

## KIRTLAND TEMPLE.—PART I.

HENRY C. SMITH.

THE "House of the Lord" (called the Temple) at Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio, was built by command of God to Joseph Smith; the corner-stone being laid July 23, 1833, and the building completed March 27, 1836.

## BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS.

It is situated on a beautiful table-land on the south bank of the Chagrin River, elevated about one hundred feet above its bed and about nine hundred feet above sea-level.

The view of its surroundings from the cupola of the building is most beautiful. The blue waters of Lake Erie, six miles to the north, dotted with her shipping, form a picture of rare beauty and grandeur. The region round about, as far as the eye can reach, seems ruffled with columns of smoke from the iron horse and the many manufacturing plants; attesting the enterprise of the occupants of this most lovely of regions, blessed indeed by the hand of its Creator as a resting place for the sons of men. The city of Cleveland, with about four hundred thousand souls, lies about twenty miles to the southwest; Painesville, nine miles to the northeast; Chardon, the business center of the temple builders, nine miles to the southeast; and Little Mountain (as it is called) five miles east, said to be the highest point of land in the state of Ohio: forming a nucleus which for beauty and enterprise would be hard to duplicate on American soil.

## THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

A building committee, designated by revelation, was chosen to superintend the building of the house. It was composed of Hyrum Smith, Reynolds Cahoon, and Jared Carter (See Doctrine and Covenants 91:4).

It is said that the character of the building, its size and architecture throughout, was stamped (as it were) on the minds of those in charge through divine favor, with one exception, which we will notice later on.

## MATERIAL.

The walls are plastered on the outside, and striped in imitation of blocked stone, and covered with a skim coat of cement filled with powdered glass, which serves to give solidity as well as a sparkling appearance in the sunlight, thought by some to be difficult to duplicate even in our advanced age of discoveries.

The corners of the house are laid up with nicely dressed block stone, six inches thick, nine inches wide, and four feet long, laid at right angles and projecting out from the wall one inch and a half.

There are twelve windows in each of the side walls, of seventy-five lights of glass each; size of glass being seven by nine, with some exceptions.

The windows are Gothic in style and are twelve feet high, the upper one-third being circular. The jams are of finely dressed stone five inches thick, eight and four feet long respectively. There are four windows on each end of the house, similar to those on the sides, with an additional one in the center of the four, with one hundred sixteen lights of glass each.

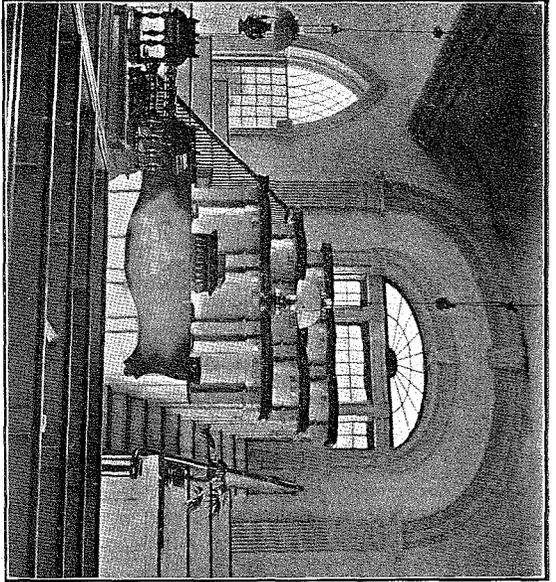
There is also a window in the east gable, oblong in shape, and used as an observation point, about four feet wide by six feet long, with glass cut to accommodate the circle, making three thousand five hundred lights of glass in the building.

## DIMENSIONS.

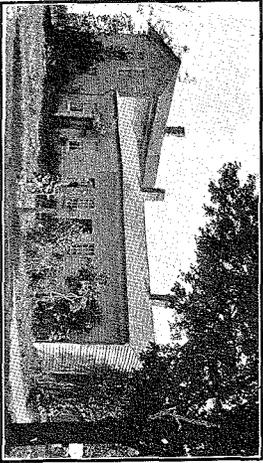
The size of the house from outside measurement is fifty-nine feet wide, by seventy-nine feet long. The height of the walls is sixty feet including the basement. The walls are two feet thick, and are composed of a good class of sandstone quarried about two miles south of the site, and are nicely laid up with a strong mortar.

