

## CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY MONUMENT.

---

Readers of the ERA may not generally know that a monument (see illustration on the cover of this memorial number of our magazine) is now being erected to mark the birthplace of the Prophet Joseph, and that about the time they get this number it will have been completed. The site is between Royalton and Sharon, Vermont, on the spot where the old Smith homestead was located, and where the Prophet Joseph Smith was born.

The contract for the monument was let four months ago, and the work has been pushed with vigor under the direction of Elder Junius F. Wells, who has charge of its erection for the Church. The spire is of all-polished granite, and is the largest of any granite spire ever sent out of Barre, Vermont. It was shipped by special train, on November 7, from Barclay Brothers' shed, direct to Royalton. With four other pieces, this spire will constitute the monument to be erected within thirty feet of the site where the Prophet Joseph was born. Beside the monument, a beautiful cottage is also being built, which will be used by those who visit the place.

The monument will contain a capstone, so that it will look more finished than the picture on our cover page makes it appear. The Barre, Vermont, *Daily Times* of November 7, contains a notice of it from which we cull the following interesting data:

When W. F. Howland, of this city, completes the work, the "Mormons" will have erected a splendid monument. It will rest on a solid masonry foundation, and will rise to a height of fifty-one feet and two inches. The spire itself measures thirty-eight feet and six inches, and in this length is a significance, as it marks the exact age of Joseph Smith, thirty-eight years and six months. In its present form the spire weighs forty-five tons, but when it came from the Boutwell, Milne, Varnum dark quarry, its weight was sixty tons. The completed work will weigh one hundred tons. The huge obelisk is four feet square at its base and three feet square at the top before it breaks away for the taper. All of the stock, except the spire, is from the Marr and Gordon dark quarry. The base of the monument is twelve feet square. The second base is nine feet square, the die six feet square, and six feet two high, and the cap seven feet four inches square. With the exception of the cap the entire monument is severely plain. The cap is moulded. Every bit of exposed surface is polished, and this has been one of the very tedious and exceedingly risky parts of the work, especially on the spire, as a slip or a chip would ruin the block. And blocks of that size are not easily, not often, quarried. That the monument has gone safely through the various finishing processes thus far, is due to the personal supervision of Mayor William Barclay of the firm, who has allowed not a single move to be made unless he was there to direct. With no carving whatever, the smooth surface of the monument is broken only on the die and cap. The front of the die bears the name and dates, 1805-1844, and the rear surface, an inscription which will not be made public until the day of the unveiling. There will also be lettering on the cap.