

good wishes and benisons, of general hilarity, fraternity and harmony! In no part of the world is this annual holiday better appreciated or more generally observed than in Utah, the mountain home of the Latter-day Saints.

The celebration of Christmas is something more with them than a mere tradition. True, many of them have come from countries where the day has been honored and enjoyed for centuries. But they recognize it as the accepted birthday of the founder of that faith which is dearer to them than all things else. It matters little so far as the holiday is concerned, whether the chronology that gives this date as the time of the Savior's nativity is correct or not. In all probability it is erroneous. But we can join with all who believe either in his divine paternity or his mission as teacher and exemplar of heavenly truth, in celebrating his advent into the world.

He is the foremost figure of all the ages. To us he is the express image of the Eternal Father, the perfection of humanity and the embodiment in the flesh of the God-power of the universe. He is a living Christ. Not dead either as to his physical or spiritual being. He is the slain lamb of the sacrificial atonement, but also the risen Redeemer, mighty to save. He is the victim of the bloody cross, but also the crowned King over friend and foe, both of the living and the dead. He was the babe of Bethlehem, he is the God-man to whom eventually every soul of earth shall bend the knee. He is the living head of our living Church. Not shut out from mortal reach by time or space, but to be approached in an appointed way. His voice has been heard after the silence of centuries, his presence has been unveiled and his *aura* has been shed forth in the present age. He is no myth, but a veritable reality, a personal, tangible, perceptible, material though spiritual Being. He stands between the Almighty God and mortal man, and his name is the key-word that unlocks the gate to the Ineffable Presence.

We celebrate the day in view of these facts. And we also bear in mind that the day of His dominion is fast approaching. He will come to sit on the throne of Israel, and all the kingdoms and governments of the world will be his. He will reign not only in their hearts, but in their actual affairs, and will be present in person among the chosen rulers to direct and regulate all things, spiritual and temporal. To prepare the way for this advent and kingdom, are we Saints and covenant disciples of the rightful heir, the first born, the immaculate, the Royal High Priest.

But should not the celebration of the birthday of so august a personage be conducted with solemnity and awe? Not so. For He came to redeem the world from woe, to banish sorrow, to conquer death, and to deliver the earth and its people from the influence of that Evil One, and from sin, which is the source of all misery. It is written of the Savior that "He came eating and drinking," he denounced strait-laced Phariseism, long-faced formality, and outward mournful demeanor; and when he appears in his glory, he will come as the Great Bridegroom, to eat with the faithful and "drink wine new in the Father's Kingdom," with the ancient patriarchs, the modern prophets, and those who are fit to wear the wedding garments of every age and tribe.

We will therefore keep Christmas as a joyful holiday. We will remember that He came in the spirit and with the angelic announcement of "peace on earth good will to all men." We will forgive our enemies, rejoice with our friends, comfort the poor with good things as well as kind words, gather in family groups to feast and make merry, gladden the hearts of the little ones with presents and sweetmeats, and praise the Lord with a cheerful countenance, in the song and in the dance, with music and the voice of melody. And while the world despise and berate us, and vainly fancy that family joys are not our heritage, we will prove to one another, if not to them, that in all the earth there are no truer and firmer bonds of family union, inclosed in which are all the virtues and the pleasures, all the refinements and the pure restraints of husband and wife, of parent and child, of brother and sister, of kindred and social order, than in the households of the Saints, who are joined by everlasting ties and are linked together by

relationships which death cannot sever, but, sealed in heaven and on earth, will endure while the stars shall shine, and while the throne of God shall stand in the bosom of eternity.

The regard which the Saints in these mountains have for marital companions and offspring is evidenced by a very simple thing, but which is a plain indication of the error of the world in relation to them. It is seen in the bare shelves and counters of stores which, but a few days ago, were laden with holiday goods, and creaking under the weight of articles designed for gifts. Every one with a nickel or a dollar to spend has secured something as a love-offering to wife or child, to husband or parent, and the merchants have reaped a harvest that has made them secretly, if not openly, glad. The truth is, that in no spot on earth, among civilized or heathen nations, are the family spirit and the family virtues more powerfully felt and exhibited than here in much abused Utah, with its greatly misunderstood matrimonial system.