There are two doors of suitable size in the front end, finished with heavy stone jams and threshold, with circular glass fittings over the top.

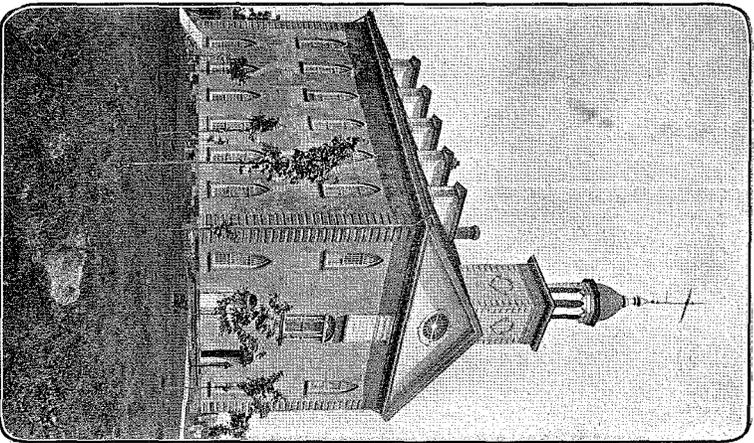
On the front or east end of the house



INTERIOR KIRTLAND TEMPLE  
Courtesy Four Track News.



OLD HOME OF HYRUM SMITH, AT KIRTLAND,  
AS IT IS TO-DAY  
Courtesy Four Track News.



KIRTLAND TEMPLE, KIRTLAND, OHIO  
Courtesy Four  
Track News.  
(See page 266.)



there is a finely finished tablet, with stone base, jams, and cap, about four feet wide by seven feet high, with a cement finish, and painted, on which, in letters of gilt, is the inscription appearing at the close of this article.

The roof is made of shingles, with a heavy cornice suited to the size of the building.

The cupola and belfry compare favorably with the size of the building and are neatly and tastefully finished. There was no bell placed in position by the builders, that we can learn of; but a fine one is now in place, weighing one thousand and one pounds, placed by the Reorganized Church.

From the ground to top of spire is one hundred and twenty feet.

House of the Lord

Built by the Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter Day Saints, — 1834.

Reorganized Church of Jesus  
Christ Latter Day Saints in  
Succession by decree of Court.  
Feb. 1880.

