

A FAMILY MEETING IN NAUVOO.

*Minutes of a meeting of the Richards and Young Families
held in Nauvoo, Ill., Jan. 8, 1845.*

A meeting of the Young and Richards family convened in the Seventies Hall, Nauvoo, Ill., January 8, 1845, at 10 a. m. President Brigham Young, Willard Richards, Phinehas Richards, Joseph Young, Lorenzo Young, Heber C. Kimball, John Taylor, A. P. Rockwood, Israel Barlow, John Haven, Joseph Tolmer, William Hyde, Joel Bullard, Edmund Ellsworth, Evan Greene, Todde Decker, and families, Mother Smith, (mother of Joseph Smith) Rhoda Richards, Franklin Richards, Samuel Richards and many others were present.

Before the services commenced many overtures were played by the band.

At a quarter to 11 o'clock Phinehas Richards called upon the different families to take their proper places and those not connected to be on the outer side. Father Haven was in front with his children and grand-children, Levi Richards on the opposite side; Phinehas Richards behind, Brigham Young and Joseph Young were in the middle tier of seats.

Phinehas Richards called the meeting to order and said: "Brothers, Sisters and friends. We have met here the first time as a family; it is a new thing to all, and to some it may appear novel, but the object of this gathering is to ascertain the number that are in good standing in the faith, and the relationship we bear to one another, as this varies in some degree. I am glad so many are here. We will open our services in the regular order and afterwards speak as moved upon by the Spirit.

The Band struck up "the Seer" and then the Choir sung, "Come let us all unite as one."

Phinehas Richards offered prayer after which the choir sang.

Phinehas Richards then said "Brothers and Sisters, I feel disposed to offer a few words on this occasion, and you must make allowance for the same. It is the first time I have attended a meeting of this kind. We want to know how many of our connections are gathered in Nauvoo. The reasons that I have appointed this day for our coming together, are, I recollect that 50 years this day there was a grand achievement made at New Orleans in which we thought of our protection as citizens under our laws—(Note—Phinehas Richards fought in the war of 1812) Times have greatly changed since then, but thanks to the God of the Universe for the blessings we now have. It is also 21 years this day since I saw for the first time, my son, George Spencer Richards who was shot at Haun's mill, Missouri,

for his faith; and it is sixteen years this day since my companion witnessed the death of her father; and these three reasons led me to appoint this day for this meeting. I wish, Brothers and Sisters to ascertain how many there are present who hold the Priesthood of the Lord, and how many there are who have apostatized, if any, and how many there are in good standing in the faith which was once delivered to the Saints, and to which they will always hold so long as they are influenced by the Spirit of God. There are many things that run in my mind to inquire into, and to get instruction and information about this day as there are those present, who can give us instruction. One important object is to get instruction concerning the work for our departed friends, that we may be able to come up as Saviors on Mount Zion, and whether there be many or few here who want to know, I for one want to know what I shall do for my dear kindred, so that I shall be ready when the time to do their work for them, has arrived. While we are assembled this day, let us communicate instruction, in order that it may be a profitable season. I will now give opportunity for others to speak as the Spirit of God shall direct."

Elder John Haven said: "Brothers and Sisters, Cousins, Nephews and Nieces and all who are before me as such. I rejoice that I am connected with you as there are three branches here, descendants of Father Phinehas, and Mother Susannah Goddard Howe. It might be interesting for me to speak as I am the oldest—I will communicate something about our ancestors to the Great Grand Children. Concerning my Great Grand Father Goddard, I will give you a little history of his character as well as others of our ancestors, for some of you have to be baptized for some who are dead and worthy of it. It is almost fifty years since I entered into the Howe family. My Father Jesse Haven died soon after I came into the family. I married Mother Howe's daughter Betsy and I knew Mother Howe's views of religion. She agreed with me in religious sentiments. Mother Howe was one of the finest of women. She did not speak much, but when she did, you knew her heart. In her opinions on religion there was some difference with the sects of the present day; she believed that Jacob's ladder was not yet broken and that angels still continued to ascend and descend. It was a delight to be with her and to hear her talk. You are nearly all descendants from the Goddards—and she was a Goddard. I only knew Grandfather Goddard by hearsay because Grandfather Haven and he were very intimate. They did not fall in with the opinions of Wesley; they thought the ministry did not stick to the Bible. Grandfather Goddard brought up his family very strictly in regard to the observance of the Sabbath day, far more so than those who live in this Western Country. They were like the

