

# DESERET NEWS.

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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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[From Monday's Daily, Oct. 3rd.]

## DEATH OF APOSTLE ORSON PRATT.

ANOTHER great man in Israel has departed. This morning at 8.35 Apostle Orson Pratt departed this life in peace, passing away as if in a gentle sleep, after most of his family then in the city had been gathered around his couch. It is well known that a little over a year ago Brother Pratt was attacked with diabetes from which he suffered severely, and that since then he has been in feeble health, much of the time being unable to leave his room. However, he recovered in a great measure from that disease, but was much emaciated, and though able to be out and to meet occasionally with his brethren, he was still feeble. On Sunday, September 18th, he addressed the congregation in the Tabernacle in a clear and forcible manner, speaking about twenty minutes. His remarks were published in the EVENING NEWS of Monday, the 26th. He then expressed his desire to live that he might again lift up his voice as a missionary to the nations of the earth. Next day he was 70 years old and felt well. He afterwards attended some business meetings in relation to the Historian's office, and the exertion of mind told heavily upon him. He was seized with vomiting and was again prostrated, and gradually sank, with brief and fitful times of reviving, until midnight of Sunday, when he visibly rallied. Members of his family in this city were summoned who gathered around his bed and gazed upon his venerable countenance before he sank into his last gentle slumber. At the very minute of his decease, Apostle C. C. Rich, who has been sick for a long time, was sending this dispatch to Brother Milando Pratt:

"Paris, Oct. 3, 8.35 am.—How is your father; I am anxious to hear."  
C. C. RICH."

The news of Brother Pratt's decease, though not altogether unexpected, was mournfully received. Telegrams were forwarded to every part of the Territory with the sad tidings and expressions of sorrow were heard on every hand. No man in the Church was better known or more widely respected than our departed brother. His refined and intelligent countenance, silvery hair and beard, dignified manner and powerful public address, were familiar to all, and he has left an impression upon the Church and the world that will be felt in time and eternity. Following is a brief account of his life and labors:

ORSON PRATT was born in Hartford, Washington County, New York, September 19th, 1811, and was the son of Jared and Charity (Dickinson) Pratt. His father was a descendant of William Pratt, who with his brother John came to this country from England with the pilgrim fathers and located at Hartford, Connecticut, in June, 1636, having, as supposed, accompanied Rev. Thos. Hooker and others of his congregation from Newton, now called Cambridge, Massachusetts, to settle at Hartford. William Pratt was a member of the Connecticut Legislature during some twenty-five or thirty sessions, and was one of the Judges of the first court in New London County.

The parents of Orson Pratt were hardworking people, and he was accustomed to labor from his boyhood, during which time the family removed to New Lebanon, in Columbia County, where he attended school part of the time each year until 1825, acquiring a common school education, and becoming familiar with arithmetic and book-keeping. He also studied the Bible. From the time he was eleven years

old, he worked at farming in different places, attending school in the winter, going to Lorain County, Ohio, in the fall of 1827, and in the fall of 1828 performed a journey of nearly seven hundred miles to Connecticut, went thence to Long Island, and in the Winter of 1829-30 studied geography, grammar and surveying, at a boarding academy.

He was a prayerful as well as studious youth, although neither he nor his parents connected themselves with any of the religious denominations. In September 1830 his brother Parley P. Pratt, who had embraced the gospel taught by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, came with another Elder to the place where Orson was residing, who received their testimony and was baptized September 19th, 1830, his birthday, being then nineteen years old. In the following month he traveled two hundred miles to see the Prophet Joseph, in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, and on the 4th of November received through that servant of God the revelation to be found in the Doctrine and Covenants, Section xxxiv, latest edition, in which he was called of God to preach the gospel, to lift up his voice both long and loud, to cry repentance, and prepare the way before the coming of the Lord.

He was confirmed and ordained an Elder December 1st, 1830, and went on his first mission to Colesville, Broome County, New York, and in the early part of 1831, went on foot to Kirtland, Ohio, where the Prophet had removed, a distance of several hundred miles. He then performed several missions in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, baptizing many converts. At a conference in Amherst, Ohio, he was set apart June 25th, 1832, to preside over the Elders, and was sent on a mission to the Eastern States. Feb. 2, 1832, he was ordained a High Priest.