## OUR TRIP TO NIAU.—PART I.

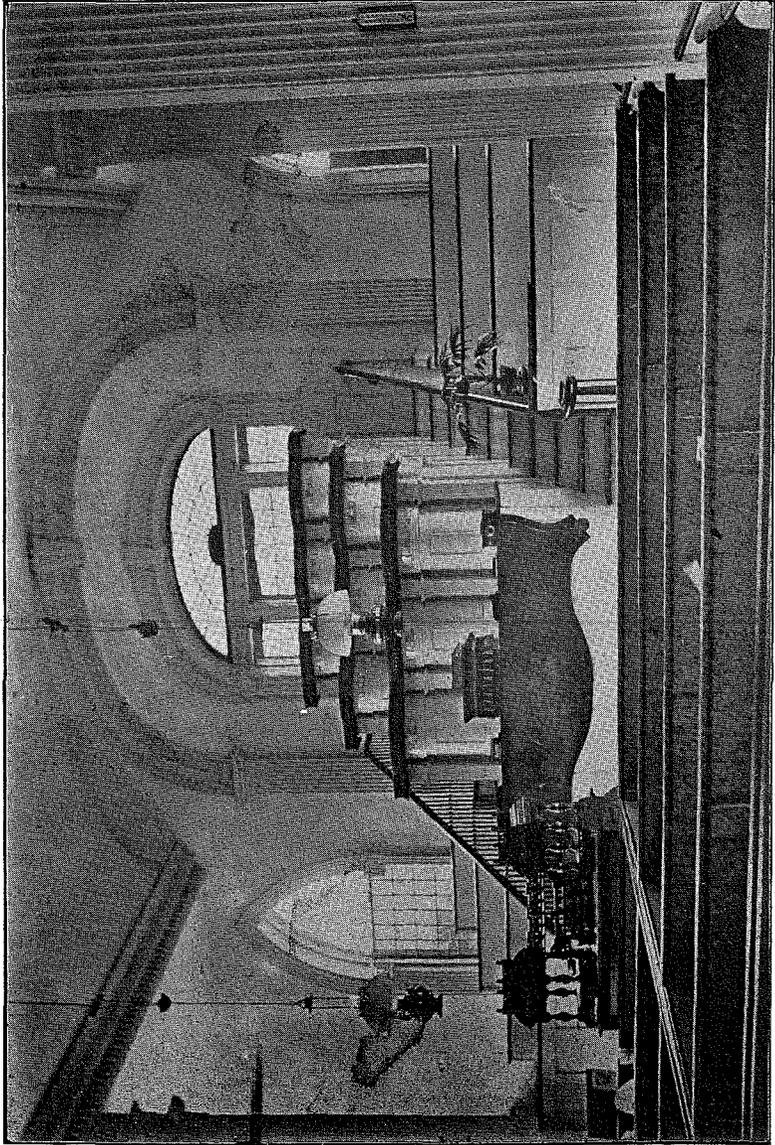
BY MRS. J. F. BURTON.

AT the risk of wearying the readers with notes of travel, I find myself writing up another trip. On the afternoon of August 3 (being Friday), Mr. Burton and I, together with a company of fifteen or twenty natives, men, women, and children, sailed out of the harbor of Papeete on the schooner "Henry," for a short visit to the Paumotus. We were allowed passage free if we provided our own food, and were also notified that we must rough it, for the ship was full everywhere; all of which we were willing to comply with. When meal-time came, however, both the captain and the supercargo insisted on our eating at the table with them,—or rather from off the top of the house. That was a kindness indeed, seeing it saved us doing any cooking. We simply put our food on the table or gave it to the cook.

The early part of the first evening out was pleasant, and the captain said, as he laid his hand on the top of the house, "You can make your bed here, and if it rains, you can go down in the cabin."

Brn. Smith and Gould will now know how a bed is made on deck. One secures two or three pillows and a quilt, and adjusts the body to the

slant of the ship, and closes the eyes. The top of this specified house was broad, clean, and nicely painted (the main-boom was swung away off, making the ship almost level), and looked to be a fine, airy sleeping place. We could make a choice of position thereon, so thought I; but lo, in a very few minutes there was only space enough left for us two, and that, on the after margin of the house. The deck or house of one of those trading vessels, when carrying native passengers, is in one respect like government land: the one who first takes up the claim holds possession. I did not relish that field-bed fashion; so, by way of variety, I headed the other way, using the slide over the companionway for a bolster. I had forgotten that the bell was so near, and was just verging into dreamland when the man at the wheel struck "eight bells" so vigorously that for an instant I did not know whether I was shot, badly hurt, or what had happened. I was not long, though, in finding out, and wondered if one could endure a start like that every hour of the night. Being very tired, and the motion of the vessel conducive to sleep, I was dozing off again when the big rain-drops began to fall, and then



**Kirtland Temple Interior.**

## KIRTLAND TEMPLE.—PART II.

HENRY C. SMITH.

### THE DIVISION OF ROOMS AND METHOD OF HEATING.

THE house is divided into four parts: basement, auditorium, school-room of the apostles, and school and quorum rooms subdivided to suit convenience. The basement is about six feet six inches in the clear, with ground floor.

The house was warmed by large box-stoves situated in the several corners of the basement, pipes conveying the heat to the several rooms above, with drums, we are told, in each room. It is now warmed by furnace.

The first floor is divided into four rooms, auditorium, vestibule, and two vestry-rooms, one at each end of the vestibule.