Jews in that they kept the Sabbath very holy. I remember in the city of Boston that a merchant went to London to buy some goods. He was longer away than they are now, and when he returned it was on the Sabbath day. His wife went to the ship to see if he was come. As soon as the boat came to the landing he saw his wife coming on the shore and he kissed her on the Sabbath day. The people were so offended at this desecration of the Sabbath, that the next day they took him before the magistrate and he was fined five shillings for kissing his wife on the Sabbath day. I think the Mormons need not be scared out of that privilege. However, it was the custom which the people were agreed in, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Now about my Great Grand Father Goddard. I have seen his Biography or memoir. He was in the Senate as Representative of Massachusetts. In this memoir it appears he was often appointed by the Governor of the State to settle difficult cases. This must have been long before the Declaration of Independence. I received this Memoir forty-five years ago from Grand Father who was then more than ninety years old. My Great Grand Father Goddard was a man of integrity, honesty and of the religion of those days. If I had not been adopted into this Howe family I might not now have been in this work. Brigham Young and Joseph Young came over to Hopkinton, and told me about the Mormons. I looked Brigham in the face to see if he could say he was a Mormon and I found that he had courage to say that he was. I wanted to know what they said and then took the Bible to see if it was true. I found that they were the only sect that kept to the Bible in all its purity. I spent twenty-six years with the Howe family and until my wife Betsy died. My father had six daughters. The greater part are now in this work. There is still a nearness of features in some of you before me and this brings me to remember my younger days. I want to know how many are descended from the Howe branch. I see two of the Twelve Apostles (Brigham Young and Willard Richards) and others who are high in office. I feel confident and rejoice in them." The band played a Quick Step.

Phinehas Richards then called on the persons who had the Priesthood to stand. Of the twelve: Brigham Young, Willard Richards, Heber C. Kimball. High Priests: Phinehas Richards. Of the High Council: Levi Richards, John Haven, Isaac Decker, Evan M. Green, Franklin D. Richards. Seventies: Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Israel Barlow, Jesse Haven, William Hyde, Lorenzo Young, Stephen Goddard, John Tach, Joseph E. Talmer, Samuel W. Richards. Elder: Thomas Bullock.

President Brigham Young said, in substance: "As I do not know where to begin, I will begin in the middle and work both

