

ment of a gathering place for the Saints on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, and that the idea of migration toward the West originated in his mind long before it was carried into practical effect by President Brigham Young.

It is recorded in the history of Joseph Smith, that about 7 p.m., June 22, 1844, Joseph Smith called Hyrum Smith, Willard Richards, John Taylor, W. W. Phelps, Abraham C. Hodge, John L. Butler, Alpheus Cutler, William Marks and some other brethren into his upper room, where he conferred with them in regard to what he should do, there being warrants for his arrest and a spirit of murder in the air. Joseph decided that all the enemy wanted was to get himself and Hyrum, and that if they went away no harm would come to the people or their property. He said "We will cross the river tonight and go away to the west." Joseph Smith's journal says: "I told Stephen Markham that if I and Hyrum were ever taken again we should be massacred or I was not a Prophet of God. I want Hyrum to live to avenge my blood, but he is determined not to leave me."

In the account of the arrest, imprisonment and martyrdom of Joseph Smith, written by Willard Richards, the following appears:

"Sunday, 23rd. 'At daybreak arrived on the Iowa side of the river. Sent O. P. Rockwell back to Nauvoo with instructions to return the next night with horses for Joseph and Hyrum, pass them over the river in the night secretly, and be ready to start for the Great Basin in the Rocky Mountains."

"At one p. m., Emma sent over O. P. Rockwell, requesting him to entreat of Joseph to come back. Reynolds Cahoon accompanied him with a letter which Emma had written to the same effect, and she insisted that Cahoon should persuade Joseph to come back and give himself up. When they went over they found Joseph, Hyrum and Willard in a room by themselves, having flour and other provisions on the floor ready for packing."

"Reynolds Cahoon informed Joseph what the troops intended to do, and urged upon him to give himself up, inasmuch as the governor had pledged his faith and the faith of the state to protect him while he underwent a legal and fair trial. R. Cahoon, L. D. Wasson and Hiram Kimball accused Joseph of cowardice for wishing to leave the people, adding that their property would be destroyed, and they left without house or home. Like the fable, when the wolves came the shepherds ran from the flock, and left the sheep to be devoured. To which Joseph replied: 'If my life is of no value to my friends, it is of none to myself.'"

"Joseph said to Rockwell, 'What shall I do?' Porter replied, 'You are the oldest, and ought to know best, and as you make your bed, I will lay with you.' Joseph then turned to Hyrum, who was talking with Cahoon, and said 'Brother Hyrum, you are the oldest, what shall we do?' Hyrum said, 'Let us go back and give ourselves up, and see the thing out.' After studying a few moments Joseph said, 'If you go back I will go with

you, but we shall be butchered.' Hyrum said, 'No, no; let us go back and put our trust in God', and we shall not be harmed. The Lord is in it. If we live or have to die, we will be reconciled to our fate.'

"After a short pause Joseph told Cahoon to request Captain Daniel C. Davies to have his boat ready by half past five o'clock, to cross them over the river."

These evidences form an array of testimony sufficient to make the proof positive and beyond question that Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the 19th century, was, under God, the originator and projector of the plan to colonize the Rocky Mountain valleys with Latter-day Saints, and build up a great commonwealth, devoted to civil and religious liberty, where all persons of every shade of belief could worship according to the dictates of their own consciences, without hindrance and without molestation. If it had not been for the persuasions of friends, real or pretended, Joseph would have proceeded himself, in company with his brother, Hyrum, to lead out and explore these western wilds to find a home for his people. In the providence of the Almighty there were different results. Joseph and Hyrum returned to Nauvoo, surrendered themselves into the hands of their enemies, and very soon met a martyr's fate as the Prophet had predicted.

After the death of Joseph and Hyrum persecutions continued, as history records, and the exodus from the state of Illinois commenced, led by President Brigham Young and his worthy associates, and made complete by the evacuation of Nauvoo, and the march of the great body of the people toward the west. Camping on the banks of the Missouri river, President Young commenced preparations to carry out the project devised by Joseph Smith. It was there that the call came from the government for 500 men to aid in the war with Mexico. The Mormon Battalion was fitted out, and over 500 picked men began their unparalleled journey to Santa Fe. Winter Quarters was established on the banks of the Missouri, and in early spring the Pioneer company was organized by President Young to cross the plains and mountains and find the spot desired by the Prophet Joseph and behead in vision by the Prophet Brigham before he started on that eventful journey. On the 7th of April, 1847, the Pioneers, numbering 143 men, 3 women and 2 children, with 72 wagons, 93 horses, 52 mules, 68 oxen and 19 cows, moved out of Winter Quarters on their way to the West. When sixty miles out on the 17th day of April, the company was fully organized, and instructions were given by President Young as to the mode of travel, the order that was to be observed, and general rules and regulations to govern their conduct. The incidents of that memorable journey need not now be detailed, they are written on the pages of modern history. Suffice it to say, that after the weary march over sage and sand, over river and mountains, that little band of heroes led by Brigham Young and the spirit of inspiration, pursuant of the course outlined by the Prophet Joseph

Smith, succeeded in reaching this spot, and on the 24th day of July, 1847, heard the welcome words from their chief, "This is the place."

Although the scene they gazed upon was one of desolation, not a human habitation in view, sagebrush covering the land and the sun's burning glare reflecting from the salt inland sea, rugged mountains uprearing their lofty heights in frowning grandeur, the pilgrims of the latter times gave thanks and praise to God that they had found the place behead by the Prophets, where the house of the Lord should be reared and "people from all nations should flow unto it."

I need not dwell upon the laying out of the city of the Saints, the turning out of the mountain streams to water the parched and sun-baked soil, the plans for protection against the Indians, the instructions and counsels for Church government, the return of President Young with a company back to Winter Quarters, the removal of the body of the people from the banks of the Missouri westward to the Great Salt Lake, and the ingathering of the Saints from the four quarters of the earth. With these incidents we are all more or less familiar. The Lord protected his servants and handmaidens in their journeying and in settling the solitary places in the midst of the mountains. The members of the Mormon Battalion were preserved as predicted. The Pioneers, and those who followed them, were also blessed of the Lord in their arduous undertaking; and now Utah, after passing through persecution and suffering, caused by misunderstanding and misrepresentation, has emerged from the privations, toils, travails and sufferings of early days, and has come up into the light and liberty and glory of a sovereign State in the great American Union. She is surrounded by other commonwealths whose beginnings grew out of the root planted here by the hand of the Pioneers.

During the past week a Jubilee has been held in their honor. A splendid monument has been unveiled and presented to the public, bearing the statue of President Brigham Young, and standing at the head of the chief street in Salt Lake City, as a tribute to the great work of those noble Pioneers. The surviving men and women who were among the first settlers in this valley have been treated with that courtesy and kindness which was their due, and with that veneration for the aged which is one of the characteristics of Utah's people.

But many of those who pioneered the way to this place where hundreds of thousands have found a pleasant home, have passed through the veil which is drawn by the hand of Providence between this mortal sphere and the spirit world. We regret their departure, we miss them from our society, we bid them farewell with sorrow; but where are they now? Their bodies sleep peacefully where loving hands have laid them to rest, but they are not in those silent graves. They have gone before us, perhaps to pioneer the way where we shall follow to mansions prepared for the just. A rich reward awaits them when the eternal Judge shall give unto every man according to the deeds done in body. Do you not believe that they