

Temple Square—Past and Present

Delbert W. Ellsworth

Past

Through iron gates shine
Bronze doors never opened—Holiness to the Lord.
Sun, moon, and stars live in granite,
Carved by dead ancestors
Whose handcart and family group in life-sized cast
Personify the mystery in human toil.
Seagulls over fountain expand to pantheism
The hand of God, a domed tabernacle.
Inside a pin drop innocently entertains passersby.
Outside small statues of Joseph and Hyrum stand silent.

Present

In the shadow of World Headquarters
Name-tagged tourist guides
Point to the Protestant Christ with outstretched hands
Bidding all to embrace the new.
Replicated oxen reflect the light of flash bulbs
Forming souvenirs for droves
At the home of the famous choir.
Posters and talking mannequins explain Bible prophesy.
Manicured flower beds make the grounds attractive.
A large statue of Adam and Eve recounts a familiar story.