ways. With regard to our circumstances of being here this day I would have been happy to have seen the whole family. We have recorded up 120 or 130 of Father Young's family now living, and there is not one-third part of the family present. There are only a few of them here. There must be 60 or 80 in the Church. Almost all the posterity are members. There are some things I will talk about. When we come to the connections we discover that we all sprung back to the settlement of New England about 200 years ago. It is but a little more than that time when Father Smith, the Goddards, Richards, Youngs and Kimballs were all in one family—as it were. We are all relations. It is only three generations back that Brother Joseph Smith's family were related to this family. There are only three children of Grand father and Grand mother Howe—that is, only three families who have embraced the Gospel, but the others must, because the decree has gone forth. I have preached to them myself, I have done my duty and now I have handed them over to other powers for a time. There is a great deal might be explained here this day. I will first set in order before these relations the true order of the Kingdom of God and how the families hereafter will be organized; you have heard Joseph say that the people did not know him; he had his eyes on the relation to blood-relations. Some have supposed that he meant spirit, but it was the blood-relation. This is it that he referred to. His descent from Joseph that was sold into Egypt was direct, and the blood was pure in him. That is why the Lord chose him and we are pure when this blood-strain from Ephraim comes down pure. The decrees of the Almighty will be exalted—that blood which was in him was pure and he had the sole right and lawful power, as he was the legal heir to the blood that has been on the earth and has come down through a pure lineage. The union of various ancestors kept that blood pure. There is a great deal the people do not understand, and many of the Latter-day Saints have to learn all about it. In all the Kingdoms of the World you will find that there will be only one King, and all will be governed as one family, every man will preside over his own family. We will have to work out some of the impurities. There is a great deal that I have to say and the Brethren will have patience. Mother Smith is here—she is our Mother, we hold her in a three-fold bond, for we hold her by blood, by the Spirit, and by the Gospel. We are connected together. The human family will find out who are the saviors of the Earth. The world knew nothing of the office of saviors upon Mount Zion. If Joseph Smith is not the man on whom the Keys of the Kingdom rest. I would not give the ashes of a rye straw for our Salvation. If I teach my family correct principles and show them the way of Salvation I am in a sense their savior. There is the same blood

of Ephraim running in the veins of this family—and I know who has the blood and the Priesthood to carry the keys to the world. The decree of the Almighty is so pure that it would seem like blunders in the eyes of the world; but the keys will rest upon the Prophet and there is no power on earth or in hell to take it from him. This is a subject relating to the baptism for the dead. We will tell you when the Temple is finished how to redeem your dead. I want to tell you now don't be scared, don't be frightened, at what I tell you. The Church does not understand the doctrine that Joseph taught—yet it is plain as the sun at noonday—the order of redeeming our relatives originated in the Kingdom of Heaven. If our progenitors had kept their records as the Jews anciently did they would be able to tell exactly where they came from—and see where they run down in one straight line. We have hundreds ready to be baptized for the dead.”

Choir sang the hymn, “Daughters of Zion.”

An Intermission of about one hour.

At 10 minutes past 2 p. m., Phinehas Richards again called the meeting to order.

Brother John Kay sang “The Seer.”

Father Haven offered up prayer—Choir sang “A voice from the Prophet.”

Phinehas Richards then stated that there was an opportunity for those who wished to give instructions to occupy the stand. Joseph Young in substance said: “I feel an interest in this assembly. Ten thousand thoughts have rushed into my mind since I assembled under this roof with my family. I will say, brothers and sisters, and my kindred—and all of you; but more especially those who are united by the ties of kindred, and indeed all of you; here are the fruits of the labors of brother Brigham and myself. As Uncle Haven expressed it, we visited the Eastern States, and the Prophet Joseph prophesied before we went, that we should see the fruit of our labors in converting them to the Gospel. Brother Phinehas Young went with us to the Richards family, and after we had spent a short time with them, we went on to the East and saw my uncles and aunts, and preached to them. They looked on us as strange beings and our doctrine was strange to them. We preached to Uncle and Aunt Haven; we stayed but a little while with them and then went on to Albert P. Rockwood's for this was according to the promise of the Prophet. Others of the family did not receive the truth so freely, but I know we shall see many more of our family come in the Kingdom. Uncles, aunts, cousins, friends, and all of you, I am glad that we are to have the privilege of being baptized for our dead. I view the dead by vision and see them claiming their relationship to the everlasting Gospel, clinging to us on Mount

