

DEAD.

Hon. Orson Pratt Breathes His Last.

For many months now Hon. Orson Pratt has been suffering from a severe indisposition, and at times has been so low that many despaired of his ever recovering. However, he rallied, and two weeks ago last Sunday had so far recovered as to address the congregation in the Tabernacle. It was his last address, but it had a marked effect upon all present, and a peculiar influence was experienced by the entire congregation, of whatever faith, when he arose and when he closed. After this, he was again prostrated, and has gradually been sinking. His symptoms became very alarming some three days ago, and while everyone hoped that he might recover, his death at any moment would not have surprised most of those outside of the family, who were in a position to appreciate his extreme weakness. Some of the time he was in extreme pain; but this eased considerably on Sunday evening. However, he still grew weaker, and at 8:35 o'clock on Monday morning death relieved him from the cares of this life.

Mr. Pratt was born in Hartford, Washington County, New York, on the 19th day of September, 1811. He was the fifth child of Jared Pratt, and the fourth of Charity Dickinson, to whom his father was married after the death of his first wife Polly Carpenter, and by whom he had one child. Jared Pratt had a family of six children, Mary, Anson, Wm. D., Parley P., Orson and Nilson. Mr. Pratt's parents were very poor, and met with many vicissitudes. When Orson was 4 years of age they moved to New Lebanon, Columbus County, where he was sent to school for several months each year until the spring of 1822. He then went to live with a farmer named Justin Jones, and subsequently with a Mr. Church, during a portion of which time he also went to school, learning all the rules in Daball's arithmetic. During the remainder of the time up to 1830, he traveled about considerably, working on different farms and at other vocations, all the while, however, storing his mind with useful information, so that when he had attained his majority he was thoroughly acquainted with geography, grammar and surveying.

While he traveled considerably he always kept himself free from the vices common to young men of his day, and when 29 years of age began to pray fervently to the Lord for light, and continued doing so until September, 1830, when he met with two elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one being his brother, Parley P. Pratt. He became convinced of the truth of the gospel, and on the 19th of September, 1830, was baptized. He visited the Prophet Joseph shortly after, and on December 1st, of the same year, was confirmed as an elder. His first mission was to Colesville, Brown County, N. Y. He continued traveling from this time and preaching the gospel for many years. On the 4th of July, 1836, he was married to Sarah M. Bates at Henderson, Jefferson County, N. Y. In the spring of 1839, with his family, he moved to Quincy, Ills. In 1840, still continuing his missionary work, he published a pamphlet entitled, "Remarkable Visions." In 1844 he prepared and published an almanac for 1845, entitled "The Prophetic Almanac." From 1836 to 1839 he occupied much of his leisure time, and while undergoing a most arduous missionary labor, in study, making himself thoroughly acquainted with algebra, geometry, trigonometry, conic sections, differential and integral calculations, astronomy, and most of the physical sciences, all of which were pursued without the aid of a teacher.

Various offices of trust and importance had been given Mr. Pratt up to the 4th of February, 1835, when he was chosen one of the original Twelve Apostles at Kirtland, who were as follows:

Lyman E. Johnson, Brigham Young,
Heber O. Kimball, Orson Hyde,
David W. Patten, Luke Johnson,
Wm. E. McLellan, John F. Boynton,
Orson Pratt, Wm. Smith,
Thos. B. Marsh, Parley P. Pratt.

The first intimation of the new position conferred upon him was obtained while he was at Columbus, O. Stopping at the house of the only Latter-day Saint in the city at that time, he read in the *Messenger and Advocate* that he had been chosen one of the Twelve. He then returned to Kirtland and was ordained by David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery. He continued his missionary labors until the spring of 1840, when he embarked for England with several of the Twelve. It was while he was in England that he published the "Remarkable Visions." In 1841 he returned to America and continued his missionary labors without interruption in the states. In 1844, hearing of the martyrdom of the prophet Joseph, he returned to Nauvoo from New York, where he had been living.

With the Twelve Apostles he directed the affairs of the church during the trying period which fol-

lowed the death of the prophet, and his name is indelibly associated with the most painful trials which constitute some of the most memorable events in the church, and which remain a burning shame upon the boasted Christian spirit of that day. He traveled with the pioneers in their dangerous, difficult and trying trip across the western wilds, and he was the first man among the pioneers to cast his eye over and set his foot in this valley.