He then traveled and preached without purse or scrip, through Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City to Long Island, thence northeast through part of Vermont into New Hampshire, preaching and baptizing by the way and making many converts in Bath, N. H., Charleston, Vermont, and then proceeding to the southern part of Connecticut, with continued success. After laboring in these parts till the fall of 1832, he started west traveling some three or four hundred miles, preaching, baptizing, and ordaining men to the ministry, and laboring in many parts of New York and arrived in Kirtland, Ohio, Feb. 17th, 1833, having traveled on foot about 4,000 miles, baptized 104 persons and organized several new branches.

Here he attended the School of the Prophets and again went East, performing another successful mission, traveling 2,000 miles in six months, and baptizing over fifty persons. After laboring on the House of the Lord he started on Nov. 27 to visit the eastern churches, and returned to Kirtland Feb. 13, 1834, having traveled about 1,000 miles.

In thirteen days he was started out again, with Elder Orson Hyde on a special mission, being absent about two months, traveling 800 miles. He next traveled with Zion's Camp to Missouri, being captain of a company. July 5th he was ordained one of the standing High Council in Zion, visited the scattered churches in Clay County, and in August was sent eastward, traveling through Illinois and Indiana to Ohio, suffering severely through fatigue and ague, arriving in Kirtland April 26, 1835, on which day he was ordained one of the Twelve Apostles, under the hands of David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery. On May 4th, he went on another mission to the Eastern States, being absent a little over six months. During the winter and early spring he taught a grammar school in Kirtland, and also studied Hebrew, and then received his endowments in the Kirtland Temple. His next mission was to Canada West, on which he left April 6, 1836, baptized many persons and raised up several branches of the Church.

On July 4th he was married to Sarah M. Bates, whom he had baptized in Sackett's Harbor, June 13th, 1835. In the fall, having returned to Kirtland, he studied algebra, and after providing a home for his wife, went to the State of New York and labored in the ministry during the winter of 1837-8. In April, 1838, the Saints having been driven from Far West, he went there to fulfil a revelation, and with several of the Twelve, met at the corner stone of the Temple, whence they parted to preach the gospel to foreign nations.

In the fall he preached through the eastern churches, and in the spring of 1840 embarked of England, preached nine months in Edinburgh, Scotland, raised up a branch of over 200 persons, and in the spring of 1841 started to return to America. He went to Nauvoo, where he took charge of a mathematical school, then took a mission through the Eastern States in the summer of 1843, and on his return in the fall was elected to the City Council, helped to draw up a memorial to Congress and went to Washington to present it in the spring of 1844. He labored among the churches east till the news of the martyrdom of the Prophet was received, when he returned to Nauvoo.

During the difficulties that succeeded the death of the Prophet and Patriarch, he labored with the Twelve, which was the presiding quorum of the Church, in the management of its affairs, shared in the expulsion from Nauvoo, crossed the plains with the pioneers in 1847, and on the way, when weather would permit, took astronomical and other scientific observations, determining, by the aid of the sextant and circle of reflection, the latitudes and longitudes of the most prominent places, the changes of elevation above sea level, etc., in anticipation of the great highway which even then it was expected by the Saints would span this vast continent. He was the first to enter Salt Lake Valley, having preceded the main body of the company three days.

In 1848 he was appointed President over all the branches of the Church in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and adjacent countries, starting on the 11th of May. The number of Church members then were about eighteen thousand, which during his presidency of two years were increased to about thirty-six thousand. In this short period he chartered and fitted out from fifteen to eighteen ships loaded with Saints for Utah. In the midst of this press of business, he wrote some fifteen pamphlets, and published and circulated several hundred thousand of them in different languages. At the same time he edited the *Millennial Star*, and increased its circulation from less than four thousand to nearly twenty-three thousand. He lectured, at different times, to large audiences in the principal cities of England and Scotland.

He returned in 1850, and in the winter of 1851 delivered a series of twelve astronomical lectures to crowded audiences in the old Tabernacle, which were published in the *DESERET NEWS*. He was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly during its first session, and at each successive session when he was in the Territory, and seven times was chosen Speaker of the House.

