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REPORT OF ELDER ORSON

PRATT AND JOSEPH

F. SMITH.

NEW YORK CITY,
September 17, 1878.

President John Taylor and Counsel

of the Church.

Dear Brethren:—We desire to

report the following briefly written

report of our mission to the Eastern

States, which we would have made

from time to time as we journeyed

along, but for the hurry and incon-

venience of daily travel.

As you are aware, we left home

on the morning of September 8th,

in company with Elder W. C.

Staines and seven or eight mis-

sionaries en route for Europe and the

States. We parted from these bre-

thren at Council Bluffs, excepting

Elder Thomas S. Higham, who ac-

companied us by the Council Bluffs,

St. Joseph and Kansas City Rail-

ways. Some of the brethren and

missionaries to Independence by the

Missouri Pacific Railway, where we

parted from him, he continuing on

to St. Louis and the Southern

States.

We arrived at Independence on

the morning of Friday, Sept. 8th,

three days from home. We put up

at the Merchants Hotel, the only

one we saw in the place. After

breakfast we visited the "Temple

Lot," about three-fourths of a mile

west of the Court House, which is

the centre of the town. (For de-

scription of which, see letter of James

A. Little, dated November 18th,

and published in DESERET NEWS

of Nov. 23rd, 1877.)

In 1831, or about 47 years ago,

when Elder O. Pratt visited the

ground, it was covered with trees,

and now there is not a tree nor even

a stump standing, except on the

portions surrounding the immediate

Temple site, which are occupied by

buildings and orchards. The ground

at the time of Elder Pratt's visit

was very dry and dusty, the season

having been a very dry one.

Some years ago, Mr. William

Easton purchased a tract of land

just south of the Temple site, and

on a portion of the original Temple

ground, he built a house, which he

named "The Temple House," and

lived in it until his death. He

was a good man, and a resident of

the place. By invitation we were

introduced to Mr. Whitmer's

office, where we were introduced to

Mr. David J. Whitmer, (eldest

son of David), Mr. Geo. Schwelch,

(grandson of the old gentleman),

John C. Whitmer, (son of Jacob

Whitmer), and several others. A

couple of hours were very pleas-

antly passed in conversation prin-

cipally on Utah matters, when we

parted for dinner, agreeing to meet

again at 4 o'clock. This time we

were in the bar-room of the hotel.

When he called again he was in

company with Col. Childs, a mid-

dle aged man, and a resident of

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