Zion, and claiming us as their saviors. I have been enjoying the beautiful music of this day, but there is more music to me in the sound of the Gospel. I rejoice that we shall all be filled with music, for the air will be all music and we will feel all the harmony in our blessings in the presence of God, and shall take part in the deepest solicitude and joy and praise. That buoys up our spirits. I assure you that I enjoy this visit, and look upon it as one of the most interesting meetings in my life. Let us bury every animosity that may have been in us, and let us unite our faith together and if we will claim the promises of God and walk up to our privileges, we need not lay our bodies down until we have laid the foundation of eternal life; and I am determined to lay a foundation for my eternal happiness. I will claim these relatives as my fruits. I recollect I and Brigham went through the snow and first trod the path to carry the Gospel to Canada, and I now rejoice that we did so. I tried all religions, but did not find any right until I got on board of Zion's ship. We feel the presence of God within these walls, and we have done so ever since the dedication of this building, and we shall always have it here unless we pollute the place ourselves. I have pulled heavy in the harness for twelve years, and I want to pull on. I have not pulled by jerks as some have done to jerk myself out of the harness. I have preached in the midst of mobs, and God has sustained me, and I will continue. May God bless you all, and preserve you all, that we may all go home fully ripe."

Brigham Young again spoke in substance as follows: "I have been reflecting on my life and the consequences of it and have listened to the remarks that Brother Joseph has been making. I have seen, and I know why the nations of the Earth have been left in darkness. They have rejected the Priesthood of God and have gone in the dark themselves and the rising generations have come up in darkness in obedience to their traditions. The result of it all I seldom talk about. For my reflections have been since I have been before the people as a public man, that I will build on the foundation of his (Joseph's) claims and rights. I suppose it was the first time that Joseph Smith gave to his Father the account of the finding of the records, when there was printed in the newspaper a short paragraph; it was only about a square inch, but it stated that a young man had seen an angel who had told him where to find an Indian Bible, and it went on to inquire what would happen if it should come forth; should we then know about the origin of the Indians? The night the plates were found, there was a great light in the East and it went to the West and it was very bright although there was no moon at the time. I gazed at it in company with my wife. The light was perfectly clear and remained

several hours. It formed into men as if there were great armies in the West; and I then saw in the northwest armies of men come up. They would march to the South West and, then go out of sight. It was a very remarkable occurrence. It passed on, and continued perhaps about two hours. Soon after this the Book of Mormon was printed and came into our section of the country. Brother Joseph Young and Phinehas Young saw the elders, and Father Chamberlain preached to Joseph and Phinehas in such a manner that they asked him to desist. Then they went into Canada to preach. Samuel Smith brought the Book of Mormon into our district, and he preached from it. I weighed the matter for a year and a half. I looked at it on all sides. All other religions I could fathom, I could get to the bottom of all religions that I had any knowledge of, but this new one. I reasoned on month after month, until I came to a certain knowledge of its truth. I reasoned on revelation and while I was getting into it, brother Phinehas laid it by. I saw the two first Elders who preached to my brothers when I calculated to be baptized. I calculated that I would go into the Church seeing things as they were. I knew Methodism. The Methodist Preachers used to talk with children in such a manner that I have often prayed, 'If there is a God in heaven, save me, that I may know all the truth and not be fooled by such doctrines.' I saw them get religion all around me. Men were rolling and bawling and thumping, but it had no effect on me. I wanted to know the truth that I might not be fooled. Children and young men got religion but I could not get it till I was twenty-three years old; and then, in order to prevent my being any more pestered about it I joined Methodism. I was brought up in the midst of Methodists, Episcopalians, Quakers and Presbyterians. But when Mormonism came along I fathomed it as far as I could and then I embraced it for all day long, that I might just live and die standing straight in this work. I took my sleigh and horse and drove right off to Canada about 200 miles. John P. Greene went part way with me as a preacher—and when we were going along I told him if he didn't get snagged I'd treat. Joseph Young when he saw me believed the Book of Mormon. I preached to him first. And so I claim all of you as the fruit of my labors. I am the first one of the family that embraced it understandingly. The Prophet Joseph could not come to our neighborhood then, so I preached to my family and related the truth about the Book of Mormon. There was one, Nathan Fellows, who had not been out of doors for years, who was ill and always had his head wrapt up. When he heard the preaching of the fulness of the Gospel he threw away his coat and his stick believing it.