And at this festive season, redolent of good will and charity, we can afford to pass by the unkindness of those who seek our injury, with the hope that they may learn to understand us better and to exercise towards us a little of that forbearance that is taught by the religion and example of the tender-hearted Nazarene. We will wish for a joyful time to all, the rich and the poor, the saint and the sinner, the bond and the free, friends and foes, all parties, sects and degrees around the rolling globe. Let the song of gladness and the sounds of merriment be heard throughout the world, as a prelude to the thrilling chorus of praise and exultation, which will make the earth tremble with delight and the heavens to echo sweet music, when His work shall be finished whose nativity we commemorate, and Adam's race, redeemed from death and hell, from darkness and the grave, shall make one family group of ransomed souls rejoicing in the presence of their Father!

With grateful hearts to God for His mercies, we extend special cordial greeting to our friends and patrons, and wish them all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 24.

**Y. M. M. I. A.**—The associations of this city will not send visitors during the holiday week, but send to the seventh Ward above their own the first week in January, and send regular once a week to each ward in succession afterwards till they arrive around home.

JOSEPH H. FELT,  
GEORGE C. LAMBERT,  
JOHN W. TAYLOR.

**Not in Texas.**—The *Junction* of Thursday evening relates the following:

A Texas journalist recently arrested in Ogden, made a "bad break" last night. He got into a C. P. car, intending to go to California. He found a Chinaman in the car, and after objecting to the presence of the celestial, undertook to throw the latter out. But "John" had paid for his ticket, and as a Chinaman's money is as good as any other here, the journalistic ranger soon discovered he had struck the wrong country. He was arrested, brought up before his honor and fined. Big difference between Utah and Texas, friend.

**Y. M. M. I. A. Reports.**—The officers of the Y. M. M. I. A. throughout Salt Lake Stake will please send written reports of their respective associations to Jos. H. Felt, Salt Lake City, immediately, as they are wanted for the Stake Conference, which convenes in this city Jan. 8. The required reports are expected to show in brief the present condition of the several associations, including the following points: Names of present officers, day and hour of meeting, number of male members, number of female members, average attendance, amount donated for the Standing monument, and whether visitors have been sent to other associations.

**How it Happened.**—The *Leader* has the following in relation to the accident to Brother Frank Merrill, of Logan, mentioned in the NEWS the other day:

"Mr. Merrill had been to the backyard after an armful of wood, and on entering the house had to pass

an open trap door in the floor. By some means he fell, striking the opposite edge of the hole, on the small of his back. One of his ribs was broken and very serious internal injuries inflicted. By a previous accident a few years ago he had been severely hurt, having seven ribs broken, hence this accident will prove much more serious than it would otherwise have done. Up to the time of writing, the patient had suffered excruciating pain, inflammation having set in. Dr. Ormsby who is in attendance, thought favorable. All was being done that could be devised for alleviating his suffering and hastening his recovery."

**A Coal Miner Killed.**—An accident occurred in a coal mine owned by Mr. Van Praag, in Spanish Fork Canon, on the 15th inst., by which Olof Nelson lost his life. It appears that he had put in two blasts and set fire to one which exploded all right. He then went to set fire to the other and from some cause unknown, just as he was approaching it, it exploded, breaking his leg in two places, and inflicting injuries in the breast, from which he expired two hours and a half afterwards, remaining sensible to the last. No blame can be attached to anyone, as the sad affair was purely accidental. His body was taken to Provo for burial.

The family return their sincere thanks to Mr. Van Praag for his kindness in paying all expenses, and for favors to the bereaved family. They also thank the Railroad Companies for their kindness.

