up with a mattress.

In company with the Twelve he helped to take charge of the affairs of the Church after the martyrdom, and was with the Saints in the great exodus from Nauvoo, but was sent to England with Elders Parley P. Pratt and Orson Hyde to regulate affairs in the British mission, returning to Winter Quarters just as the Pioneers were departing, and following quickly in their rear.

In 1849 he went on a mission to France, where he engaged in the famous debate with several ministers at Boulogne-sur-Mer. While in France he studied the language and published the Book of Mormon in French and going to Hamburg published it also in German. He returned in 1852; assisted in laying the corner stones of the Temple in April, 1853. In 1854 he was placed in charge of the branches of the Church in the East, and in New York City published a vigorous paper called *The Mormon*, which speedily acquired a prominent reputation both in and out of the Church. He was also one of a delegation appointed to present to Congress a State Constitution and ask for the admission of Utah into the Union.

After his return to this Territory he was identified with many important enterprises and was in the front on every important occasion. His many and patriotic speeches and writings during the time of the invasion of the army, on the visits of Schuyler Colfax and other prominent politicians, and his defence of the Constitutional rights of the people made his name the synonym for all that is courageous, outspoken, liberal and admirable.

His position in the Council of the Apostles was gravely considered some time before the decease of President Young, and it was decided that he be longed of right at the head of the quorum. This position he occupied when President Brigham Young departed this life, and in connection with the other members of the Twelve he conducted the affairs of the Church with a wisdom, caution and conservatism which gained the approval and admiration of the people.

At the October Conference of 1880 the First Presidency was organized, with John Taylor as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world, and as Prophet, Seer and Revelator, with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as his Counselors. This organization was sustained by unanimous vote of the several Quorums of the Priesthood in a General Assembly. President Taylor labored to set in order all the various organizations of the Church at home and abroad, and traveled much in this Territory, counseling, directing and preaching to the people. He received several revelations which were written and distributed among the Priesthood, making known the mind and will of the Lord in reference to important matters.

On the passage of the Edmunds Act, March 22, 1882, President Taylor, who had been voted the use of the Gardo House as a family residence, made arrangements with his wives by which they were to return to their several domiciles, as he had determined to place himself beyond the charge of violating the law, so that his usefulness in his high calling might not be impaired. His family chose this alternative rather than that he should leave the Gardo House. This arrangement was carried out. President Taylor had not violated the law of 1862, his marital

relations having been formed before it was enacted; and he did not break the law of 1862 for the reasons specified. Yet he became an object of assault under the pretended forms of law by the Federal officials engaged in the crusade against the Latter-day Saints.

On the 3rd of January, 1885, in company with several of his brethren, he took a journey to New Mexico and Arizona by Union Pacific Railway to Denver thence to Albuquerque. He visited the "Mormon" settlements in the neighborhood of Winslow, and then went to Guaymas on the Gulf of California and thence to Hermosillo in Sonora, Mexico, where he met Governor Torres at his residence, who received him and his company with distinguished consideration. President Taylor visited Benson and the adjacent settlements of the Saints and held meetings there and also on the Gila River. The party returned by way of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Shortly after this, learning that it was the intention to arrest him on the false charge of unlawful cohabitation, and knowing the disposition to incarcerate leading "Mormons" by the aid of packed juries, biased courts and vindictive prosecuting officers, President Taylor left his home and retired from the public view. An indictment was procured against him, although not a particle of direct evidence could be found and the facts were simply as stated above. In his retirement he continued to preside over the Church and direct its affairs, laboring assiduously for its welfare in all the world. He preserved the vigor of his stalwart body and of his intellectual and cultured mind up to within a recent period. His decease has come through a gradual breaking down of the forces of life, in which a strong constitution resisted the power of the destroyer until the great change came and his noble spirit departed in peace.

President John Taylor leaves a large and intelligent family, who bid fair to follow in his footsteps as honorable, upright citizens and faithful Latter-day Saints. He reached a good old age and his upright form and vigorous manner showed, despite his silvery hair, a well-preserved and healthy body in which no intemperate habits of any kind had made inroads. The soul of honor, of indomitable energy and unflinching firmness when convinced of the right, President Taylor was the embodiment of dignity and urbane authority. His record is without a stain and his name will be inscribed in the archives of heaven among those of the mighty spirits who have helped to sway the destinies of this world. He has gone to mingle with his brethren of the last dispensation who laid the foundation of this great work, and with them he will shine in eternal splendor as a Son of God, an heir to the royal Priesthood, a ruler in the Father's kingdom. May peace and comfort rest upon the bereaved!

## THE GENERAL SENTIMENT.

ALL day yesterday the people were in a perpetual state of unrest, in consequence of the report of the death of President Taylor. Throughout the community there was a sentiment of inexpressible sadness, which was probably intensified by the absence of any announced authentic confirmation of the rumor. By the time the News issued, however, it had become pretty generally settled in the minds of the people, in the central part of the city at least, as a fact. To-day the same subdued sadness permeates the community and everywhere are heard expressions of esteem and love for the departed. Remarks are made as thoughts come up in the minds of those who utter them, such as: "We do not think when he was driven into exile that we would never see him in life again." "Well, he is beyond the reach of the minions of the law now." "How we should like to have seen his face and heard his kindly voice once more before he left us."

## The Pall Bearers.

Had it been possible it would have been eminently proper that the pall bearers of President Taylor should have been the Twelve Apostles; members of the organization with which the President had been so long identified. But as, for reasons well known to the public, this was manifestly impracticable, it was deemed advisable to select twelve members of the family from the seventeen sons present at the funeral. This was accordingly done.

## Scofield Not.

Our correspondent, "W." writing from Scofield on the 28th says: "Something must be really wrong with the telegraphic dispatches, as it was not until last evening that the news came that our loved and venerable President was dead."

Great preparations being made, but he P. W. Coal Co. making new chutes and dumping cars, thus greatly facilitating the freighting of their orders.

Work in the mines pretty steady. Not knowing that President Taylor was in anyway indisposed, the 24th was celebrated. This could not have been done had we been informed of his illness. The Saints deeply the loss of their beloved President.