The auditorium is fifty-five feet wide by sixty-five feet long. The ceiling is about eighteen feet high, with an arched center five feet high over the main center of the floor, making the height from floor to ceiling twenty-three feet.

The base of the arch is suitably ornamented to give symmetrical order and taste to the general finish of the room.

There are eight pillars in the room, with timbers extending from heavy stone pillars in the basement to the third floor; thus supporting the floors and the roof. These pillars are finished with heavily fluted casings, leaving sufficient room inside for pulleys to adjust the vails or curtains used to divide the room into four parts; which was done by the use of a crank inserted in the several pillars. The curtains were hung on adjustable rollers just above the ceiling, the whole order of adjustment being very ingeniously contrived.

The door and window casing are also heavily fluted, said to have been done using oxen as a motive power. Certainly it is too heavy for hand work, and there was no machinery to accomplish the task in 1834.

### ARRANGEMENTS OF PULPITS AND SEATS.

The house was evidently intended as a stake house; but is arranged to represent the church in her general assemblies, as we shall see by the following divisions.

There are two pulpits; one in the west end of the room representing the Melchisedec order of priesthood; and one in the east end representing the Aaronic line of priesthood.

These pulpits represent four grades of presiding officers in the Melchisedec line—elder, high priest, presiding high priest, and presidency of stake council.

Each breastwork is lettered in gilt as follows: "P. E. M.," signifying "Presiding Elder, Melchisedec;" "M. H. P.," or "Melchisedec High Priest," representing the order without regard to number; "P. M. H.," or "Presiding Melchisedec High Priest," or presidency of the church; "M. P. C.," or "Melchisedec Presiding Council," or presidency of the stake. The above interpretation of the lettering is correct, as near as we can learn.

These breastworks rise one above another to a height of eight feet above the floor, and are nicely arranged to accommodate a presiding officer and two counselors.

At either end of the pulpits are raised seats for twelve men arranged to face the congregation. They are to be occupied, as we learn, by the twelve apostles on the right, and the twelve stake counselors (or high priests) on the left.

In the corner of the building to the right are raised seats facing the pulpits, providing for a quorum, or a part of a quorum, of Seventy, and in the opposite corner are seats for a quorum of elders; so that the traveling presiding councils of the church are seated at the right of the presidency, and the local presiding authorities of the church are seated at the left.

The Aaronic line of priesthood is represented in similar order in the east end of the room, only differing in the lettering of the several breast-

works. The lettering is as follows: "P. D. A.," "Presiding Deacon, Aaronic;" "P. T. A.," "Presiding Teacher, Aaronic;" "P. A. P.," "Presiding Aaronic Priest;" "B. P. A.," "Bishop Presiding, Aaronic."

The seats for the congregation are movable, to face either pulpit, and are severally inclosed in boxed pews with doors. These are antique in style, and said to be the only exception to divine dictation.

The pulpits are finely ornamented with circular cuttings, fitted to cylinder-shaped drums, representing pillars, three in each breastwork. The entire mechanism with its symmetrical neatness and order is said, by those making and selling architectural designs in our Eastern cities, to equal if not surpass anything of the kind at the present day.

The vestibule is about ten feet wide by thirty-five feet long; in either end of which is a flight of winding stairs to reach the second floor. The vestry rooms are used, one as a registry and church literary salesroom, and the other as a storeroom.

The second floor is nearly six feet above the main ceiling of the auditorium; leaving a dead-air chamber for the purpose of deadening sound, and to provide for the arch below.

This floor is divided into rooms the same as the floor below, with the exception of the vestry rooms, and with the same dimensions.

The pulpits and side steps are arranged in the same order and lettered the same, but are not elevated as high or so elaborately finished; yet the finish is noted for its simplicity and neatness and calls forth many remarks of praise from the numerous visitors.

It is remarkable that one never tires viewing the structure from within or without. This room also has the facilities for using vails (or curtains); but we are told they were never mounted.

The third floor is in the attic. Five rooms are partitioned off, about ten feet wide by thirty-five feet long, with dormer windows in each end of the several rooms. The finish in these rooms is plain throughout.

## ODE TO THE SUN—DURING A LONG, COLD, WET SEASON.

BY CHARLES DERRY.