"I was baptized in Mendon, Munroe County, New York, by Eleazer Miller April 9, 1832. and then we went preaching to the

North, East, West and South and started the work. Seven months had scarce passed away when there were a dozen branches raised up. Father Smith had gone West to Missouri so we were left alone in New York. Phinehas Young and I went into Canada and I preached to my friends. If my father and mother had said goodbye I should have said goodbye without a tear; for God is my Father, Jesus is my brother and the faithful are my brothers and sisters. The Prophet Joseph told us to go and preach to our friends. We did so. We sowed the seed and now I see the fruits of our preaching. The rest of our relatives we have handed over to other powers for a season. If they must of necessity see sorrow to bring them into the Gospel then they must. If all my family and relatives were here they would be more than all that are now here today. There are only three branches of the Howe family here. Where will this Howe family grow to, when we go back to our great grand Father Goddard? If he had had the Presthood and preached to his race how many hundreds would there not have been? My mother could sum up from 130 to 150 as her own family today, if she were here alive. If we were to take Grandfather Goddard's children and grand children what sort of a number would there be here? You would want a ten acre lot to stand them all on. Then provided great Grand Father Goddard had had the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and was permitted to reign over his posterity he would now have had a great multitude to preside over. Then come on down to our Great Grand Children and trace them back to the main stream—it is like a little fibre, it spreads itself and becomes a mighty river.

“If our Grand Father Goddard is permitted to rule as King and Priest over his posterity, and the posterity are raised up as kings and priests to rule over their posterity, our Grand-Fathers Goddard would call together a numerous host. I will show you the order of the Kingdom as regards my own family; one of my sons is placed here, another there, another there, and so on. Yet I should be their ruler, savior, dictator, and governor. They would have an innumerable posterity but all would join in harmony with my counsel; I should console, comfort, and advise them all. You and your children will rise up and administer unto your children, and you will rule over your posterity, and they may get up in tens, hundreds, thousands, and millions. Yet all will finally join with Adam who will be the King of all; Seth comes next; Seth rules under his father and over all; so this process will never end. This is the order of the Kingdom of Heaven, that men should rise up as Kings and Priests of God. We must have posterity to rule over. Uncle Haven, Phinehas, my brother Joseph, these come next and if my father were here, he would rule over all of us.

“I calculate if I am blessed that I will have an innumerable host, of my own, the same as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Orson Pratt can tell you the number of the lands and of the stars; but the Lord said of the Patriarchs, ‘their seed will be innumerable and they shall exceed the number of the Stars, they shall never cease to all eternity.’ Where there is no end, it must be innumerable. You may get an eternal decrease and thus get down to nothing, but there is no end to an increase.

“I’ll tell you about old Israel; do you know what the curse was upon Israel for? It was for mixing their seed with the Gentile races about them. I have received a promise that is to remain with me, and the same will be upon you and upon your children. I would tell you children that inasmuch as you have received this promise, and then if you mix your blood with others I will curse you, and in relation to the Priesthood, you would be cursed, or condemned. For your children, in such mixed unions, would be high-minded and stiff necked. The nations have wandered in darkness for centuries. If they had not mixed their blood, the Priesthood would never have been taken from them. Abraham was blessed and told that in the Latter Day he would gather his seed up and cleanse and wash them. God has had regard to the blood of the covenant for his oath’s sake. That promised blood has trickled down through our parents until now we are here. I know who has the right to the Keys—the Prophet has! That blood has been preserved and has been brought down through father to son, and our heavenly Father has been watching it all the time and saw the man that had received the blood pure through descent—that is what Joseph meant the Lord had regard to; and He made promises to the seed of Abraham which He would have fulfilled if it had not been mixed with the Gentiles. Ephraim is the character who has the pure blood of promise in him. The Lord has respect unto it. This doctrine is perfectly plain and simple. Those who have the right will redeem the nations of the Earth. The People who had the right to the Priesthood lost it, and the Lord has brought it forth in this our day. We shall redeem our friends and all the house of Esau will be saved by proxy, by the Priesthood. When we go into the temple after awhile we will tell you who ought to do the work and how to do it. Suppose a man and woman want to redeem their friends; perhaps they have lived without the Gospel; the man would be baptized for his father and the woman for her mother; and if the husband has the power of the Priesthood they are jointly baptized he for the father she for the mother—he is then washed for the father, she for the mother—he holding the Priesthood redeems the father and mother of the woman. Again for his father and mother—she receives the anointing for the woman, and he for the man. Then they stand as proxy to be sealed up to all eternity and then they will go