In 1848 he was made president over the entire British mission, then embracing England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and adjacent places. In the two years that followed, he performed an almost stupendous work. Besides directing the entire work of that mission, which then embraced some 18,000 souls, he fitted out and dispatched some eighteen vessels loaded with emigrants; wrote some fifteen pamphlets, edited the *Millennial Star*, the circulation of which he increased from 4,000 to 23,000, and he lectured to large audiences in the principal cities of England and Scotland. Under his direction, the membership of the mission over which he presided increased in the two years he was there from about 18,000 souls to some 36,000. Returning to Utah in 1850, Mr. Pratt delivered a series of lectures on astronomy in the old Tabernacle, which were listened to by large and interested audiences. In 1852 he was appointed president of the Churches east of the Rocky Mountains including those of Great Britain, with headquarters at Washington. He also published a religious paper there called *The Seer*. He went to Europe in 1853, and returned in 1854. In 1856 he again went to Europe and presided over the mission on that continent, continuing his literary labors and studies through all. He returned to Utah in 1858, coming this time by way of California. In 1860 he went on a mission to the United States, and in 1864 was set apart for a mission to Austria, and went, but was unable to labor there because the laws of the country forbade proselyting. He returned to England and remained there until 1867. In 1869 he transcribed the Book of Mormon into the Deseret Alphabet, going to the City of New York for that purpose. In 1877 he again crossed the ocean, his object being to transcribe the Book of Mormon into the Pitman phonetic characters. He went east in 1878, accompanied by Apostle Joseph F. Smith, visiting points of interest and persons of note connected with the history of the church. On the 3d of December of the same year he once more went to England, and while there had the Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants stereotyped, to which he added foot notes. He returned to Utah in 1879, and has since resided in this city.

From this sketch it will be seen that his life must have been one of almost unexampled industry and perseverance, and during all he maintained his profound studies and increased his enormous fund of information, formulating new theories and advancing new ideas. In 1851 he was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature, and has had the same distinction conferred upon him every time since, when in the territory. Seven times he was chosen speaker.

He was made church historian in 1874, and held the position until his death. He held the famous three-days' discussion with Dr. J. P. Newman in 1870, that divine coming all the way from Washington for the verbal battle.

It would seem that the work already detailed would be more than could be performed by one man; but such is not the case, for during all these hard labors he found time to prepare and publish, among others, the following works, many of them requiring great labor and time: 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.

Mr. Pratt was a wonderful man, and his life is a grand illustration of the results that industry will bring. He could claim no college education; but what was far greater, he could boast a depth and breadth of knowledge which could be excelled by no college graduate; and this knowledge he acquired by individual industry, by watching and working through the silent hours of the night, by wasting no moment, and allowing no opportunity to acquire greater information pass idly by. It has long been held that in this age any person who is determined to become educated can do so, and in the life of this great man can be found one of the most striking proofs of such an assertion. Let no person claim a lack of opportunities hereafter, but surmount difficulties as was done by Mr. Pratt. His character was spotless, and the slightest intimation of anything willingly wrong in his career has yet to be heard. His integrity was unimpeachable, and he was the embodiment of earnestness and sincerity. Broad minded and large souled

he devoted his life and his vast intellectual powers and attainments to a work, the truthfulness of which he had become convinced in his youth, and nowhere in a long, useful and prominent career can a single instance be pointed to in which he swerved from what he deemed the path of duty. No demand was too great, no duty too onerous. Uncomplaining, and with a heart full of noble aspirations, he passed through a world which was the brighter, the better and the wiser for his presence. He was a man among ten thousand, and while there is no more truthful assertion than that no place vacated by man which cannot be filled, yet if there is an exception, that exception is to be found in the case of the history of Mr. Pratt. No man was more widely known nor more universally respected; his labors have engraven his memory so deeply in the hearts of this community that all time cannot efface them, and his death has created a vacancy and a loss to mankind which many believe can never be filled.

His funeral will take place from the Tabernacle on Thursday next, beginning at 1 o'clock. The services will be conducted by President W. Woodruff, assisted by Bishop Edward Hunter and his counselors. His remains can be viewed by all who desire it between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the Tabernacle.