UNVEIL thy face, thou king of day!  
And smile once more on this cold  
earth.

Break through the murky clouds, I pray,  
And cheer the plants that just have birth.

Refresh with warmth the tender blade,  
Pierce with thy rays its with'ring roots;  
Revive the grass, pierce through the shade,  
And cheer the hearts of men and brutes.

Thy smiles all nature can adorn  
In tints of every beauteous hue;  
Thou can'st revive the drooping corn,  
The flagging hopes of man renew.

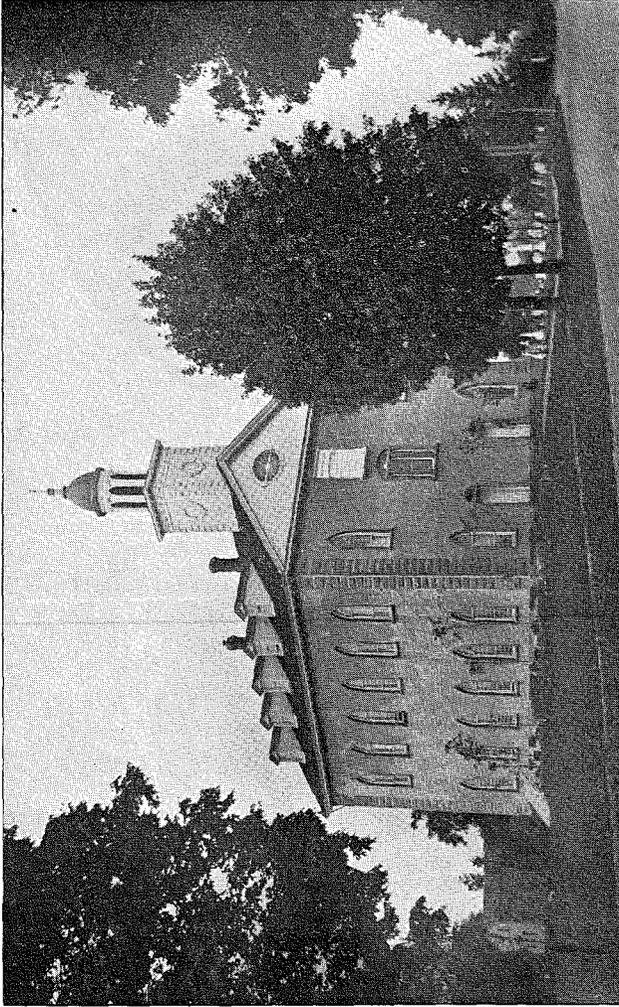
Thy smiling face makes nature glad,  
It brings new life where death has reigned.  
The barren wastes by thee are clad  
And verdure springs o'er hill and plain.

We greet thee, smiling child of heaven!  
We hail thy shining rays with joy!  
The power of life to thee is given,  
Thy generous gifts we all enjoy.

The flowers raise their beauteous eyes,  
As if in solemn prayer to thee—  
The tow'ring trees in glad surprise  
Wave their strong arms in joyous glee.

And so all Nature owns thy sway,  
But man beholds a higher power,  
Who crown'd thee as the king of day  
And gave thee thy celestial dower.

Thy generous warmth then let us feel,  
And gaze upon thy face once more.  
The fount of life in earth unseal,  
That she her treasures may reveal  
To bless mankind, a bounteous store.



**KIRTLAND TEMPLE, KIRTLAND, OHIO.**

“In God’s favor resting after the storm,  
Divine yet simple, stately in form,  
O’er a fair land seeing.”

(See opposite page.)

# AUTUMN LEAVES

Volume 16

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Number 8

## HOUSE OF THE LORD, KIRTLAND, OHIO.

BY EARNERT A. WEBBE.

**T**OW'RING high o'er the long silence  
jeers  
Of those who would have stayed thy  
being—  
And that being a work of tears—  
In God's favor resting after the storm;  
Divine yet simple, stately in form,  
O'er a fair land seeing.