through the ordinances in the same way. Then they are sealed up in the same way for others—we shall have Father Smith with his grey locks. Joseph, Hyrum, Samuel, all will stand in their order, and we shall be priests and rulers to all eternity. Let my walk and my life speak for myself. The joy of the Lord is a great deal more than any one realizes unless he has partaken thereof. I have now given you text enough for weeks.”

Heber C. Kimball said in substance: “President Young has laid many principles before us, all of which are quite congenial to my feelings. It is what I am intending to put into practice. I have a Spirit within me which is begotten of the Lord and all the privileges and blessings which are ordained for me to obtain I shall secure. No creature will ever prevent my getting them lawfully. I suppose, I have descended from some of those characters, Brother Brigham has referred to; and we have got to sustain this principle. President Young has given a short sketch of what has been seen in the heavens. He saw those armies marching in platoons towards the West. I saw the same and I distinctly heard the guns crack and the swords clash. Lorenzo Young lived close by me at the time. Since that time Brother Brigham and I have never turned to the right nor to the left. Neither of us was ever an enemy to Joseph Smith. We never pulled him back; we have always been ready to push him forwards. We never dictated to him in the first thing, but we assisted him in carrying his work out. If you have the proper attitude to the Twelve you will never dictate or pull them back, for you can not hinder the work of God.

“I recollect those brethren who came from Pennsylvania to Mendon in the early days. There were eight of them. We did not receive the Gospel then, and they went back to Pennsylvania. When we were convinced, I took my sleigh and took Brigham and his wife, and Phinehas and his wife with me to Pennsylvania where we stayed one week, then returned home in the spring. In the month of April, we were all baptized. That church in Pennsylvania was the first that received the gift of tongues. We received them next and carried them to Kirtland and it was then the Prophet heard the tongues for the first time. He acknowledged the gift to be of God. We have a perfect knowledge of what took place. When I contemplate what has transpired I feel grateful, and thanks be to God I never stumbled and found fault with my superiors, and I never want such a thing recorded on Earth, for our acts will be handed down in eternity.

“Let every one examine himself, his authority and his place. This is my anxiety and the desire of my heart, that this Spirit may rest upon my posterity. I know that I have a Kingdom and have many relations in this world. I have all here, and ten thousand million others, and as I enjoy the society of my friends in this world, I shall enjoy them in the next. All things come

to me naturally. I knew no more of God according to the sectarian notion, than if there was none, for he was without body, parts or passions, and existed no where. God is a man in form like unto ourselves, and I expect His society, or the society of His children, the Prophets, Kings, Lords, Princes, Queens, Goddesses, just the same as in this world. I expect to go to a Kingdom of order, where every man will be in his place, and wisdom will be given to us to make us all perfectly happy. We will all be happy, no tears, no mourning, no selfishness, but everything in order. As God organized His Kingdom, so we shall organize ours; there will be the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. My superiors in this world, will be my superiors in the world to come. We shall all follow our file leaders, we shall all be satisfied, no one will be dissatisfied; all will be made happy and all will go ahead faster than we do here. I will sustain them as they sustain me, and we will redeem our kindred whereby they can have joy. If you should get a large Kingdom, and you think there is no room for them to multiply, what would you do? I will show you a simile, when you find a swarm of bees, there is a King and Queen among them, and they are increasing all the time. When they get too full in the hive, they go and choose another King and Queen, who go in pursuit of a place for their Kingdom, and then away they all go. Then after a time the bees will increase again, and they will swarm two or three times a year. I suppose it will be so with us—shall we hinder each other and try to hinder the work of God?

