



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,....Sept. 8, 1869.

SUDDEN DEATH OF ELDER EZRA T. BENSON, ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

At about 8 o'clock last evening, while the telegram from Elder John Sharp now in Boston, relative to the settlement of the U. P. R. R. indebtedness was being talked over in President Young's office, and all rejoicing over the news, another telegram was handed to President Young from Elder Franklin D. Richards, dated Ogden, which abruptly changed the current of the thoughts and cast deep sadness and gloom over the entire circle. The dispatch read as follows:

"Ogden, 3.

President B. Young:

Brother Ezra T. Benson arrived here to-day and about 7 p.m., while doctoring his sick horse, he dropped down suddenly and to all appearance dead. If you will please keep the office open a short time I will inform you of resuscitation if possible."

It was hoped that resuscitation would be found possible, for no one was prepared to hear of the death of a man, so healthy and active and so likely to live to a very old age as Elder Benson. But not many minutes had elapsed before another dispatch from Elder Richards conveyed the startling intelligence that Elder Benson was DEAD, and that the mournful tidings had been telegraphed to Bishop Maughan, of Logan, to break the sad news to the family of Elder Benson, and also to obtain directions respecting the disposal of the corpse.

An event more unexpected than this could not have occurred. Had our community been told that one of the Twelve Apostles had died, without the name of the deceased being mentioned, and they had been asked to say who it was, they would probably have mentioned Ezra T. Benson among the last. He was so hale and vigorous and full of energy, that his prospects for life seemed excellent. Bro. Benson was associated with Bro's Lorin Farr and Chauncey W. West in a large contract for the grading of the Central Pacific Railroad. The obligations which rested upon him connected with this work, in consequence of not being able to obtain a settlement with the C. P. R. R., have caused him considerable anxiety. His visit to Ogden was doubtless connected with this business. We telegraphed this morning to Bishop C. W. West, of Ogden, to obtain from him all the particulars of this sad occurrence, and received from him the following dispatch:

"OGDEN, Sept. 4th.

Brother Benson, accompanied by Brother Crockett left Logan on Thursday late in the afternoon, and came to Wellsville and stopped for the night. On Friday morning he left Wellsville and came on to Brigham City, and dined at Bro. Lorenzo Snow's. In the afternoon he came to Ogden; but before getting there one of his horses was taken with colic. He arrived at President Farr's at about six o'clock in the evening, and was assisted to unhitch his team, which was put in Bro. Farr's barn. The sick horse appeared to be very much distressed, he bled it himself, and after doing all he could for it, he lifted a little boy on it to walk it around for exercise. He then left the barn with Brother Crockett and Father Ephraim Turner to go to brother Farr's house, and while on his way he fell on his right side, his head to the north. As he fell he struck Bro. Turner on the leg. After falling he turned on his back and breathed about four times, when pulsation ceased. This was at 7 o'clock p.m. Judge Aaron F. Farr was immediately on the ground, and, with others, applied many restoratives; but they all proved unavailing. His body was then conveyed to President Farr's house, properly laid out, and put in a coffin, in which it was forwarded to his family at Logan, leaving here at a quarter past one a.m., a suitable guard accompanying.

Bro. Crockett said that on the way to Ogden he seemed to enjoy life as well as he ever did, and talked encouragingly of his future prospects. At the time of Bro. Benson's arrival at President Farr's, Presidents

Richards and Farr and myself were attending a picnic party of the Female Relief Societies of Weber County, at a grove about one mile from President Farr's.

I am yours truly,

CHAUNCEY W. WEST.

Ezra Taft Benson was born on the 22nd of February, 1811, in Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He was the first son of John and Chloe Benson. His father was a farmer and a very industrious man—a quality which his son inherited—and Ezra T. lived with him helping him on the farm until he was sixteen years old. He then went to live with his sister and her husband, who were keeping a hotel in the centre of the town of Uxbridge. He remained with them three years. His grandfather Benson was also a farmer, and while engaged at work in the field he fell and suddenly died. It is remarkable that the grandfather and the grandson should both die so suddenly and under such similar circumstances.

At the death of his grandfather by the request of his grandmother he went and took charge of the farm.

