

logical with reference to Utah. We quote this part of the article:

As to the arid land, this country received a real revelation from Brigham Young upon this point. No matter what may have been the fallacy of Brigham's claims as a prophet, generally speaking, he gave the country a revelation in this instance.

In his flight from persecution he selected a spot by the Great Salt Lake which he had reason to believe no other creature would think of selecting. A great many people—and possibly Mr. Hepburn of Iowa—had they been suddenly dropped in that barren country, would have been in a hurry to starve to death as a matter of relief. But what result have we? One of the grandest sections of the Union, marching in with all the pride and dignity that attaches to older states—though possibly a little shocked at disturbed family relations.

JOSEPH THE PROPHET.

Today is the anniversary of the birth of a man, whom future historians will reverently mention as the most prominent figure of the nineteenth century, a man whose appearance in history will mark an epoch. We refer to Joseph Smith, the Prophet and first leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who was born December 23, 1805, in Sharon, Windsor county, in the state of Vermont.

It is not at this time necessary to attempt a sketch of his eventful though brief career. The leading features of it are familiar to those who love and revere his memory, and even the world at large is beginning to obtain a better understanding thereof. But a few thoughts may today be offered upon the mission he so faithfully accomplished.

Bible students know that among the most prominent forecasts by ancient seers are those which relate to the establishment on earth of a condition of peace, virtue, righteousness and universal brotherhood. This happy dispensation is not to come merely as a result of evolution out of the existing conditions. The Scriptures represent the appearance of the golden millennium as the result of the second advent of Messiah. It will follow His coming in glory just as the Gospel dispensation followed His life and death in the beginning of our era. It is further stated in holy writ that certain events were to precede the reign of peace. Among these are the gathering of Israel and the proclamation of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world, first to the Gentiles and then to the Jews.

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Messiah at His first advent, so our beloved Prophet, Joseph Smith, was commissioned by the Almighty to proclaim the second coming of Christ. To him was given the charge to gather scattered Israel and to send the Gospel to every part of the earth. Nay, more than that: as the dispensation of which he was the forerunner is to be one in which heaven and earth are to be united and all the children of God acknowledge their Elder Brother, he was given means whereby the Gospel Institutions are made accessible to generations past,

whose bodies slumber in the grave, but whose spirits live in the great beyond. His words, though but those of feeble man, were to reverberate to worlds beyond this; the power with which he was endowed, the power of God, was to break the chains of darkness and liberate the prisoners.

For this great work he was wonderfully well equipped. With the valor of a hero he faced a hostile world. A genius, he comprehended at a glance the nature of things surrounding him. A seer, he viewed the past and future almost as clearly as the present. At his coming, the world might well rejoice, for his work furnishes the proof that the Almighty has never forgotten His promises to His people.

Brief was his career. Misunderstood by the world, he was soon called upon to lay down his life as a testimony to the truth of his mission. But his work on earth was done. As a monument of his faithfulness the Church of Christ exists in these latter days, engaged in carrying out the mission first given to him. The Gospel is being proclaimed to the world. Israel is gathering and soon, perhaps, the Jews will hear the glad tidings. Redemption is being offered to the dead. In brief, at this time there is joy among departed spirits as well as among men, on account of the preparations that are being made for the reign of the Son of God. We worship the Almighty, and we honor and respect the memory of His servant Joseph Smith, because he was faithful and true; endeavoring to imitate his virtues and to share the reward promised the Saints of the Most High.

A HINT ON HEALTH.

The prevalence of la grippe in Europe has developed a peculiar feature in its influence on certain religious customs. High dignitaries in the churches have absolved the members of their flocks from keeping certain sectarian fasts, such as require abstention from meat, etc., until the epidemic loses a considerable portion of its force. One official of the Anglican church, the bishop of Ely, instructs the people in his diocese to do a sort of penance for the indulgence granted them by reciting a psalm once each day that they should have fasted had it not been for their release from the obligation.

No doubt this procedure will prove more beneficial than will a reduction in the amount of nutritious food at a time when disease is lurking about. But if people wish to secure greater immunity from sickness they will accomplish it only by close and persistent observance of the laws of health. Occasional attempts in this line will not produce permanent benefits; constant conformity with proper rules is necessary. Wholesome food and drink, regular and cleanly habits, abstention from hot and intoxicating drinks, the avoidance of all excesses—in fact, temperance in all things and at all times—are essential to the enjoyment of health and long life.

This is the veneration in which the Lord has declared that special sanc-

tions and judgments shall come upon earth; when "plagues shall go forth," and a "desolating sickness shall cover the land;" when His scourges "shall pass over by night and by day, and the report thereof shall vex all the people." These calamities are predicted in Holy Writ. In this age the Lord has given to His Church a revelation known as the Word of Wisdom, which in these matters is for "the temporal salvation of the Saints in the last days." Members of the Church who have confidence in the word of the Lord, and desire to receive the benefits of His promise, will manifest their faith by their works.

There are many untoward circumstances which people are compelled to pass through, and which expose them to influences that have a deleterious effect upon their health, so that it is not only those who wilfully disregard proper hygienic rules who have to suffer. But for those who cannot help themselves there is good excuse. There are enough of these without the number of afflicted ones being added to through carelessness or wanton disobedience of healthful regulations. At the present time there is special necessity, particularly on the part of the people of Utah, for a better understanding and closer observance of the counsel of the Lord in regard to health than has been exhibited in all cases. It is a wise people that will enjoy to the full extent the blessings that are within their reach through controlling abnormal appetites and improper desires in matters of substances that are taken into the body as food, drink, etc.

UNEMPLOYED RESOURCES.

The secret of the wealth, stability, and independence of any people does not lie in the ability to buy abundantly and regularly from others, or even to spend treasure in collecting from the ends of the earth products and luxuries which add to man's comfort and convenience. The secret of prosperity and perpetuity is found in the capacity of a people to develop and make use of those advantages and resources which lie beneath, above or immediately around them. In other words, it is nobler and safer for any community to be builders rather than buyers, and producers rather than patrons.

This is a hackneyed subject with the people of Utah, and yet its importance keeps it free from the stigma of dreary staleness. We must create; we must develop; we must produce; we must manufacture—all this we know by hearsay, and believe from heart's conviction if we but give to the subject a moment's thought. But our progress in these directions is slow. Our capitalists favor other lines of investment; our practical men hesitate at the risks to be incurred; our consumers—with sorrow it must be said—are not particular enough in giving real and every-day encouragement to home products by insisting upon having them and using no other.

In this latter line, however, there has been marked improvement during the past six months; and judging from that advancement, the future is full of promise. Home manufacture offers