

Prests Geo. L. Cannon & Jos. F. Smith
Addressed.

Salt Lake City, Utah, October 26th, 1896.

To Presidents George Q. Cannon,
Joseph F. Smith,
Lorenzo Snow, and the Twelve Apostles.

I have a request to make of you, my brethren. There is a vacancy in the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, through the death of Abram H. Cannon, and it is our duty to fill it. Now in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there have been seven of the presidents and counselors of the church who have had the privilege of having one of their own posterity to be ordained into the quorum of the Twelve Apostles viz: Hyrum Smith Brigham Young, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Jedediah M. Grant and George Q. Cannon. All of these men today are in the spirit world except George Q. Cannon, and can behold one of their posterity filling their place in the Apostleship on the earth. Now I have been a member of the church 64 years and held a position in the holy priesthood during that time. I have been in the ministry for 63 years and I have been in the Apostleship for 54 years. I presided over the quorum of the Twelve Apostles from President Taylor's appointment to the Presidency up to his death and to the re-organization, and have presided over the church from that date. I have traveled some 175,000 miles in the interest of the Church and the history of my labors during this time are before you. Now I am near 90 years of age and shall soon pass away. Now I ask of my counselors George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, Lorenzo Snow and the Twelve Apostles that you will grant me the same great blessing that my predecessors have had before me, that when I get into the spirit world I can look back to the church and kingdom of God on the earth and behold one of my own posterity mingling with the Twelve Apostles, building up the Kingdom of God on the earth and pre-

paring for the coming of the Son of Man. I would not ask this favor at your hands if I did not believe you would grant it, and that it is the will of God, which I am thoroughly satisfied it is.

I have several sons, any of whom I believe would magnify the Apostleship, if called to it, but I have my mind especially upon one son, and I believe it is the will of God that he should occupy that position. He is a young man, but he is sound, he is virtuous, he is temperate; he is a strict observer of the Word of Wisdom, and is honest, I know of no man in the church more so. His name is Abraham Owen Woodruff. He has lately returned home from a two and a quarter years' mission in Germany, and he has made a good record upon that mission. Since his return home he has been a home missionary. He preaches to the Germans in their language and to the English in their mother tongue, apparently unto edification.

Now brethren, I leave this matter with you for your decision, and that you may be directed according to the mind and will of Gos, is the earnest prayer of

Your Brother,

Wilford Woodruff