

for that reason it was resolved that the temple should be completed and be dedicated one year from date.

That will be on the sixty-third anniversary of the organization of the Church.

BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

Thirty-nine years ago today the corner stone of this temple was laid; but it was only a few days after the pioneer Mormons entered this valley, where a new empire was to be founded, that the site on which it was to stand was chosen.

It was on a beautiful summer evening in July, after the valley had been fully explored and no more favorable spot could be found to begin the building of a city in the wilderness.

On that July evening the Mormon prophet, Brigham Young, in company with some of the Apostles of the Church, were strolling about in the vicinity of their camping place.

To the south the valley spread out before them, stretching away into beautiful vistas as lovely as a dream.

Westward was the Great Salt Lake, glistening like a mirror in the rays of the dying sunlight, with its rugged mountainous islands rising from its waters and burying their heads in the white clouds and the blue of the heavens.

In the east were the cold gray peaks of the Wasatch range.

To the north were the brown hills which fortify the city in that direction.

Brigham Young was not insensible to the inspiration of the beautiful.

He gazed about him and was enraptured by the sublimity of the environment.

Turning his face to the east, he struck his cane on the ground and said: "Here is where the Temple of our God shall rise."

None ever thought to question the wisdom of the decision.

There were no suggestions that better locations might be had.

Brigham had made up his mind, and from his decision there was no appeal.

From that time on the Temple block was regarded as being sacred to the purpose for which it had been chosen.

Remembering with what matchless courage the great Mormon leader had conducted his insignificant army over 1500 miles of unexplored desert, and through mountain defiles into this then wilderness, and recollecting how unerringly he planned for the future well-being of his followers, one cannot restrain the thought:

"Did this modern prophet, in his imagination's eye that summer night, see through the mists of years the massive white pile that is now the Temple?"

But that July night when Brigham issued his edict and struck his cane on the earth was in 1847, and nothing was done on the work of building the Temple until six years afterwards.

April 6, 1853, was a day of great rejoicing in Zion.

Not only was the semi-annual conference of the Mormon Church being held, but the ceremonies of laying the corner-stones of their first Temple in the mountains were to be performed.

The first company of Mormon pioneers to come to Utah numbered 147. Six years afterwards Salt Lake City

had a population of five or six thousand people.

It was a city, too, the like unto which had never been seen before nor never will be again.

So on that balmy day in April the Saints gathered from the most remote settlements.

Flags were flying and bands (there were two in Utah then) were playing.

Men and women wore their gayest attire and smiled their happiest smiles; presumably their souls were possessed of that peace which passeth all understanding.

A great procession was formed in honor of the ceremony which was about to be celebrated.

A programme of that parade is still extant, but it is only necessary to the coherence of this story to say that the Church authorities were the most conspicuous figures in the pageant.

There were the Presidents, Apostles and High Priests, the Counsellors, the Bishops and the Elders and all the lesser degrees of Latter-day Saint dignitaries.

Four corner-stones were laid, four dedicatory prayers were offered in which the Almighty was invoked to bless the building which was then begun, and four grand orations were delivered.

There are many conflicting stories as to who conceived the original design and plans of this Temple.

Thurman O. Angell was the first architect to have charge of the work, but it was in the brain of Brigham Young that the primary idea of its shape and general construction was born.

Doubtless this idea was founded on the descriptions he had read of King Solomon's Temple, but, in any event, he explained to Angell the construction his mind had pictured, and these the architect had elaborated.

And there have been very few changes in the plans since they were first draughted.

To the working out of these plans Angell devoted his life. After his death an assistant under him was in charge for a time, but for the past five years Don Carlos Young, a son of Brigham Young, has directed the construction.

For many years the progress on the Temple was exceedingly slow. The foundations were sunk 16 feet below the surface.

There was a great yawning hole to be filled, and every rock had to be hauled a distance of 23 miles by ox-team.

Many people remember how slow that building rose.

They say that for years not a rock appeared above the level of the ground, but nothing was slighted, there was no hurry, and the temple, when completed, was intended to be as enduring as the mountains from which the stones were dug to build it with.

No better illustration of the patience and industry of the Mormon people could be given than that displayed in the building of this great structure.

When one considers the size, the absence of modern mechanical appliances at that time for such an undertaking, the distance to the quarries where the rock was obtained, and the thousand disadvantages they contended against, the work is seen to be stupendous and inspires wonder and admiration.

The Temple quarries are in a rugged mountain canyon, called Little Cottonwood.

For many years, or until 1872, every stone the building contains—and there are an immense number of them—was hauled by ox teams.

Wagons were especially constructed for the work, and some of the stones were so large as to require four and five yoke of cattle to draw the load.

How slow and expensive a building of this size must be when such methods are employed in its construction can be readily understood.

In 1872 a branch railroad was built to the quarries, running from the Temple yard, and since that time the progress has been more rapid and less expensive.

When standing near this prodigious pile, it is impossible for the beholder to gain a full idea of its great size.

It is only when viewed from a distance that its full impressiveness is truly comprehended.

Then it appears massive, and it rises above the other tall buildings of the city like a high mountain above a level plain.

True, when one stands beside it and tries to count the courses of stone, they rise until one tier is confused and commingled with another.

But at a distance, it stands out solemn, grand, majestic and lovely.

* * * * *

There is a font room, where baptisms are to be performed, for the Mormons, like the Baptists, believe in immersion.

They baptize for the remission of sins, and also baptize the living for the sin of some dead friend or relative who has passed into the beyond without having been redeemed.

The purposes of these Mormon Temples are not understood by the uninitiated.

Many suppose they are to be used as houses of worship; that is an erroneous idea. Public services are never held in them.

They are designed for the meetings of the Priesthood, for the performances of ordinances and ceremonies, like those of baptisms, marriages and the ordaining of members into the almost numberless degrees of priestly functions.

The general public is not permitted to enter these Temples after they are completed.

CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, April 12th. Mayor Baskin in the chair. All the members were present except Leof-bourrow and Karrick. After the usual formalities the following

PETITIONS

were read and referred as indicated: Price & Williams asked permission to pile building material at 73 G Street. Referred.

The ladies of the Central Christian Church asked for the privilege of conducting an "Easter Market" at No. 334 South Main Street, from April 13th to 15th inclusive, for the sale of art and fancy goods and to serve refreshments, the proceeds to go towards erecting a house of worship for said church, in this city. Granted.