**The Salt River Country.**—From Elder A. F. Macdonald, who has recently returned from Salt River, Arizona, and who made us a pleasant visit to-day, we obtain a few interesting items concerning that portion of the country. Bro. Macdonald left there about the 1st of September, and until within the past two weeks has been in St. George. He expects to start homeward early next week, and will make the journey by team from Provo. After a few days stay in St. George he will continue his journey southward, expecting to reach the Colorado by the 20th of January. He will travel by what is called the Pierce Valley route, that being the most direct, and some 80 miles shorter than the other. It is, however, little known, and Brother Macdonald's object is to further explore and improve the road for future immigrants, and if possible to secure a permanent ferry over the Colorado, which at that point has the best crossing on the whole river. Our informant considers the Salt River Valley a rich country in climate, soil and water, and there are good openings for industrious *bona fide* settlers, especially for those who prefer or are accustomed to a warm climate, like people from the southern States. The climate is remarkably healthy, and is much like that of St. George, with a less oppressive heat in the summer, on account of being open and expansive. There are no signs yet of chills and fever, which disease it was feared might attack the settlers. There are two settlements in the valley, Jonesville, on the south bank of the Salt River, and Mesa City, about four miles further south. Both towns have canals which furnish them with an abundant supply of good healthful water. About fifty Indians in the valley have been baptized and Elders McDonald and D. P. Kimball purpose crossing the Mexican line next summer into Sonora, to prepare the way for missionary work and new settlements. Concerning Elder Kimball, our visitor speaks in the highest terms, and his hosts of friends here will be pleased to hear that he is doing a splendid work in that region. Elder Macdonald is called to preside in that country where he has the principal portion of his family, and intends as soon as possible to take all his folks. He promises to write us from time to time concerning matters considered worthy of publication.

**The Prophet's Party.**—The anniversary party given last night, in honor of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, was a most enjoyable affair, and in every way proved successful. The occasion was prefaced by a splendid supper at about half-past 5 o'clock, at the late residence of Brother Shadrach Roundy, in the Sixteenth Ward. The names of those who sat at the table are as follows: President John Taylor, President Joseph F. Smith, Apostle Wilford Woodruff, Patriarch John Smith, President Elias Smith, Father Zera Cole, Bishop Jared Roundy, Bishop F. Kesler, Brothers Lorin Walker, H. K. Whitney, J. C. Kingsbury, L. J. Nuttall, Wilford Woodruff, Jr., and Peter Reid; Sisters Vienna Jacques, Phoebe Woodruff, Patty Sessions, Prescindia Kimball, Mercy R. Thompson, B. W. Smith, Mary Taylor, Jane Taylor, E. B. Wells, H. M. Whitney, Mary Whitney, Sylvia Lyon, J. S. Higby, Helen M. Smith, Sarah E. Smith, Lucy Smith, Mary J. Thompson, Emma J. Smith, Elizabeth Kingsbury, Lorin Walker, Elizabeth Nuttall, Antoinette Kesler, Diana Reid and Beulah Woodruff.

At about 7 o'clock, the party in the meeting house, commenced. The hall had been nicely decorated for the occasion, and an excellent portrait of the Prophet Joseph occupied a central position over the stand. Bishop Frederick Kesler called the assembly to order, and the choir, an efficient body of singers under the direction of Brother Vincent sang the hymn, "The Morning Breaks, the Shadows Flee," after which prayer was offered by Elder Joseph C. Kingsbury. The choir sang "Mortals Awake," which was followed by some appropriate remarks from Sister Prescindia Kimball, one of the committee. Brother Joseph Parry then read the Prophet Joseph Smith's "Address to the Green Mountain Boys!" By special request, President John Taylor sang "The Seer, the Seer," the well known hymn (composed by himself), in a very effective manner. Sister E. Davis then read "Two Chapters" of the life of the Prophet, written in blank verse by Sister E. R. Snow. This closed the first part of the programme. Dancing came next and a grand march was formed around the hall. During a lull in the terpsichorean amusements, President John Taylor addressed the company, after which Sister E. B. Ferguson read a poem composed years ago by Sister E. R. Snow, and addressed to "John Taylor, one of the Twelve Apostles." President Wilford Woodruff next spoke, and afterwards Sister E. Davis read the Prophet's "Address to the Nauvoo Legion." This was followed by a brief address from President Joseph F. Smith. Songs by a number of brethren were then given, during which a handsome cake, made by Sister Davis, was brought in and distributed among the guests. The cake, previous to being divided, stood in three towers, nicely ornamented and lettered. Around the centre were the words "Joseph Smith the Prophet, born Dec. 23, 1805."

