

be ordained to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Elder Edward Stevenson.

(His name was presented, and he likewise was sustained by unanimous vote of the Conference.)

I wish to add in relation to this appointment, the mind of the Lord was also sought, and this is as it came to us. Elder McMurrin is now on a mission in Great Britain, and is one of the Presidency of the European mission.

We wish to say to the Saints who are assembled here that neither of these brethren has known of this till now; so you must not be surprised if they are embarrassed. When we decided upon it, it was understood that we should keep this to ourselves until they should be presented here. We did not want anyone to know about it or to talk about it, and they are as much surprised, I suppose, as any of you can be.

PREST. WILFORD WOODRUFF.

said: I want to say to these two young men whom we have called to fill these places, they are occupying a very important position, a position of great responsibility, and we hope and trust that, although young men, they may have the spirit and power of their calling and Priesthood and Apostleship, and be enabled to magnify it and fulfill the duties required at their hands. We will give our brethren time to express themselves now with regard to their views of the kingdom of God and the Priesthood unto which they have been called, and their purposes in magnifying and fulfilling this duty that is now resting upon them by the vote of the house of Israel.

ELDER MATTHIAS F. COWLEY.

My brethren and sisters, I feel very weak on this occasion, and I do not know how to express myself. But I accept of the call with the same feeling that I have always accepted of the calls made of me by the authorities of this Church. I am in full sympathy with the organization of the Holy Priesthood, and every sentiment which has been expressed at this Conference finds a cheerful and a complete response in my heart. I am grateful

to the Lord for the testimony which He has given unto me in my youth concerning the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the work which he was instrumental in the hands of God in establishing upon the earth. I know that it is true. I am grateful for this witness, and I trust that I shall be able, by the help of the Lord and by your faith and prayers, my brethren and sisters—for I ask them, and I need them, to be able to show my appreciation of the truth and the work in which we are engaged, by my course in life. I recognize the fact that there is no amount of profession or pretension which satisfies the injunctions of the Gospel and that which goes to constitute the characteristics of a true Latter-day Saint. It requires that we shall square our lives by the precepts of the Gospel and the commandments which have been delivered unto us by the authority of God in this dispensation.

I do not know that I need to occupy more of your time, my brethren and sisters. I feel weak and humble; indeed, I feel unworthy; for I know myself better than my friends know me, and I cannot express my feelings on this occasion. But I will endeavor to do my duty, by the help of the Lord. I will endeavor to keep the counsel of the servants of God, and to obey the requirements that are made of me from time to time, by the servants of God that are appointed to preside in the Church of Christ in this dispensation. I know that these men are Prophets of the living God. And I know this day that a prophecy has been fulfilled which was uttered by Apostle John W. Taylor many years ago.

May God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and all Israel, and enable us to accept, not only in sentiment and theory, but in actual practice, all the counsel that is given unto us bearing upon the duties which the Gospel enjoins upon the Latter-day Saints; and if we do this I know that God will bless us and sustain us as his people, and no power will prevail against this work. May God bless you, and may I have your faith and prayers in my calling. I humbly ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.