

themselves as possessing the keys of the kingdom, and of the dispensation of the fulness of times.

"And again, the voice of God in the chamber of old Father Whitmer, in Fayette, Seneca County, and at sundry times, and in divers places through all the travels and tribulations of this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."—Doctrine and Covenants Sec. 128 par. 20-21.

This corresponds with our brother's statement, though we are nowhere told just when it occurred. When they had received this ordination and blessing, they arose and walked the remaining seventeen miles like giants refreshed with wine, strong and able to finish their journey to Harmony. The Lord in His various and peculiar ways has restored authority and power to the human family, to administer and to receive the everlasting gospel. How strangely He led the Prophet Joseph from time to time, from place to place, in His great work to build Temples and establish His people in the gathering places and to accomplish the wonders that have been performed, for he was attacked by the powers of darkness from the day he began to receive the discipline of the Lord. He says himself that he was used continually to wading in deep water.

Twenty or thirty minutes is too short a time in which to mention more than two or three events in the Prophet's life. As I am called a historian, you will naturally expect to hear some items of history from me.

After healing the sick in Montrose, all the company followed Joseph to the bank of the river, where he was going to take the boat to return home. While waiting for the boat a man from the west, who had seen that the sick and dying were healed, asked Joseph if he would not go to his house and heal two of his children, who were very sick. They were twins and were three months old. Joseph told the man he could not go; but he would send some one to heal them. He told Elder Woodruff to go with the man and heal his children. At the same time he took from his pocket a silk bandanna handkerchief, and gave it to Brother Woodruff, telling him to wipe the faces of the children with it and they should be healed; and remarked at the same time: "As long as you keep that handkerchief it shall remain a league between you and me." Elder Woodruff did as he was commanded, and the children were healed, and he keeps the handkerchief to this day.

On another occasion, in the days of Kirtland, (January 22nd, 1832,) when the Church was yet young and composed of but very few members, they met together in conference, and there were males and females, Elders and High Priests, beside the Presidency of the Church. The Prophet, in his history, tells us that the Spirit and power of God came down upon them, and he spoke in another language and others spoke in tongues, and he continued with them until all the congregation spoke or prayed or sung in tongues, giving them a regular Pentecost in these last days essentially like unto the Pentecost of ancient times, only that it was not so extensive. He further says:

The gifts which follow them that believe and obey the Gospel, as tokens that the Lord is ever the same in his dealings with the humble overs and followers of truth, began to be

poured out among us, as in ancient days;—for as we, viz: Joseph Smith, Jr., Sidney Rigdon, Frederick G. Williams, Newel K. Whitney, Hyrum Smith, Zebedee Coltrin, Joseph Smith, Sen., Samuel H. Smith, John Murdock, Lyman Johnson, Orson Hyde, Ezra Thayer, High Priests; and Levi Hancock, and William Smith, Elders, were assembled in conference, on the 23rd of January, I spoke to the conference in another tongue, and was followed in the same gift by Brother Zebedee Coltrin, and he by Brother William Smith, after which the Lord poured out His Spirit in a miraculous manner, until all the Elders spoke in tongues, and several members, both male and female. Great and glorious were the divine manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Praises were sung to God and the Lamb; speaking and praying, all in tongues, occupied the conference, until a late hour at night, so rejoiced were we at the return of these long absent blessings.

On the 23rd, we again assembled in conference; when, after much speaking, singing, praying, and praising God, all in tongues, we proceeded to the washing of feet.

When the Prophet Joseph had returned from Missouri he attended a conference. I was present at the first conference that he held after he escaped from prison in Missouri. It was at the old Presbyterian camp ground near the city of Quincy, Illinois, a little east of the town I recollect well when President Joseph Young introduced me to him (I was then in my teens,) and he took me by the hand, and said, God bless you, Brother Franklin. I felt the shock go through me from my head to my feet, as I had frequently felt the shock of electricity passing through me. I recollect well an item of his instructions at that conference. He appointed a committee to gather up the libelous publications of abominable falsehood so that they could be preserved for history.