In 1852 he was appointed on a mission to Washington, to take the presidential charge of all the churches in the United States and British Provinces east of the Rocky Mountains, and there published *The Seer*. In the spring and summer of 1853 he again went on a mission to Europe, returning the following year. On the 22nd of April, 1856 he again went to England and presided over the European mission, publishing more pamphlets, and returned by way of California, while the army was en route to Utah. Arriving home in January, 1858. On September 23rd, 1860, he was called on a mission to the United States, being gone about one year. On the 24th of April, 1864, he was set apart for a mission to Austria. He went to that land, but in consequence of the stringent laws was unable to open the door of the kingdom to that nation, but bore his testimony to the authorities and left, going over to England, where he visited the conferences and labored assiduously, returning August 4, 1867. In 1869 he went to New York City and transcribed and published the Book of Mormon in phonetic characters called the *Deseret Alphabet*.

In August, 1870, he held the famous three days' discussion with Dr. J. P. Newman on the subject of polygamy, totally routing that debater, for which he never forgave the Mormons.

At the adjourned General Conference in 1874, he was appointed and sustained Historian and General Church Recorder, which position he retained till his decease.

On the 18th July, 1877, he once more left to cross the ocean, this time to transcribe and publish an edition of the Book of Mormon in the Pitman phonetic characters. He was soon called home and returned on the 27th September. On the 8th September, 18

he went East with Apostle Joseph F. Smith, visiting the Whitmers in Missouri, the Hill Cumorah and other places figuring in the history of the Church, and returned on the 3rd of October. On the 3rd of December he started again for England to stereotype the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, which he arranged in verses, with foot notes and references. From this important and laborious mission, he returned Sept. 2, 1879. He visited a number of Conferences, attended the Legislature, acting in his usual capacity of Speaker of the House. After that time, his health was poor, he could do little in the Historian's Office, and at length, as above related, he finished his labors, closed his eyes to this world and has gone to join his departed colleagues in the opening up of the great dispensation of the fulness of times.

He was the last of the original Council of the Twelve Apostles of this Church. He crossed the ocean sixteen times on missions of salvation. He found time to study the higher mathematics and in addition to his published scientific books has left an elaborate work in manuscript on the *Differential Calculus*, containing original principles. He was the father of 16 sons and 16 daughters, and leaves 43 grandchildren.

Following is a list of most of the works which he has published:

Divine Authority; Kingdom of God, in four parts; Remarkable Visions; Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, in six parts; Reply to "Remarks on Mormonism;" Great First Cause; New Jerusalem; Absurdities of Immaterialism; The Seer, in eighteen numbers; Eight Tracts on the First Principles of the Gospel; Cubic and Biquadratic Equations; Key to the Universe, or a New theory of its Mechanism; etc., etc.

The funeral will take place in the Tabernacle on Thursday the 6th inst. Conference will convene at 10 o'clock in the morning and services will be held until 11 o'clock, when the congregation will be dismissed until 1 o'clock, at which time the obsequies will commence. They will be conducted by President Wilford Woodruff, assisted by Presiding Bishops, Edward Hunter and his Councilors. During the time between 11 and 1 o'clock the remains will be viewed by all who desire to look for the last time upon the earthly form of our beloved brother, that faithful and devoted servant of the Most High God.

Orson Pratt was truly an Apostle of the Lord. Full of integrity, firm as a rock to his convictions, true to his brethren and to his God, earnest and zealous in defence and proclamation of the truth, ever ready to bear testimony to the latter-day work, he had a mind stored with scripture, ancient and modern, was an eloquent speaker, a powerful minister, a logical and convincing writer, an honest man and a great soul who reached out after eternal things, grasped them with the gift of inspiration, and brought them down to the level and comprehension of the common mind. Thousands have been brought into the Church through his preaching in many lands, thousands more by his writings. He set but little store on the wealth of this world, but he has laid up treasures in heaven which will make him eternally rich.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY SEPT. 28.