Builded with a faith which bled  
When human *motifs* long had fled,  
Thy power is felt as we approach—  
Old and sweet the story—  
Thy pleasure rests without reproach  
On those who know thy glory.

## KIRTLAND TEMPLE.—PART III.

HENRY C. SMITH.

### OBJECT OF THE BUILDING.

**T**HE object of this building was foreshadowed in a revelation given as early as 1830: that those who are appointed to preach the gospel in this age should be endowed with power from on high, as were the apostles of old. (Doctrine and Covenants 38:7: 43:4.) A house to be built. (Doctrine and Covenants 92:1, 2, 3.) To be a house of learning. (Doctrine and Covenants 85:36.) Preparation for this endowment necessary. (Doctrine and Covenants 85:18-23, 36-46.)

The lower floor or auditorium was especially prepared for "You sacrament offering, and for your preaching, and your fasting, and your praying, and the offering up your most holy desires unto me, saith your Lord." The second floor was to be dedicated for the "school of mine apostles." The third floor, or attic, was for educational purposes. The second floor therefore was provided with desks to each seat; and the attic rooms with blackboards on the several partitions. These rooms have been occupied as

schoolrooms, college work included. Some celebrated teachers, such as Professor Lord, General Legget, and others have taught here. They have also been used for Sunday-schools, lectures, entertainments of various kinds, shows, and even as a dancing hall, since the church as a body left Kirtland in 1838.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

In order to properly appreciate this house and the little band of devotees that built it, we must consider the times and general surroundings.

When this house was built, Northern Ohio was comparatively a wilderness; bear and deer were still roaming in the forest.

The rock to build the walls must be quarried, and hauled two miles. The facilities for handling stone were very crude and limited.

The lumber must, much of it, be hewn and sawed by the old style of whip-saw, on the sash upright, using muscle and water as the motive power.

The builders were poor, and few in number. It is said by some that there

were about one hundred and fifty to begin the work; but in 1835 it is estimated there were one thousand members.

The men could devote but a portion of their time on the building; their families must be supported. All the men worked in the quarry and timber without regard to position; the president of the church as the most humble member.

The women carded, spun, and wove; and in every possible way sought to assist in the work—depriving themselves many times of personal comforts to supply the wants of those who labored on the building.

#### ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT THE BUILDING.

This was a time also when persecution raged in the hearts of those without; even to personal violence in some cases.

The enemies of the work declared that those walls never should be completed; hence a vigil was appointed to watch the walls at night, and it is said that Sidney Rigdon walked those walls at night with tearful eyes, for fear that the good work might be hindered.

Thus they labored and prayed both night and day to accomplish the task required of them, and were signally victorious, inasmuch as they completed that wonderful structure in the short space of about two years and eight months—a house estimated to have cost not less than sixty thousand dollars.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SUPERIORITY.

Is it not remarkable, that after seventy years of architectural advancement it compares favorably with the

best finish of to-day? A gentleman living in the city of Washington visited the house while we were in charge and said, "I expected to see an old, antiquated structure, crude and grotesque in every way; but I am surprised indeed; I find a modern house in almost every respect."

A lady from New York City, sent out to gather up matters of importance historically, in viewing the work in the auditorium, remarked with surprise, "Why, this whole mechanical genius is a combination of emblems."

A lady from Nova Scotia, after viewing the inner court, said, "Strange as it may appear to you, I feel a hallowed sacredness that I can account for in no other way than that the Spirit of the Holy One is here." This lady was a missionary sent out by the Missionary Methodist.

#### THE ENDOWMENT.

In conclusion let me say, the Lord was true to his promise; his agencies in the spread of truth were richly endowed with the spirit and power of their calling; the church was wonderfully organized and souls were added to their number at the rate of about twelve thousand a year for about fourteen years, or until the death of their chief shepherd under Christ, which occurred in 1844.

It is most ardently believed that the Redeemer of the world visited this zealous, self-sacrificing little flock at the time the house was dedicated, standing, it is said, on the breastwork of the First Presidency's pulpit; and he did there and then acknowledge their labors and accept the house as his house. (See Church History, volume 2, page 47.)