More dancing was indulged in, and at about 15 minutes after midnight the party was dismissed. Everybody had an excellent time, and all passed off peacefully and happily. The committee, whose names we published a day or two ago, acted very efficiently and much credit is due them for their labors which went so far towards making the occasion a success. This is probably the first affair of its kind yet inaugurated. We should be pleased to see the custom perpetuated, each Ward taking its annual turn in doing honor to the memory of the great and glorious Prophet, Joseph Smith.

**Dead.**—Jerome B. Stillson, well known in the American field of journalism, and for a number of years a special correspondent of the New York *Herald*, died in New York on Christmas day. Deceased was well known to the people of Utah, through a suspender buckle sensation manufactured by himself, in which he claimed to have narrowly escaped assassination, during his sojourn in this city in the summer of 1877. He died of Bright's disease.

**Shot Dead.**—The following special explains itself:

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Editor *Deseret News*:

Christmas morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, a shooting affray took place at Malloy's saloon, between Ed. Kirby and Wm. Thomas, which resulted in instant death for Kirby and Thomas slightly wounded. Kirby had been following Thomas during the morning, and making threats he would kill him before evening. As far as can be learned Thomas was justified in killing him.

**An Ironical Suggestion.**—Our Beaver correspondent, "D.T." writes under date of the 23rd, as follows:

"Your information that Joseph Riddle is in Beaver jail for the Grass Valley burglary, is a mistake; he es-

caped about a week ago. Escapes are so common here, and so likely to continue until our Court House is completed, with iron instead of wooden doors, that little or no excitement is created, either by incarceration or escape, as one usually follows the other. We have not at this writing a cell that will hold a sharp rogue; hence men who report arrests should add, "They will probably escape."

We trust that Beaver's "iron doors" will soon be completed. They should be; there seems to be plenty of irony down there.

**The Bodies Buried.**—The following special to the NEWS came today.

MANTI, Dec. 27, 1880.

The bodies of the two young men, George H. Luke and Christian Madson, who were accidentally killed on the 6th instant at Poncha Pass, Colorado, while working on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, by the caving of a bank of earth, arrived in this city yesterday morning, in metallic caskets. The bodies were in a good state of preservation. The deceased were highly beloved and respected by all who knew them, and the sad event has cast a gloom over the entire city. The funeral services were held in the Council House, in the afternoon at two o'clock, the hall being literally packed, and a large crowd gathered on the outside. Bishops Jensen and Reid offered the opening and closing prayers. Elder James Wareham delivered the funeral sermon. Remarks of condolence and respect were made by Mayor Brown, Elder J. H. Hougard and Prest. Maiben. Thirty carriages, wagons, and sleighs and a large concourse of people on foot, numbering 500 or more, after viewing the remains, followed them to their last resting place. The procession was headed by the brass band.

**Neuralgia—A Remarkable Cure.**

The following extracts are from a letter received from S. A. Russell, Mesclero Agency, New Mexico, dated June 5th, 1879:—"I felt satisfied that if the remedy (Compound Oxygen) was really what you claimed it to be, it was just what I wanted for a daughter who had been a sufferer with neuralgia for more than fifteen years. I wrote you for a copy of your Treatise on Compound Oxygen. After reading this little work, and the certificates of such men as Judge Kelly, T. S. Arthur, and others, I felt that if these were genuine, there must be REAL MERIT in the remedy. \* \* I then ordered the remedy sent to my daughter in Kansas. That was about one year ago, and since using the supply then ordered, my daughter has not only not had neuralgia, but considers herself in perfect health. \* \* Regarding my daughter as having, through the blessing of God, been permanently cured of as stubborn a case of neuralgia as it is possible for any person to be afflicted with and live, by the use of your Compound Oxygen, I esteem it a PLEASURE and a DUTY to send you this statement." Our Treatise on Compound Oxygen, which contains a record of many remarkable cures, sent free. Address Drs. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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