“I can also compare you to a lot of floodwood in the Mississippi; we all try to keep in the big channel together. Some of us may get crusty and get into an eddy and there we must wait until some one comes, cuts us loose, and starts us again. Yet such a one will not be able to catch the other lot until he gets into the ocean of glory. Yet the current will carry all down, so don't hurry and grumble and we shall all get into the ocean of peace and glory, all the little streams will flow into the ocean of peace.

“There are three branches of the Howe family here. Unite all your faith and you will all prosper, there will not be much sickness or sorrow. I expect to be near you in the Eternal world, so let us cultivate peace and friendship, and all good feelings, bear all things, hope all things, endure all things, and then I can do you good, and you can do me good. This is the spirit that all should cultivate even from generation to generation. I expect to see the day when I shall look upon hundreds and millions of my kingdom. I shall increase from this time to all eternity. I say unto you, push ahead, and don't stop and say I wish I was dead! What do you want to die for? I used to wish I was dead. But where would have been the extent of my kingdom, if the Lord had taken me at my word? I want to live 50

years until my head is white as wool. If I was to die I should not look so venerable. There's no time to lament or say I wish I was dead. When I see my friends cast down and sorrowful it hurts me. The Lord will give us strength to come off victorious. There is something new and glorious every day. I believe I shall comprehend all things in this world and then I am sure I shall in another; this will bring me in a position to act like a God. How do you suppose brother Joseph thought and felt at the little narrow contracted minds of men? I ask God to pour down His blessing upon you, and I would seal it so that it would never get off from you."

John Taylor, said in part: "This morning I went to see President Young. I asked him if I was a relation. He said I was, or else I was going to prove to him how I was related, but he has saved me that trouble. I and my wife are come in your midst and I hope I shall never disgrace my family or any of you. When we are all united as the tribe of Ephraim we shall have an invulnerable bulwark that the powers of hell cannot subvert. We can see the order of the Father, taking His place and all being in subjection to Him. And when we trace our descent like the branch of the tree, we shall trace the root of it to our Father in Heaven, and we shall find we are related to Gods, and shall find our Union in temporal and spiritual things. We have Fathers—one who is in Heaven and others on earth. When this dispensation is complete, we shall find that it has come to pass that prophecy which says 'all Israel shall be saved.' The best way is to go smoothly along. Some persons cannot endure the yoke or the burden. The easiest way is to prove all things—and then hold fast that which is good. We are all embarked on the Gospel ship and bound for the port of eternity and if we go on we will get to our port. I feel that I am going to preach. Uncles, Aunts, Brothers, Sisters, Cousins, and all, God bless you all. Amen!"

Father John Smith, the Patriarch, said: "I have been gratified at the privilege of being here. I have thought when the Prophet Joseph began to trace his genealogy I should learn some things. I found I was a little related to you. I thank God that so many are gathered together of one blood—the blood of Ephraim. All that is lacking is for us to stand in our lots. We cannot redeem our forefathers without the help of our assistants. There is a sort of a wilful disposition in us, and we make ourselves a multitude of trouble by not being obedient. Six years last summer there was a meeting for sanctifying the elements. Let every man stand in his lot, and then the elements will be sanctified. Women obey your husbands and God will give you power to drive the destroyer from your dwellings. I am bold to assert, I know now, and I am not afraid to say in the name

of the Lord, the destroyer cannot take away your children. But blessings obtained must be through obedience, humility and faith. God will teach you the words of life. At Augusta I was called in, to see a sick child and I could not lay my hands on the child. I felt that I wanted to say something; yet at last all that I said, was: 'I am afraid you are not agreed, that you do not live in love, humility and peace.' I saw the whole difficulty. I finally laid my hands on the child and gave them a charge not to quarrel, and then they should raise their children, and rear a large family. Be united one with another—and never let it be said that your children are oppressors, nor that women rule over you. Let everything be done in order and this city will become a healthy habitation. I will bless you all first-rate and tell you how to heal your children. You will comprehend far greater things as time goes on. May the Lord bless you all, with wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, and deliver every one of this congregation from the power of Satan, even so Amen!"

