

Tribes on the journey northward, and they would be of extreme interest, could the historical element be separated entirely from the myth.

SHOUT HALLELUJAH!

Monday, January 6, 1896, has been selected for Inauguration Day in the new State of Utah, following the Presidential proclamation that is to issue on Saturday, January 4, admitting this commonwealth into the Union of states. The recommendations of the executive committee of the inauguration program committee are given in this issue of the NEWS. By these the people of the State are called upon to join in a great "shout of joy" upon the receipt of information on Saturday, Jan. 4, of the signing of the proclamation, when for fifteen minutes there will be the booming of cannon, ringing of bells, and screaming of whistles, that shall make the hills resound with echoes of the voice of triumph; and that on Monday, Jan. 6, Inauguration Day, at 8 a. m., a similar evidence of rejoicing be given.

There is "a time to shout and a time to sing," and the NEWS believes that upon this occasion it will be in good taste for the dignified voice of the people to ring forth in a glad burrah at the advance into Statehood; that it is a time to cause the mountains to shout for joy and to make the valleys ring; that it is fitting for the organs of victory to peal forth in the voice of man and of all his creations. Not in tumult, not in disorder, not in irreverence; but in decorous, earnest, soulful, joyous Hallelujahs of praise and thanksgiving to the Most High God, the Ruler of our destiny, for the glorious blessings He has vouchsafed to our beloved Utah!

CHRISTMAS COMPLIMENTS.

Again the most joyous holiday of all the seasons has reached our threshold—the glad Christmas time. It brings good cheer to young and old in every walk of life; and the more fully the import of Christmas is comprehended the greater is the happiness attending its contemplation and observance. Because of the glorious event it commemorates, it bears with it a message of joy to the merry, prattling child, the busy, vigorous man, and the feeble, well-worn veteran, telling of a brighter, better, fairer life than were possible for man without the advent of the infant Savior, whose birth was heralded by angelic hosts nearly nineteen centuries ago. It makes no difference to have learned that the date is not the precise anniversary of the event—it is the birth of a Redeemer that is the central thought, and any discussion of the particular day is laid aside in commemorating the all-important occurrence. On this Christmas day of 1895 the NEWS extends to its readers its heartiest wishes of good cheer and happiness here and hereafter.

For those who are blessed with plenty, who have peace and health in their habitations, who have no afflictions and sorrows to bear, there is no

bar to the full enjoyment of the pleasures of Christmas, so far as its temporal surroundings are concerned. But there are some who have not an over-abundance of the necessities of life, or who must bear the burden of some great and almost overbearing grief even at this festive season—are these excluded from the joys of Christmas? Nay; for in the time of their deepest necessity and trial it bears to them a message of peace, consolation and encouragement beyond anything that earthly powers and associations can give. In remembering the birth of Christ, the Lord, there is presented before their minds a solace for all their woes, a comfort for all their griefs, a healing balm for all their wounds. No pain so great, no sorrow so deep, although it be inflicted by the grim reaper Death himself, but is overcome and turned to joy in the life's work of the blessed Savior, who died that all might live and who brings everlasting joy to those who trust to Him.

On this auspicious occasion let us comfort and cheer each other; aid the poor and needy, bless the afflicted and those that mourn; rejoicing all together in the glorious life betokened by the Christmas day.

BALL PLAYERS AND TOBACCO.

Adrian C. Anson, the celebrated American ball player, has this to say on a subject which should interest every young man who desires to prolong his life and retain mental and physical vigor:

I haven't used tobacco in any form for eight years. I quit smoking the moment I was convinced it was doing me harm. Yes, I believe that tobacco has put many good ball players out of the business. I am firmly convinced that it killed one of my players. I refer to Camp, who died some time ago. I have seen him sit up in his berth when called while traveling in a sleeping car, and light a cigarette before he made a movement to put on an article of his clothing. There are two members of my present team who are slaves to cigarettes. The habit will surely take them off the diamond if not off the earth. But they are too far gone to be saved. You might as well try to cure a confirmed opium eater as to wean them from their cigarettes.

Notwithstanding suggestions like these, foolish boys and men will go on sucking the deadly cigarette, pipe or cigar till either their mental or physical powers, or both, are wrecked, and diseased minds and bodies be transmitted to their children; but sensible men and women are learning to avoid tobacco-users as they do the votaries of opium, morphine or other poisonous drugs.

JOSEPH, THE PROPHET.

The 23rd of December, 1805, is the memorable day on which Joseph Smith, the great Prophet of the present century, the herald of the second coming of our Lord, entered on his earthly mission. The history and work of that remarkable man has exerted a powerful influence upon thousands of human beings in all parts of the earth, directing not only their mode of thought,

but also their conduct of life, into new and better channels. It has been felt to some degree in every part of the whole field of Christian theology throughout the world, and its results have engaged the attention of statesmen at home and abroad. It is written in indelible characters on the annals of men, and its memory will live throughout eternity. Brief, comparatively, was his earthly career, but when in the course of time that which he, as the instrument in the hands of the Almighty, accomplished is fully comprehended among the children of men, the human race will unite in praise, and their songs of everlasting joy will be in accord with that sung by the heavenly hosts on the entrance of the Savior into this world: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Every special messenger of the Almighty to His children has been charged with a mission characteristic of his own time and circumstances. Moses's message to Israel was different from that of Noah to his generation. Elijah's mission was another than that of either, and so was Ezra's and John the Baptist's. Neither was a mere repetition to the predecessors. Each had his own message to deliver and had special gifts and equipments adequate for the purpose. All were influenced by the same Spirit, and proved the oneness of their divine authority, but the distinctions were marked. The same observation applies to Joseph the Prophet. He came clothed with the power that adorned the ancient messengers from heaven; still he had a mission of his own, different from that of all who have preceded him. He came to proclaim the second coming of the Lord and the necessity of repentance before that event. He came to prepare the way for Him who shall rule eternally. His whole mission may briefly be stated in the eloquent words of the Apocalypse:

And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth, lifted up his hand to heaven and swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time [or delay] no longer; but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants, the Prophets.—Rev. 10: 5-7.

In pursuance of this mission, he, among other things, foreshadowed some of the events of the last times, and among his prophetic declarations are those which give as signs of the approaching termination of the present era commotions in nature and among nations. "Ye hear of wars," he says, "in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land." (Doc. and Cov. 38: 29.) "And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth His coming until the end of the earth." (Doc. and Cov. 45: 26.)

Predictions of this class both in the New Testament and in the inspired writings of this age are par-