

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S BIRTHDAY.

This is the anniversary of the birthday of the late Brigham Young, who was born June 1st, 1801. His death occurred Aug. 29th, 1877. He was one of the most marked men of modern times. The strength of his will and his foresight were phenomenal. He was endowed with extraordinary natural gifts, but his co-religionists regarded the unusual powers he exhibited, the effects of which are everywhere apparent in this western region, as the intensification of the qualities of his mind by the power of inspiration.

The recognition of the worth of Brigham Young, outside of the community of Latter-day Saints, was comparatively meagre during his lifetime. This ungenerous lack of appreciation for a great man was due to ignorance of the work he accomplished, and perhaps to a still larger degree to unreasoning prejudice. In relation to his memory, however, the walls of prejudice are breaking down and intelligent people everywhere who inform themselves upon his life-work and the extraordinary qualities he displayed, now admit that he exhibited many of the elements of genuine greatness. This newer and more just opinion of the world at large is becoming wider and deeper as time passes, and will continue, and Brigham Young will yet be recognized as a conspicuous figure in American history. This must necessarily be the case, because of his being the most potential individual factor in the founding of the great commonwealth of this intermountain section of the great Republic.

The birthday anniversary of the great pioneer, colonizer and organizer is being honored today by the children of the Primary Associations, who are having a gala time in Liberty Park. This is appropriate, as one of the prominent characteristics of President Young was his love for children.

THE MORMONS IN CANADA.

SOME of the good people of Canada, as well as some that are not so good, have been greatly exercised over the toleration that has been exhibited toward the "Mormons" who have made a thriving settlement in Alberta. There have not been wanting, from the beginning of that small colony, persons who thought some violent measures should be devised to prevent the influx of "Mormons" and even drive out those who had made homes in that country. But the better portion of the community have taken higher ground, and investigations that have been made of an official character have had the effect of dissipating to a large extent those apprehensions which the uninformed had indulged in.

We notice that some of the Canadian papers have been devoting space to this subject, among them the *Montreal Witness*. That paper recently wired to its correspondent at Winnipeg to obtain reliable information in reference to the "Mormon" colony near McLeod, and he at once went to work, not to make up a sensational article after the fashion of too many American reporters, but to get at the facts. He applied to

the Member of the North West Assembly for that district, who had made special inquiries and become familiar with the situation. That gentleman, Mr. C. A. Magrath, gave him full particulars, which he sent to the *Witness*, and we here append the closing paragraphs of Mr. Magrath's communication as published in that paper:

"Varied conditions give different wants, and the Mormons who settled Utah and made their own laws cannot be put on the same footing as those coming into Alberta, where laws were already in existence. There may be objections to having them in our midst, and probably the greatest objection raised by those antagonistic to Mormonism is their system of co-operation. In this, however, there can be no harm, so long as it is not used as a weapon against those not reached by such a system. This co-operation brings about what others term 'their exclusiveness'—something I have not yet seen among the Mormons of Southern Alberta.

"Then as to the question of plural or what they term 'spiritual marriages,' this, I am satisfied, does not exist in the Alberta colony. Before the settlement was started a delegation visited Ottawa, and I understand the Government were asked if polygamists could bring their several families into the country, so long as they, as a community, agreed that no effort should be made to perpetuate the system. The reply being 'No,' I honestly believe no attempt has ever been made to break our laws in that respect.

"Doubtless a few cases can be found in the Cardston settlement of men who have more than one family, but only one has been brought into Canada; the others remain in Utah. However, the question of polygamy need not trouble us, as it is no longer permitted by their Church. This step was taken about one year ago, having been found necessary in view of the various laws aimed at plural marriage by the United States, though, no doubt, a great many Mormons believe it to be the only remedy for the great social evil.

"I have met these people continually since they entered the country in 1887, and am intimately acquainted with Mr. Card, one of the principal gentlemen of the colony, and owing to my business relations with them on behalf of the corporation with which I am connected, I think I can, with a certain degree of modesty, say I am in as good a position to speak truthfully of the Mormons of Southern Alberta as any one residing in the district.

"I have also had ample opportunities during my fourteen years' experience in the Canadian North-West of seeing all the other settlements, and I conscientiously believe the Mormons to be among the best settlers that ever came into the Territories.

"In the truest sense of the word, they are PIONEERS. My experience is, if they contract a debt it is paid on due date, and so far as strictly attending to their own business is concerned, they might stand as a living example to some of us Canadians. In conclusion, I might say that I have no doubt some Mormons will get into trouble. There are good and bad to be found in every community, and they, as a whole, should not be judged by the misdeeds of a few, no more than we of other denominations should be taken to account for those unfortunate members of our faith who are now serving their time in prison.

"There are people who view the Mormon influx from what they consider Christian standpoints, and feel they should not be permitted to remain in Canada. There is no charity in such a feeling. Allow them to come and let those opposed to Mormons on such

grounds supply them with missionaries, whose treatment will, no doubt, be cordial and a soul saved in Alberta is, I presume, of as much importance as if in China. I do not say this with any desire to be sacrilegious, I am seriously in earnest."

ANOTHER HORNET'S NEST.

PROFESSOR ELIOT has stirred up the hornets of the press once more. On his return home, after the rumpus made by his speech to the "Mormon" people, he refused to be interviewed by the reporters and so the excitement died out. But he delivered an address at Hartford on education, and stated that the American system of schools is inferior to that of most if not all of the northern countries of Europe. This touches the vanity of teachers and editors, and the consequence is another fusillade upon the outspoken Professor.

It will take something more than abuse of the learned pedagogue to throw doubt upon his statements. The German, English and Scandinavian systems of education are very thorough and reach to lofty heights, and it may be that in spite of the Yankee idea that these United States can beat all creation in everything under the sun, there are things to be learned from the foremost nations of the Old World that would greatly improve even the pre-fessedly smartest people on the globe.

The latest onslaught upon the Professor will have one good effect; it will turn the tide of censure and relieve the country from those tirades about the "Mormons." Some of the leading papers are saying that "people forgave President Eliot that Mormon speech but have no patience for his attack upon the public school system."

One thing is evident, the utterances of Professor Eliot make a mark on the public mind. It is to be hoped that some good will come out of both of his recent noted public speeches. Some folks will no doubt give the "Mormon" question a little more close attention and thus much prejudice will be removed, and fair minds will investigate the subject of education with a view to learning of the defects of our home system and the excellencies of other systems, and the result will be improvement and progress. We believe President Eliot has this in view, and if he makes enemies by his bold advocacy of the truth, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has stirred up the thoughts of men and that good will be sure to come of it.

"THE MOON OF ROSES" AND ITS MEMORIES.

AMONG the ancient Greeks and Romans as well as among the aboriginal inhabitants of this country the month of June was known as the "moon of roses." It received its name from June, a female deity worshipped in Italy at a very remote period. She was the especial guardian of her sex and was known both as the goddess of virgins and of matrons. She was also the goddess of chastity, and no impure woman was permitted to enter nor ever touch the walls of her temple. But the Romans further regarded her as a financier of unquestioned rectitude, and believed that she used her