

and efficient agents for resisting the noxious attacks of their still virulent brethren.

In this connection it may be suggested to housewives that the practice of many to keep their rooms darkened lest the sunlight may cause delicate colors to fade is an invitation to germs of deadly disease to abide in a place of security until conditions are favorable for their development. The scientific investigation noted shows that by availing themselves of the abundant sunlight of summer days, housekeepers here could do a great deal toward guarding against diseases that exhibit themselves freely upon the approach of cold and wet weather. The agency which could give immunity from cholera to a guinea pig certainly could be made beneficial to man by rendering innocuous the disease-producing microbes with which he is liable to come in contact. Sunlight is one of Nature's remedies and preventives of disease, and in this part of the country it is easier to use it in abundance than to avoid it. Why not let it have a good chance to destroy bacteria in homes, that these may be always bright and healthful?

#### THE MARTYRDOM.

Joseph and Hyrum are slain! It is fifty years today, June 27, since this sad message was dispatched to Nauvoo from Carthage, Ill., where the tragedy was enacted by which the Prophet and Patriarch were enrolled in the list of noble martyrs for truth, and the infant Church was left, as many thought, without a visible leader. Half a century is but a moment in history, but it has been sufficient to prove to all open to conviction, that the lifework of those men was directed by the omnipotent Intelligence that rules the universe and that the results of their life and death will be manifested throughout time and eternity.

The causes that led to the massacre can now be weighed with more impartiality than sometimes has been the case. Excitement, local prejudices and personal preferences are among the obstacles that generally prevent a cotemporary from perceiving the whole truth. But these fade away as time rolls on, and only the facts remain to the view of the historian.

When the life of the martyrs is considered, it is difficult to perceive why it should end as it did, were it not for the fact that according to the annals of man righteousness so often is rewarded with martyrdom. Joseph the Prophet proclaimed that he had an important message to deliver from the Almighty. He proved this by striving to promote the honor of God and the well-being of his fellowmen in all he did, and also by numerous miracles and mighty deeds, such as accompanied the ministry of our Lord and His Apostles. Why should he then incur the hatred of the world? We may ask, too, why should the world thirst for the blood of Jesus of Nazareth, who preached and exemplified the Gospel of love? The cases are in this respect parallel, because Joseph was a faithful servant of his divine Master, and

the Carthage massacre was in part a repetition of the Calvary tragedy.

Let us reflect a moment. From the time it became clear that Jesus would join none of the existing sects of His time, they all combined in influencing the people against Him. The Pharisees and the Sadducees neither would nor could lawfully take His life, but they prepared a sentiment among the masses which made it possible for the Jewish priests to plot His destruction. The hatred was further intensified on the part of the leading ecclesiastics, because He cleansed the temple premises and denounced the defilers. They were aroused to defend their unrighteous source of revenue and concluded to avenge themselves. But they had to enlist the civil authorities to their aid and did so by inventing a charge of a political nature, and thus it came about that the spotless Lamb of God was slain, condemned to death by an ecclesiastical tribunal for blasphemy and by a civil governor for treason, although the judges themselves were convinced of His innocence and His only "crime" was a burning zeal for the glory of His Father.

The history of the martyrdom we are now considering presents many similar features. Joseph was hated by the religious element whose errors he endeavored to correct in the name of the Almighty; the various exponents of that element kept up a constant agitation against him and succeeded finally in enlisting to their aid the political element on false representations that the infant Church was a menace to the state. But neither sectarian fanatics nor political agitators were able to prove a single charge against him and his noble brother. Their death, however, was decreed in the secret councils of the conspirators. If the law could not reach them, a deadly volley would. Consequently a lawless mob was brought together to do the work, while those whose duty it was to guard their lives washed their hands in innocence, like Pontius Pilate, and permitted the guiltless blood to stain the soil of liberty.

But there is another side to it. The blood of the martyrs always has been the seed of the Church. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is no exception to this rule. Probably it was necessary that the founders should be removed from earth as soon as their work was finished here, in order that the Church might speedily advance to the perfection which is possible only as a result of perfect confidence and reliance on the Almighty. No doubt the presence of these faithful servants of God was much needed on the other side of the veil in the celestial assemblies and the councils of heaven. It did not appear at the time as a blessing to the Saints left behind to mourn the death of their leader, friend and father, but now it can partly be understood, and hereafter it will be plainer still, that the departure of Joseph the Prophet was the very thing needed for the victory of the Church. It was the dark cloud full of untold blessings both for the living and the dead.

To be true to the principles taught by the martyred Prophets and ever rally round the standard of truth and liberty raised by them is the highest

tribute the Latter-day Saints can pay to their memory. It is the road to their final exaltation and the victory on earth of the cause for which they lived and so bravely laid down their lives.

#### SOMEBODY'S AT LARGE.

Does anybody happen to know among the intellectual giants of these last days one "Robert E. Yewell, of Ogden?" According to the *Washington Star* such a personage was at one of the hotels of the national capital lately, and just fairly deluged a reporter with information about Utah. President Woodruff, he said, was nearly seventy years of age [the respected veteran passed that milestone more than seventeen years ago!]; and of corresponding accuracy are some of his speculations as to the future policy of the Church. The 30,000 men whom he finds "enrolled in the Priesthood in Utah," although "each one of them has definite duties to perform," still have "just as tenacious a hold upon the people;" which would mean, if reduced to mathematical terms, that each man would have the "tenacious hold" up on about six and two-thirds persons, probably about the average of his family—and upon these who has a better right to have a tenacious hold? "Polygamy flourishes all over the Territory," said Mr. Yewell; and as to baptism for the dead, he bombastically informed the wondering reporter that by such ordinance "the soul of the deceased in question will be made spotless in its spiritual abode and relieved from any blemishes that might have hitherto interfered with its enjoyment of heavenly happiness."

If Mr. Yewell, of Ogden, has any relatives or friends handy, don't they think it their duty to try to give him something to do at home, so that he cannot go running around the country making a show of himself?

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF CARNOT.

It is not easy to imagine a deed more fiendish in conception or more perfect in its imbecility than the stab that cut short the life of Carnot, president of the French republic. The news of the assassination has sent a shock of horror not only through France but throughout the civilized world. When Alexander II was torn to pieces by the bomb thrown by a nihilist, and the message reached the royal courts of Europe, crowned heads were seen to bend in sorrow and tears moistened many an eye usually reflecting the dignity of majesty. It was made evident that the greatest watchfulness, the supposed sanctity surrounding the persons of rulers and the vast power of militarism were inefficient to shield a monarch from a most horrible fate, and the contemplation sent a thrill of terror through the hearts of many rulers, and they trembled for their own safety. But it was thought that the assassination of the Russian emperor was a blow aimed at despotism in the interest of human liberty and the emancipation of mankind, and the world soon became more composed. The murder