

people's will as expressed by them at the polls, and as at least once officially declared.

CHRISTMAS, 1894.

Again we are brought to the Christmas holiday—a special reminder of the glorious message of “peace on earth, good will toward men.” No matter if the date be not the precise anniversary of the event which its observance commemorates; no matter if it disagrees by more than three months with the actual time of the year when “shepherds watched their flocks by night,” and the Son of God made His advent to earth as the Babe of Bethlehem; it is the day which by custom all those who revere the name and calling of the Redeemer of the world honor in remembrance of His birth—an event which dwarfs into insignificance all questions as to the month or the season when it occurred; it is in connection with the birth of a Savior that it is hailed with joy by Christians, old and young, great and small, rich and poor, in every part of earth.

Among people generally, and particularly to the children, is it an occasion for receiving the gifts of holy love and pure devotion. The custom of bestowing such presents is but emblematic of the giving of that most precious of all gifts bestowed on humankind—that conferred through the birth, and life, and sacrifice of the Messiah nearly nineteen centuries ago—the gift of perfect love from a Father to all His children. It is appropriate that in this same spirit the making of Christmas presents should go on, bestowing that which is useful and beneficial in order to produce a full measure of permanent happiness.

The inhabitants of these mountain vales hold a position that is second to none in honoring in its true spirit the holy Christmas day. Between friends and relatives their conduct displays an affection which brings rejoicing and merriment to the hearts of the children, and is not less peaceful and blissful to those of more mature years. Farther than this, they exhibit a goodly measure of the divine love which reaches beyond personal acquaintance or association, and by which those who stand in greatest need of earth's bounties—the poor and the unfortunate—are made to share the common joy.

In illustration of this latter feature, it may be mentioned that among many of the ward organizations of the Latter-day Saints has grown up a custom of Christmas observance by which the people generally have opportunity to contribute of the necessities and comforts of life for the benefit of those who may need. This year the rule has been followed, and last evening, the Sabbath before Christmas, reports were made in some of the wards of this city of the results of the “Christmas offering for the poor.” As to what these were, our instance may suffer. It was announced by the Bishopric that owing to the prevalent hard times it had been feared there would be a falling off, but in this respect there had been a happy disappointment; the Christmas contributions had not only equalled those of former years when money

and employment were more plentiful, but had exceeded those of any previous occasion of the kind; the poor of the ward had been amply provided for the holidays, and there was a surplus to go to the general fund, for relief as future exigencies might arise.

This betokens the true Christmas spirit among the people—an exhibition of the divine love which accompanies pure Christianity. In blessing thus, the people all are blessed. And may perfect affection find place in every soul for relatives, friends and all humanity, and joy abound in every heart, that the closing days of 1894 indeed may afford A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, is the sincere wish of the NEWS.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

The advent of our Savior, whose birth at Bethlehem is being commemorated in the Christian world at this time of the year, is a fruitful theme of meditation. All throughout the Old Testament, that event was foreshadowed. Christ and His work are the central themes of ancient prophecy and the particulars were given with what seems to us minute clearness. His lineage through Isaac, Jacob, Judah and David; the place of His birth and the approximate time thereof; His miracles, sufferings, death, resurrection and the following dissemination of the truth, were subjects of prophetic declarations which, as the time for their fulfillment approached, became more and more distinct.

Christians sometimes wonder how it was possible that a people so easily believing in those ancient writings could fail to perceive that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. Yet that was the case. At the hour of His birth, although there was great joy among the heavenly hosts, whose jubilant strains resounded to the very boundaries of the visible world, filling the watchful shepherds with rapture, the Jewish nation, including the interpreters of the Law and the Prophets, were in deep ignorance of the event. Later, some intimation was given to them and the royal house thereof, through the astronomers of Chaldea, who had seen the star in the east and had followed the heavenly light. But notwithstanding this, and the testimony somewhat later given by a few devoted servants of the Almighty—aged, feeble Simeon and the Prophetess Anna—the majority of the people rejected the newborn King. His appearance was altogether different from their expectations. They had the Bible and read it every Sabbath, expounding its teachings in their synagogues. On the appointed days the passages relating to Messiah were the subjects of profound discourses. Yet, when those prophecies were about to be fulfilled, ignorance of the fact prevailed.

All this furnishes an important lesson to this generation. The sacred Scriptures tell of a restoration through the teachings of Jesus in the last days. They state that He is to appear again to assume the office of King on the throne of David, to establish a reign of righteousness among the children of men. The final triumph of the

Gospel and the overthrow of all opposing forces, both political and ecclesiastical, is the central theme of all prophetic declarations of the New Testament as well as the subject of many ancient visions, especially those of Daniel and Ezekiel. John the Revelator describes the forerunner of Christ at His second advent with peculiar clearness, in his vision about the mighty angel who appears just before the winding up scenes of the dispensation, with a little book in his hand, declaring that the mystery of God was about to be fulfilled.

Preparations for this restoration are being made on both sides of the veil, in this age. The mighty herald of the Millennium has appeared and solemnly declared that there shall be no more delay, but in rapid succession the Divine vials will be poured out on the nations and then the new era will dawn. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a standing testimony to the nations of the earth of the approach of the Son of Man in glory.

The Christian world today is pretty much in the same position as the Jews at the first advent of the Lord. They read and believe in the prophetic declarations given, but notwithstanding this and the testimony of those who, like the shepherds, the kings of the orient, Simeon, Anna and others, have had their eyes opened by revelation from on high, they reject the Prophets who have been raised up to this generation to prepare them for the coming change. This is one more proof of the necessity of direct revelation. For, as anciently no one could believe that Jesus was the Christ except through revelation from God, notwithstanding all that was written about Him; so in this age, no one can accept the Prophet Joseph as the herald of the Millennium, except the truth be revealed. This is one of the most important lessons taught by the history of Bethlehem and one which all honest believers in the word of God do well to remember.

AN ANCIENT AMERICAN CITY.

The following dispatch from Chihuahua, Mexico, to the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* will be read with interest by the great majority of the NEWS' constituency. There are doubtless some exaggerations in the item, but there is no question that it has its foundation in truth:

The party of prospectors who left here three months ago to investigate the report made by Moses Thatcher, the well-known Mormon leader, of the discovery of an ancient city in the mountains west of Hemat, about 150 miles northwest of here, have just returned. They had many exciting experiences and two members of the party died from exposure in the high altitude, but they were successful in finding the hidden city. They report it to be just as described by Mr. Thatcher, except that it contains many riches in the way of gold and silver, samples of which the party brought back with them, aggregating several thousand dollars in value. They are convinced that there are rich mines in the immediate vicinity of the city, which were extensively worked centuries ago, and that the city was built from the riches thus obtained. The party also corroborates the report made by Mr. Thatcher, that the buildings of the city contain sufficient building stone