When twenty years old he married Pamela, the daughter of Jonathan H. and Lucina Andrus, of Northbridge, Worcester Co., Massachusetts. In 1832 he moved from the farm and bought out his brother-in-law, the hotel-keeper, and kept the house about two years. In this business he made considerable money, which he invested in hiring a cotton mill and commencing, in company with his wife's brother, the manufacture of cotton in the town of Holland Mass. Through a combination of causes, over which he had no control, he lost money in this business and retired from it, and took a hotel in the same town. He was also appointed postmaster. Though he made money in this business he could not be content; he had a desire to visit the West. In the Spring of 1837 he and his family started. While in Philadelphia he made the acquaintance of a gentleman who spoke discouragingly about the West, and persuaded him to go to the town of Salem and he would assist him to go into business. He remained in this place one year, and though his neighbors offered to render him any assistance he might need to establish himself in business he still yearned for the West, and he started in that direction. He touched at St. Louis, obtained a small stock of goods, and then went up the Illinois river, not knowing where he should land. But while on the river he made the acquaintance of a man, who proved to be his father's cousin. He was living at Griggsville, Illinois, and at that town he concluded to stop. But he did not remain long there. He moved to Lexington, in the same State, and afterwards to the mouth of the Little Blue, where he and a man by the name of Isaac Hill laid out a town and called it Pike. Here he built himself a dwelling house and a warehouse. But the place was sickly, and he was still restless. In conversation with the writer of this brief sketch in relation to these days he said he felt that the Lord was preparing him for the future which awaited him, and he afterwards could understand why he could not feel contented in the various places which he visited, and where, so far as worldly prospects were concerned, he had every opportunity of doing well.

He heard of Quincy, Illinois, and he was led to go there in search of a home. This was early in 1839. At Quincy he met with the Latter-day Saints, who had just been driven out of Missouri by mob violence. He heard they were a very peculiar people, yet, in listening to the preaching of their Elders, and in conversation with themselves he found them very agreeable. He boarded during the winter with a family of Latter-day Saints, and formed a high opinion of them. In the Spring of 1840 he secured two acres of land in the town, fenced it and built a house upon it. During this time he still associated with the Latter-day Saints, and his sympathies were much moved towards them, and he held conversations with them about their principles. A debate was held in Quincy between the Latter-day Saints and Dr. Nelson, who was opposed to them, at which the Prophet Joseph was present. From this debate he became convinced that the Latter-day Saints were believers in and observers of the truths of the Bible. Though pleased that the Saints had come off victorious, he had no idea at that time that he would ever become one himself, yet their principles were the chief topic of conversation with himself and family and neighbors, and he and his wife attended their meetings. His wife was the first to avow her belief in the doctrines, and when the word went out that they

were believers in what was called "Mormonism" a strong effort was made to get him to join a sectarian church. Elders Orson Hyde and John E. Page visited Quincy about this time, having started on the mission to Jerusalem to which they had been appointed. Their preaching seemed to have the effect to remove whatever doubts there were remaining, and himself and wife were baptized by the President of the Quincy branch.

In the fall he went to the Conference at Nauvoo, and was ordained an Elder. After his return Quincy was visited by President Hyrum Smith, who ordained him a High Priest, and appointed him to be second counsellor to the President of the Stake, which he had organized there. About the first of April, 1841, he moved to Nauvoo. He bought a lot, fenced and improved it and built a log house upon it. On the first of June, 1842, he started on a mission to the Eastern States, where he remained until the Fall of 1843. He returned and remained until the first of May, 1844, when he again started east in company with Elder John Pack. When the news of the death of Joseph, the Prophet, reached them, they returned. That Fall he was called to be a member of the High Council, and in December of that year was again sent East on a mission. He presided over the Boston Conference until the beginning of May, when he was counselled to gather up all the Saints who could go and move them out to Nauvoo. This was in 1845. The remainder of that Summer and Fall he worked on the Temple; and at night frequently stood guard to keep off the mob. He moved out of Nauvoo with his family in the first company. He was appointed a counsellor to Father William Huntington at Mount Pisgah. While at this place he received a letter from President Young informing him of his appointment to the Quorum of the Twelve in the stead of John E. Page. He moved up to the main camp at Council Bluffs where he was ordained to the Apostleship. He shortly afterwards was sent East on a mission from which he returned Nov. 27, 1846. The next spring he accompanied President Young as one of the Pioneers to this Valley, and after their arrival here he was sent back to meet the companies which were coming on, to inform them that a place of settlement had been found. After he met the companies he returned to the Valley, and then started back to Winter Quarters with the Pioneers. Another mission East had to be performed, and he left the camp about the last day of 1847, and was absent several months. Upon his return he was appointed to preside in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, being associated with Presidents Orson Hyde and Geo. A. Smith. In 1849, in company with President Smith, he moved to the Valley. He was dangerously sick on the road and was not expected to live; but the camp fasted and prayed and he recovered. In 1851 he left the Valley on a mission to Pottawattamie county to gather up the Saints, and returned in August, 1852. In 1856 he was appointed a mission to Europe, and with Elder Orson Pratt, presided over the British Mission until the Fall of 1857 when he returned home. In 1860 he was appointed to preside in Cache Valley at which point he has continued to reside ever since. Besides performing these missions Elder Benson has filled many important positions at home. He was a member of the Legislature of the Provisional State of Deseret, previous to the organization of the Territory; was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives for several sessions, and for the past ten years has been elected to the Territorial Council every term.