Fourth of July Prizes.—The Committee on Amusements, appointed for the 4th of July celebration, have been holding the prizes offered by various parties for that occasion, thinking an opportunity would yet be presented of having some sort of a jollification, in lieu of the abandoned "Fourth." President Garfield's death, however, has stifled all desire to carry out the project, and those who contributed the prizes may have them returned by calling at Savage's Art Gallery.

Unclaimed Baggage.—The following described articles of baggage are now lying at the railroad depot, belonging to members of the immigrant company which came in last Thursday:

One large box, marked Annie Bergene.

One box, marked James Woodhull, passenger to Salt Lake City, Utah.

One box to John Lake, Salt Lake City, Utah.

One bundle bedding tied up in a

quilt, marked Jane Wilson, Salt Lake City.

One large bundle bedding in burlap wrapper. No address.

Dr. Bernhisel Dead.—The melancholy news of the death of Doctor John M. Bernhisel, was brought to this office a short time before our paper went to press this afternoon. The sad event occurred about 11.40 a. m. to-day. The immediate cause was intermittent fever, from which he had been prostrated four or five days, but he was aged and feeble before, and his demise, therefore, could not be called premature. Deceased was born June 23rd, 1799, at Sandy Hill, Pennsylvania, and was an early member of the Church, which he joined in the State of New York. He was an intimate friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith and was universally respected and beloved for his integrity and many noble virtues. He was a man of intelligence and education, and was the first Delegate from Utah to the Congress of the United States. He lived a long and useful life and died firm in the faith of the Everlasting Gospel.

The funeral will be held on Friday next, but the time and place have not yet been designated.

Returned Elders.—Elder Christen Jensen, of Moroni, returned on Thursday evening from a mission to Denmark, whither he went on the 9th of September, 1879. He traveled in Jutland, presided over the Aarhus Branch for six months, and was afterwards President of that Conference for about a year and a half. Four hundred souls were added to the Conference during this time, 301 of whom have emigrated. There was no persecution and people seemed favorably disposed towards the truth. In Germany persecutions continue. Considerable means had been sent to the Scandinavian mission, by friends in Utah, to assist the poor to emigrate. The work was rolling on steadily. The loss of President Wilhelmsen was much regretted. Brother Jensen made the trip to and from Europe without any difficulty. He returns feeling well, and gold could not buy his experience gained while abroad.

Elder Andrew Jensen, of Pleasant Grove, formerly of the firm of Jensen & Braun, publishers of the *Life of Joseph the Prophet*, in the Danish language, returned last Sunday morning from a mission to Scandinavia, upon which he started in May, 1879. His labors were confined to the office of the *Scandinavian Star*, but besides his editorial duties, his main work was an entire new revision of the Book of Mormon, printed in the Danish language. The book is a handsome volume, clearly printed and nicely bound, the matter being newly divided into chapters and verses, accompanied with copious foot-notes. It is a very handsome piece of work, and reflects much credit upon all concerned in its edition. Brother Jensen had charge of the Scandinavian mission from the death of President Wilhelmsen until the arrival of his successor, Bro. Fjelsted, and has written to the News at intervals during his absence abroad. He returns in good health and excellent spirits.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY SEPT. 29.

Who Knows Him?—James Malcolm Workman, who came to Utah from England about ten years ago, will hear of something to his pecuniary advantage by calling on the editor of the *DESERET NEWS*. Anyone knowing anything of Mr. Workman will please communicate with this office.

Painful Accident.—Yesterday morning a young man named William Wilson, residing at Harrisville, Weber County, went hunting. For this purpose he took a "Ballard rifle"—a breach loader—which was not in very good condition. After being out for some time he saw and fired at a prairie chicken, when the lever in the rear end of the gun was blown out. It flew upwards and struck him in the forehead, inflicting a frightful gash. Some powder has also injured the ball of the left eye. Dr. J. X. Allen, of Ogden was sent for. He dressed the wounds and did all he could for the patient, who is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. The Doctor says Wilson's life is not in danger, but his left eye is in jeopardy. So says the *Ogden Herald*.

Drunken Soldiers.—A little after one o'clock to-day, two soldiers from Camp entered the house of a respectable married woman, in the Eleventh Ward, and seizing her by