DATE: 08 August 1844

SOURCE:     Addresses/BY
            Benjamin F. Johnson to George S. Gibbs  pp 21011 of 25 pages (commentary)

      Of Brigham Young as President of the Church, I will again bear as a faithful testimony that I do know and bear record that upon the head of Brigham Young as chief, with the Apostleship in full, was by the voice of the Prophet Joseph, in my hearing laid the full responsibility of bearing off the kingdom of God to all the world.  And I do further bear this testimony, faithful and true, to the Church and to all the world, that at a conference of the whole Church, at Nauvoo, subsequent to the Prophet's death and return of the absent Apostles, that I sat in the assembly near to President Rigdon, closely attentive to his appeal to the conference to recognize and sustain his claim as "Guardian for the Church." And I was, perhaps, to a degree, forgetful of what I knew to be the rights and duties of the apostleship, and as he closed his address and sat down my back was partly turned to the seats occupied by Apostle Brigham Young and other Apostles, when suddenly, and as from Heaven, I heard the voice of the Prophet Joseph, that thrilled my whole being, and quickly turning around I saw in the transfiguration of Brigham Young, the tall straight and portly form of the Prophet Joseph Smith, clothed in a sheen of light, covering him to his feet; and I heard the real and perfect voice of the Prophet, even to the whistle, as in years past, caused by the loss of a tooth said to have been broken out by the mob at Hyrum.  This view, or vision, although but for seconds, was to me as vivid and real as the glare of lightening or the voice I saw and heard in the transfiguration, that for years I dared not tell what was given me of the Lord to see.  But when in later years I did publicly bear this testimony, I found that others had testified to having seen and heard the same.  But to what proportion of the congregation that were present, I could never know.  But I do know this, my testimony, is true.