Wilford Woodruff Journal, Mss
[part of the introductory remarks of Brigham Young at the special

conference:]
      I now wish to speak of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Sidney Rigdon and Amasa Lyman were counsellors to Joseph. I ask where is Joseph?  He is gone beyond the veil, and for them to act in their office as his councilors they must go beyond the veil where he is.  There has been much said about President Rigdon being the president of the Church, leading the people, being the head &c.  If the people want President Rigdon to lead them they may have him.  But I say unto you that the quorum of the Twelve have the keys of the kingdom of God in all the world. They stand next to Joseph and are the presidency of the Church and hold the keys and would have to ordain any man unto that appointment that should be chosen if one was to be chosen.  You cannot appoint any man at our head, we should have to ordain him.  You cannot appoint a man at our head. But if you want any other man to lead you, take him, and we will go our way to build up the Kingdom in all the world.