This brief epitome of his labors gives an idea of the energy, activity and industry of the man whose loss we this day deplore. He never hesitated when work was to be performed, and never suffered an opportunity of traveling with President Young in visiting the settlements to escape him. He has had no lingering sickness, and though the suddenness of his departure will doubtless be a severe shock to his family and friends, it is such a departure as we do not think he would have shrunk from contemplating. It would have suited his nature better to have known that he would die in the harness, than to linger through a period of inaction and decrepitude.

Elders Brigham Young, Jr. and Joseph F. Smith have gone to Logan to be present at the funeral obsequies, which are appointed for 1 p.m. to-morrow. They will probably be accompanied by Elder Lorenzo Snow from Brigham City.

We deeply sympathize with the bereaved family of the lamented deceased. The loss is theirs. Of his happiness there is no doubt. A man so faithful and true will receive a glorious reward. He has fought the good fight; he has finished his course; he has kept the faith, and there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give him in the day of reward. Elder Benson's family have the sympathies and prayers of a great people in their behalf, and the Lord, whom the beloved departed served, will most assuredly comfort, console and help them in the midst of this their deep affliction.

FUNERAL OF ELDER E. T. BENSON.—We have received the following particulars of the funeral of Elder Ezra T. Benson, by the Deseret Telegraph Line:

LOGAN, Sept. 6.

Editor Deseret News:—The remains of Elder Benson reached this city at a quarter past one on Saturday afternoon. At one o'clock yesterday the corpse was borne to the bowery by the Bishops of Cache Valley, preceded by a military escort, including General Benson's staff, and followed by his family, Elders Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Junr., and Joseph F. Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and a large concourse of people. A congregation estimated at four thousand including thirteen bishops assembled in the bowery. All the members of the Twelve present addressed the meeting. They spoke encouragingly respecting the past labors of Elder Benson and added much good instruction to the living. At four o'clock the procession was formed to accompany the remains of Elder Benson to his resting place, in the following order: first, martial band, next, a company of one hundred infantry, then, the brass band, followed by a company of one hundred cavalry, next, Col. Crockett and staff, Gen. Benson's horse and military equipments and his staff, then his family and mourners, the members of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, bishops and citizens. Nearly two hundred carriages and other conveyances followed to the cemetery. The flags were at half mast throughout the county.

PETER MAUGHAN.

MURDER AND ROBBERY IN RICH. CO.—We are indebted to President C. C. Rich for a communication containing the particulars of the murder of a young German brother named Frederick Woensner, at Montpelier, on the morning of the 25th ult.

It appears from the evidence given at the inquest, that about ten minutes past two on the morning of the 25th ult., an alarm was made in the street near the store of Frederick J. Keisel, at which Mr. Woensner was employed, and his voice was recognized by different parties, who heard him cry out: "Hold on!" "Hold on!" at the same time he appeared to be running very fast along the street. When near the house of David Osborn, Justice of the Peace, deceased was heard to shriek out for the Justice, immediately after a pistol was fired; and br. Osborn and others hurried to the spot, where they found br. Woensner lying on the ground bleeding, and lifeless, with a pistol ball in his right breast.

It being quite dark, the brethren hurried to the store, where they found the door wide open and a pane of glass taken out of the window close to the door. Two reels of brass were found lying on the ground; close by there was also a lot of beads and Indian trinkets missing, that usually hung in the window. In the meantime men were dispatched in all directions to try and track the murderer. When daylight dawned, the tracks of two persons wearing moccasins, going in different directions, were discovered, some of the stolen beads were also found on the trail of one of them. The other was tracked to the outside of the town, where he had a horse tied, and by which means he escaped. The brethren followed the track all day up Smith's Fork, but had not succeeded in overhauling the murderers at the latest advices. At first it was presumed that two bad Indians, who were known to be stealing in the neighborhood were the guilty parties, but later developments have caused the opinion to become general that the crime was committed by white men.

Brother Woensner has been clerking for Mr. Keisel for about twelve months, and was much respected by the citizens of Montpelier.

DIED.—Of consumption, after a long and painful illness, in Brookfield, Orange county, Vt., April 9, 1869, Sally Lyman Flagg, daughter of Richard and Philomela Lyman, born May, 1792, leaving her husband, Dan Flagg, aged 81 and an only daughter and numerous friends to mourn her loss. She was the last survivor of her father's family, all of whom attained a mature age and had families. She was the sister of President George A. Smith's mother, Clarissa Lyman Smith. She has a numerous kindred in Utah. Her husband, forty-five years ago, was given up to die of consumption and has remained feeble ever since, but at the advanced age of eighty-one has been able to attend to his garden the present season.