The choir sung, "Strike the Cymbal."

Phinehas Richards said: "I have felt very grateful for the remarks of our Patriarch and hope that the congregation will take it as good counsel. If we are permitted to escape sickness as a people in this city we shall rejoice. When people are always talking about a place being very sickly, it is very likely that it will be. If the Lord has 5,000 prophets in this place, God will certainly make some of them true ones. All of you never mouth the idea that this is a sickly place and then you will get power. I trust this is not the only meeting we shall have; we may want another. This connection and association that is formed amongst us will show us in the end that all will be in one tribe and family. Treasure up in our minds and contemplate the things you have heard and we shall be continually growing in knowledge. At some future day when we meet again, we shall say it is good for us to have been here today."

Mother Smith, mother of the Prophet Joseph, said: "Brothers and Sisters in the Church. I have looked around me this day with a thankfulness and prayer to God that every soul may be faithful that we may all enjoy the spirit of this Gospel. I feel a solemnity that the tongue cannot express, nor pen write I look back on the progress of the Church and see it just as clear as when the Church was organized. The next Wednesday after that I was baptized. I can see the rising persecution. It has been in all our hearts to help fetch forth that Kingdom that it may roll forth. It seems as if it is preserved by the Spirit of God and that all the devils in hell seem to be trying to put it down, but the Lord will roll on His work. And my desire is that Brother Phinehas may be blessed—and that all the blessings of heaven may rest upon you all. I want all your prayers in my trouble. When I look at my family, how they have been per-

secuted day and night I suffer in that reflection. But still they are comforted. I feel pretty much the same as when the Church was first organized, and when the Nephites rejoiced over us, that the Church just arising, as they had lain and slumbered for ages. Angels fluttered over us that time. If you remain faithful the Nephites will be your brothers and sisters and will give you intelligence—and may the blessing of heaven be with you all.”

President Brigham Young enquired if anything had been said to hurt her feelings. Mother Smith replied: “No, nothing has been said to hurt my feelings.’

President Brigham Young then dismissed with a benediction.

TEMPLE MANIFESTATIONS

By J. Hatten Carpenter, Recorder in Manti Temple.

Those who pursue genealogical publications are, as a rule, interested in their ancestors or in friends and persons who have passed from this earth. To most people that passing brings an end to all further intercourse; yet many have heart yearnings for their loved ones and wonder where they are and what they are doing. At the present time when a wave of spiritism is sweeping the land, and books on the subject are being eagerly read in so many libraries of the country, and death is taking so many to the world of spirits, the following facts and experiences which have come under the writer's notice may be of interest to many, and especially to those interested in the redemption of the dead and the work being done for them in the Temples erected by the Latter-day Saints.

I will mention no names of the persons who witnessed the following occurrences, but I can vouch for the truth of them all, as they were given unsolicited, and by every-day common-sensed people, of mature years, whom the Lord favored by giving them a glimpse of the work they were engaged in and how their labors were received by those for whom they were officiating.

These experiences all happened in the Manti Temple, whose white castellated spires and pinnacles soar heavenwards, and at the base of the hill upon which it stands, stretching away to the south nestles “A place delightful to the eye, a city known as dear Manti.”

A Mrs. A. told me only last year of the following which she had witnessed one morning some years ago in the room of the Temple where the morning services are held: She noticed a