

for a text book on Gospel principles in Mutual Improvement associations, Sunday schools and other organizations where ethical subjects are studied and discussed. Price, full cloth \$1.50; full leather gilt \$2.50. Publishers, George Q. Cannon & Sons company, Salt Lake City.

The general theme of the author in "A New Witness for God" is that the Prophet Joseph Smith is that witness. For the purpose of the discussion the subject is divided into four propositions, which are carefully and effectively maintained by the arguments adduced. These propositions or theses are thus stated:

I—The world needs a new witness for God.

II—The Church of Christ was destroyed: there has been an apostasy from the Christian religion, so complete and universal as to make necessary a new dispensation of the Gospel.

III—The Gospel of Jesus Christ in the last days—in the hour of God's judgment—is to be restored to earth by reopening the heavens, and giving a new dispensation thereof to the children of men.

IV—Joseph Smith is the New Witness for God; a Prophet divinely authorized to teach the Gospel, and re-establish the Church of Jesus Christ on earth.

Proposition number one receives treatment in a single chapter, yet in complete and well considered form. With terse and emphatic language the author points out, first—The divided state of Christendom; second—The failure of professed modern Christianity, as represented by the various churches during the past sixteen centuries, to evangelize even nominally but little more than one-fourth of the world, notwithstanding the fact that it has been backed by the most powerful nations in war and commerce; and third—The existence of a constantly increasing unbelief in Christian churches, together with the inability of the orthodox to cope with infidel revilers of the Christian religion. These conditions are taken as a basis for a well-carried out argument that they indicate a weakness which can be remedied only by a new witness on behalf of the truths of heaven, to reveal and promulgate them in their purity and invincible power to overcome error.

The second proposition occupies seven chapters in a collaboration of evidences proving that there has been a universal apostasy from the Christian religion as taught by the Savior when He was tabernacled in mortality, and by His immediate followers; this fact accounting for the weakness and unsatisfactory condition described in thesis one. The effects of pagan persecution, and of peace, wealth and luxury are considered, and with the changes made in the form of Church government and ordinances, are established by historical references; while the testimony of prophecy clinches the argument of a universal apostasy. The final chapter in this division cites the virtual admission of departure from the Gospel by religiousists, both Catholic and Protestant, in their illogical arguments to establish themselves, and their statements of religious conditions.

Thesis three deals in two chapters with the Scriptural evidence upon the necessity of continuous revelation and

the promise thereof in latter times, and with arguments of modern professed Christians against it. The fallacy of these arguments is shown conclusively, and the force of their criticism directed at themselves with overwhelming effect. This branch of the subject is closed with a careful review of the prophetic history of the Church of Christ, the overcoming of the Saints, and the restoration of the Gospel by the angelic message.

The fourth and last division comprises twenty-one chapters, occupying the greater portion of the volume—325 pages. It is a comprehensive historical and doctrinal statement of the mission and labors of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as presented to the world in his individual conduct and the principles he promulgated. Objections to Joseph as an inspired witness for God are met and effectively and satisfactorily disposed of; and the perfectly scriptural character of the doctrines he taught is shown to establish the fact of his divine inspiration. To this is added many features of deep interest and valuable historical import, such as the performance of miracles by the power of heaven in latter times, and the fulfillment of prophecies, both ancient and modern. Evidences of the divine calling of the Prophet are given potent influence by citing the comprehensive-ness of the plan he taught for the salvation of mankind here and hereafter, in harmony with the true Christian principle declared by the Lord; by the breadth of the Prophet's knowledge of the universe, which could have been received by him only through revelation from heaven; by his thorough conception of man's place and destiny in the creations of God, and by the closing witness of the martyrdom, like that of other inspired and holy men whose blood has been shed "for the testimony of Jesus," the Savior of the world. In concluding his discussion of the great theme, Elder Roberts bears brief but emphatic witness to the divinity of the Prophet Joseph's calling as a new witness for God in the latter-day dispensation.

The volume is a valuable addition to Church literature, possessing more than ordinary interest for young men and women and for readers of vigorous thought. An acquaintance with and understanding of the nature of its contents should be a part of the education of every Latter-day Saint, of each person interested in obtaining an accurate view of the genius which inspires the Mormon people, and of all who value their moral and spiritual welfare in the present and future life.

BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY.

PROVO CITY,

Dec. 17, 1895.

Kindly give room in your valuable paper for the following items of the B. Y. Academy:

There are in the academy 30 teachers and 781 students, the latter from nearly all the counties in the Territory, and many from Mexico, Arizona and Nevada.

The school is divided into six departments, viz: the kindergarten, presided over by Mrs. Craig, the grades by Professor George H. Brimhall, the commercial college by Professor Joseph

B. Keeler, the normal department by Professor Richard R. Lyman, the music department by Professor A. C. Lund, and the department of physical training, consisting of the military drill, athletic club and physical culture class.

The students are intelligent and promising young people. Many of them are apt in certain lines, especially some of the boys at housekeeping, which will doubtless be a strong incentive to the young ladies who are blooming into the state of the new woman.

The domestic organization forms a striking characteristic of our institution. The ward organization of Church is adopted as the pattern of its governing powers. The school is divided into four domestic wards, each having a president, two counselors and a secretary. Seniors are appointed at each boarding place, and are required to give a report of the students under their charge every Thursday morning, at the regular domestic meetings. The students are appointed as teachers to visit their fellow students. Their duty is to find out the condition of those whom they are appointed to visit, to see that there are no ill feelings, and that all are obeying the rules and regulations of the school. Professor Brimhall is the general supervisor. It is unnecessary to say anything about the social condition of this institution. We are one family and its welfare is as sacred to the student as is his love of home. The graduating class of '96 will shine with equal laurels, and add fame to the history of this institution. The class of '97 on whose motto is inscribed the words "ever green," which is a good representative of their character, will perhaps, some day come out of the shade. The century class will be older and wiser, and be able to cope with the philosophers of 1900.

Each class has its yell, and when they all unite to give the academy yell—Ru-rah, ru-rah; ru-rah-rah, academy, academy, B. Y. A., zip-boom-ba, ya-ya-ya, academy, academy, rah-rah-rah—they make the valley ring.

The Polysophical society, which meets every Friday evening, has held some very interesting and instructive sessions this semester, which have been attended by the citizens as well as the students. A grand concert was held in the Tabernacle on the 30th of November under the auspices of this society.

The classes in English have given entertainments this semester in the form of contests in oral narrative. The ladies of English challenged the gentlemen of said class. There were five original stories on each side. The three points taken into consideration by the judges were: personal bearing, composition and delivery. The ladies were victorious.

The classes rhetoric A and English C, challenged the last year's graduates of rhetoric. The success of the former in preceding contests seemed to discourage the graduates to such an extent that they failed to accept the challenge.

The rules and regulations which govern this great body of people, are of the most elevating and enabling character; no one being permitted to remain whose demeanor in any way