to their nets, that instead of pursuing
the high calling of "fishers of men," that
they again become common fishermen.
They comprehended not the words of the
Savior to them. But after his death, he
appeared to them, and they began to un-
derstand then what he had previously
told them. We did not understand either
what Joseph meant when he told us he
was going to be taken away. But so it
was, and when it came, we knew too well
his meaning, for sorrow and gloom rested
upon all Israel. The question may be
asked, Why was this necessary? There
may be more than one reason; one, how-
ever, is, the dispensation already ush-
ered in is the dispensation of the full-
ness of times; and like preceding ones,
the men who have been called upon to
open them up, had to seal their testi-
mony with their blood, Joseph had to
do the same. But those who took his
life, and those who assented to it, will
have to pay the bill. He held the keys
of the Priesthood, and had a work to per-
form in the spirit world, as Jesus had.
When he was put to death, and while
his body lay in the tomb, he went to the
spirit world to introduce the Gospel to
the spirits there, that they might have
the opportunity of either receiving or re-
jecting it, and be judged according to
men in the flesh. And it will be the
privilege of every son and daughter of
Adam, sometime of their life, either in
the body or in the spirit, to hear the
glad tidings of great joy proclaimed to
them, for God is just and is no respecter
of persons. Joseph, then, standing at
the head of this dispensation holds the
keys of the Priesthood pertaining to this
time, and it was a duty that the God
of heaven required of him to open up
the Gospel to those in the spirit world
who had not received it. And there is
no greater duty resting upon the Latter-
day Saints today than that of building
Temples, and officiating therein for the
dead as well as the living. Said Paul,
in support of this doctrine, "Else what
shall they do which are baptized for the
dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are
they then baptized for the dead?" There
is no doubt or obscurity in the minds
of the Latter-day Saints respecting this
principle, it has been made plain unto
our understanding by the light of reve-
lation. The Adversary, well knowing the
nature and importance of the mission of
this Prophet of God, put it into the hearts
of wicked men to kill him, and in taking
his life they thought they were putting
an end to "Mormonism." They reasoned
from their human standpoint, for such
might have been the case if this work
were the creation of man. But the hand
of God was over him and the work that
he established, and it is his work and
he directs it, and those who want to find
fault with it, or any part of it, should en-
ter complaint against God, for he is its
Author; we are merely the instruments
in his hands in carrying it on.

After the martyrdom of our beloved
Prophet, the Twelve Apostles stepped
forward, in the magnitude of their
calling, and assumed the Presidency
of the Church, and, as a Quorum, they led it, with President Young as
President of that Quorum, for sev-
eral years before there was an orga-
nization of the First Presidency; and
when this organization was effected,
with Brigham Young as President of
the Church, he continued to preside
for the space of thirty-three years, un-
til the time of his death, with-
standing the combined efforts of the