

the trade of a wagon maker when he heard and embraced the Gospel.

In 1852 he heard a "Mormon" Elder named Ole Swensen preach repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. This Elder was among the first persons baptized in Denmark under the presidency of Apostle Erastus Snow, and was one of the first native brethren called to the ministry. He advised Samuel, if he lacked wisdom, to ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not. One Saturday night, in the year 1852, the subject of this sketch knelt in secret prayer, and inquired of the Lord if Joseph Smith was a true prophet, according to the words of Elder Swensen; and if so to give him a testimony to that effect.

Soon after offering up this prayer, he retired to bed, his mind engrossed in thought upon the subject of the calling and character of Joseph Smith, when apparently the room became filled with an evil and intensely oppressive and terrible influence. It seemed to be thronged with evil spirits.

He was deeply affected by this manifestation of the powers of darkness, drew the bed covering over his head, and called earnestly upon God to deliver him. He was so oppressed that his tongue and limbs seemed bound and useless. Immediately on his calling upon God in this manner, his spirit seemed to leave his body and go to the locality where stood the church building, a Lutheran edifice, at which he and his parents had been accustomed to worship, and which was situated about eighteen or twenty English miles from where he was at this time. A great multitude seemed to be flocking into and around the building, when it suddenly split in twain, one half of it falling to the south, and the other half to the north. A large number of people were killed or mangled in the terrible catastrophe.

On witnessing this great calamity he felt utterly lost, bewildered and overcome. The church in which he had hitherto worshipped was wrecked, and the congregation killed, mangled, or scattered, and in great loneliness and distress of soul, he cried out:

"O Lord, where shall I go now?"

At this juncture his attention was attracted towards an inexpressibly beautiful and heavenly city, which seemed to lie a long distance before him. He was filled with longing to go to the delightful place, and again called to the Lord, this time asking

to be shown how he might reach the celestial city. In reply, a voice said to him:

"Listen to the words of the Mormon Elder; he will show you the way."

At these words, Samuel suddenly resumed his normal and natural mental state, and, somewhat to his surprise, found himself lying in bed, instead of being off on a journey, witnessing what has just been described. What he had seen had been spiritually discerned, but it was strikingly and impressively realistic.

As may be supposed, his mind was satisfied as to the truth of "Mormonism," and he was soon afterwards baptized, the year being 1852.

He left his native country in the following year and reached this city October 5, 1853. He was a member of John Fosgreen's company, which was the first to leave Scandinavia, except the company of 28 souls who accompanied Apostle Erastus Snow on his return home from his mission to Scandinavia in 1851.

Brother Petersen remained a short time with a family in the Ninth Ward, but was soon employed on what is now known as the Mousley farm, just south of this city. He married August 24, 1856, Caroline Elizabeth Sorensen, and located in the Eighth Ward. He was ordained a Priest Feb. 18, 1857; and on Feb. 27 of the same year he was ordained an Elder. On March 15, 1858, he was ordained a Seventy and became a member of the Fifty-seventh Quorum.

On June 8, 1877, he was ordained a High Priest and Bishop of the Second Ward, by Apostle John Taylor, he having removed into that part of the city in 1861, since which time he has lived on the same lot.

His first wife died November 8th, 1858, and he married Karen Jensen, his present wife, June 19th, 1859. At the April Conference, 1867, he was called on a mission to Sweden. He left May 12th of that year and returned August 11th, 1877. He was called on a mission to Minnesota in January, 1877, by letter from President Young, and left in that month. He returned in June of the same year, reaching home the day before his ordination to the Bishopric.

Shortly before leaving Minnesota Elder Peterson conversed with a man named Lars Neilsen, a substantial farmer and superintendent of a large flour mill, with whom he

had become acquainted. The colloquy was something like this:

Elder Petersen—Mr. Neilsen, I would like to make a Mormon of you before I leave; I have that much love for you.

Mr. Neilsen—You'll find it the hardest job you ever undertook.

Elder P.—Well, I'll leave that matter between you and God.

Mr. N.—Well, I must say that I am much obliged to you for the light I have obtained from you.

Elder P.—Give God the glory, for I am His servant.

This reply seemed to surprise and impress Mr. Neilsen, who remarked that as a rule men wanted all the glory of their teachings or labors. The two parted in a very friendly manner, but with no indication that Mr. Neilsen had become a convert to "Mormonism."

Three days after Elder Petersen's return to his home in this city, he was aroused shortly before midnight by a knock on the door. "Who's there?" he called out.

"Mr. Nielsen," was the reply, in a voice familiar to Elder Petersen. "Mr. Neilsen, of Minnesota," he exclaimed, and hastily opening the door, welcomed his guest.

Mr. Neilsen said it was a long way to come to be baptized, but that was his object, and soon afterwards Elder, now Bishop Petersen, administered that ordinance to him, and he returned to Minnesota, sold out and brought his family to Utah the next year. He is still a faithful Saint.

JAMES LEACH

is the son of John and Mary Leach, and was born May 2nd, 1815, in Pilling Lane, Lancashire, England. About the year 1827, his parents removed to Preston, the town immortalized as being the first in England to hear a public proclamation of the Gospel. One night about the year 1833, while James was lying awake in bed in the same room in which his parents slept, he heard his mother narrate to his father a dream or a vision she had had, in which she was informed that the true Gospel was about to be proclaimed upon the earth, in all its ancient purity and power. In 1837, Apostle Heber C. Kimball and companions preached the fulness of the Gospel in England, in fulfilment of this dream or vision. As soon as James' mother heard the Gospel she embraced it. She was, at the time, a member of the Rev. Mr. Fielding's church, Vauxhall Road, Preston. She received the ordinance of baptism at the same time as did