Conference over, he went with a committee up to a place that was afterwards called Nauvoo (then Commerce,) a little place on the east bank of the Mississippi river, which was so sickly that a company of people from New York who had settled there were glad to sell out. The Prophet Joseph and the committee bought them out, and also purchased a tract of land on the west side of the river. After a while and seeing how it was, the Prophet Joseph started out as if the heavens had gathered around him and aroused him to go. He took some of the brethren with him; and we have some of these brethren here today. President Woodruff was with him, and Brother Joseph B. Noble, and perhaps others. They went through the camp healing the sick and raising the dead—they that had not got into their graves as yet. He went forth and as long as he could make his voice heard in the ears of the sick and dying, he called them back to life again.

President Woodruff writes concerning this eventful day:

It was a day in July, 1839, that many lay sick along the banks of the Mississippi river, and Joseph walked up on the east bank, to the lower stone house, occupied by Sidney Rigdon, and he healed all the sick that lay in his path. Among the number was Henry G. Sherwood, who was nigh unto death. Joseph stood in the door and commanded him in the name of Jesus Christ to arise and come out of his tent, and he obeyed him and was healed. Brother Benjamin Brown and his family also lay sick, the former appearing to be in a dying condition. Joseph healed them in the name of the Lord. After healing all that lay sick upon the east bank of the river as far as the stone house, he called upon Elder Kimball and some others to accompany him across the river to visit the sick at Montrose. Many of the Saints were living at the old military barracks. Among

the number were several of the Twelve. On his arrival, the first house he visited was that occupied by Elder Brigham Young, the president of the quorum of the twelve, who lay sick. Joseph healed him, when he arose and accompanied the Prophet on his visit to others who were in the same condition. They visited Elder Wilford Woodruff, also, Elders Orson Pratt and John Taylor, all of whom were living in Montrose. They also accompanied him. The next place they visited was the home of Elijah Fordham, who was supposed, to be about breathing his last. When the company entered the room the Prophet of God walked up to the dying man, and took hold of his right hand and spoke to him; but Brother Fordham was unable to speak. His eyes were set in his head like glass, and he seemed entirely unconscious of all around him. Joseph held his hand and looked into his eyes in silence for a length of time. A change in the countenance of Brother Fordham was soon perceptible to all present. His sight returned, and upon Joseph asking him if he knew him, he, in a low whisper, answered, "yes." Joseph asked him if he had faith to be healed. He answered, "I fear it is too late; if you had come sooner I think I could have been healed." The Prophet said, "Do you not believe in Jesus Christ?" He answered in a feeble voice, "I do." Joseph then stood erect, still holding his hand in silence several moments, then he spoke in a very loud voice, saying, "Brother Fordham, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to arise from this bed and be made whole." His voice was like the voice of God, and not of man. It seemed as though the house shook to its very foundation. Brother Fordham arose from his bed and was immediately made whole. His feet were bound in poultries, which he kicked off. Then putting on his clothes, he ate a bowl of bread and milk and followed the Prophet into the street. The company next visited Brother Joseph Bates Noble, who lay very sick. He was also healed by the Prophet. By this time the wicked became alarmed, and followed the company into Brother Noble's house. After Brother Noble was healed all knelt down to pray. Brother Fordham was mouth, and, while praying he fell to the floor. The Prophet arose, and looking round, he saw quite a number of unbelievers in the house, whom he ordered out. When the room was clear of them Brother Fordham came to and finished his prayer.

We should bear in mind also, the great blessings that are bestowed upon us now in the Holy Temples. In Kirtland, the brethren were not endowed with the same ordinances that are now bestowed upon the people, because they had not yet been revealed. It was in the days of Nauvoo that these blessings and ordinances of endowment were made known to the Prophet Joseph and he hastened to build a temple, in order that these blessings might be dispensed there before we were driven from the nation. His soul rejoiced wonderfully before he went to prison, thinking of the joys and blessings of the sealing of husbands and wives and children to parents. He could not in those times say very much about this thing; for he was situated so that the laws of God and the order of His Church had to be managed discreetly and suppressed, because of the prejudices of the people and the obstacles that were in the way of the promulgation of the principles; but to a great extent they were taught in the temple at Nauvoo. I recollect a remark that Brother Joseph made one day, when an accident had happened to him and Sister Emma, as they were going down from the temple grounds to his house. I think they were thrown out of their buggy. The Prophet Joseph remarked in the meeting that afternoon how he rejoiced in the love of his faithful wife Emma, who had given her hand, her heart and her soul to him in Harmony, Pennsylvania, when first he had been