

the only name mentioned, making it appear that he was the culpable party, which is not the case.

PRESIDENT YOUNG'S EARLY LIFE.

The Elmira, New York, Telegram of Dec. 22 devotes considerable space to an article on the "Great Mormon Leader," as it styles the late President Brigham Young. The basis of the article is an interview with Captain George Hickox, whose ninety-third birthday was last Sunday—Dec. 29—and who is described as "the oldest man in Canandaigua township, a man of remarkable vigor, mentally and physically," and "the only living person who knew Brigham Young before Mormonism had secured a life-long lease upon his talents, and drawn his name into national and world-wide prominence."

The Telegram, after giving Mr. Hickox's story, says of President Young that "he possessed many qualities which could be pointed out to the sons of today as well to follow and worthy of development. The theory of Brigham Young, as shown in his early life, and more clearly exemplified in his latter years, was that the poor of the earth should have homes and lands, and that their chief happiness should be found in toil. He was a man of which any sect or country might be proud—of the metal from which heroes are made." Of this early life, the Telegram says in its interview with Mr. Hickox:

"Did I know Brigham Young?" he said, in reply to a question; "well, I reckon; we were boys together, you might say. Brigham used to work for me; one day he left. Years passed and a short time before his death he wrote me a letter; that was the only time I ever heard of him since his departure, except through the newspapers. It was on the old place over yonder," said the old man, pointing to a house nestling beneath a small hill to the west, "that I first met Brigham. That was in the 'twenties" and the old man stared off over the meadows as if his mind were crossing the vast expanse of years which had passed, and was bringing back the memories of his earlier days.

The Telegram then recites the coming of the Young family—Brigham, John, Lorenzo, Phineas, and two daughters—to Canandaigua from Auburn, N. Y., in the latter part of the 'twenties," and continues:

Brigham Young was married, and with his wife and four children lived a short distance north of Cheshire. At Auburn he had worked at the printing business. He had not the means to buy a place, and worked as a common farm laborer. He found employment at day labor about the neighborhood, and worked for the Hickoxes a great deal. He was one year older than Hickox. With a family of four children, it was by no means an easy task for the young man to keep both ends within respectable proximity, and the unwelcome wolf from the door. He had nothing but his wares upon which to support his family, but they were never known to want. It was while serving in this humble capacity that Brigham Young showed the qualities that were in him. He was not contented with his lot as a farm laborer, but he performed his humble duty well. He

had a thirst for knowledge, and every source within his reach he utilized. His kind and agreeable disposition won him friends from all the community. In sickness, Brigham was a wise counselor. Whatever the disease, he could prescribe, and his remedies and advice were much sought throughout the neighborhood. He was often heard to remark that what was worth doing at all, was worth doing well. He believed in it; he practiced it, and his name is now written upon the nation's history as one of her greatest natural leaders of men.

As an illustration of the habits of the young man, the following is given:

"I was chopping wood one day," said the old man [Hickox], continuing in a reminiscent mood, "when Brigham came over and wanted to borrow a dollar. 'Chop wood with me today and earn it,' I said. Brigham was very poor and work was necessarily found. He was glad of an opportunity to earn the money, and in two days we had chopped together eighteen cords. At another time Brigham owed me a bill. One day he came to me and confessed that he saw no way of being able to pay it, unless I would accept a dozen chairs. The chairs were done; they showed the handiwork of Brigham Young; they were honestly made." The writer was invited to the front porch, where one of the set, well preserved, is still doing duty.

Regarding the occasion when the Gospel restored through the Prophet Joseph was brought to the subject of its sketch, the Telegram says:

During the time that Brigham Young was a resident of Canandaigua, Mormonism was beginning to stir in a few localities. Brigham was peculiar in his religious belief, and was a faithful adherent to church. To within a very short time of his departure, Mormonism seemed to have no grip upon the young man; but he was looking for a higher calling than that of a common farm laborer. Something was in store for him. The day came. Mormon missionaries were flooding the country. In the old meeting house in Brigham's district, meetings were held, and Brigham was converted. He worked for the Hickoxes at that time. A few days after his conversion three men came to the farm. They inquired at the house for Brigham, and were told that he was working on the hill in the rear. "Brigham and I were cradling grain together that day," said the old man. "I saw a man come up the hill. When he saw Brigham he went toward him and the two held a few minutes' earnest conversation. After the stranger had left, Brigham said to me: 'George, I am not going to work for you any more.' I was surprised at this sudden declaration, and asked the reason. 'I am going in better business,' he said. 'I am going to preach the everlasting Gospel.'" His earnest manner betokened the veracity of his statement, although it was at first treated with sarcasm by the employer.

The article then states that the men who called were Mormon missionaries, with whom the new convert went to Auburn, taking his family. The date of this is given as late in the summer of 1832. The sending of a letter to Captain Hickox, by President Young, in 1875, is then recounted, followed by complimentary remarks on the part of the Telegram, which states that President Young "would have been a great man or leader in any department of life." Aside from its entertaining references to the early life of President Young, the publication in the Elmira Telegram is quite interesting from the evident pride with which

it points to the fact that Brigham Young once made his home in that neighborhood—an event which would not always have been referred to in so pleasing a manner. In the changed spirit of the present there is another evidence of how the Almighty operates among men in decreeing that justice shall be done to those who forsake all to follow Him.

HERE ARE all free men and free women today—enjoying equal rights under the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Utah.

PROF. MILLS AND THE FARMERS.

Prof. A. A. Mills, president of the Utah State Agricultural society, has made a speech and has written a letter. We will not give either very extended notice; yet we feel in duty bound to pay sufficient attention to them to let the public know just what Professor Mills is doing, and they can form their own estimate of his purposes in the agitation he is seeking to arouse. The speech was delivered Thursday before the society meeting in the joint city and county building, and we quote from it as it appears verbatim in a morning cotemporary. The letter was written to the NEWS by Mr. Mills, in response to a pointed friendly criticism of his course, which he accepts in anything but a friendly spirit. In his address yesterday Prof. Mills stated:

There is no doubt but laws are made and manipulated against the interest of the farmer. This is not to be wondered at, as in the law-making bodies of the land we find but few farmers, and as a rule, he is the only class not extensively represented, so he falls an easy prey to all other classes.

Mr. Mills says "the farmers of Utah" are groaning under a heavy burden, and it is to them he addresses his remarks. Let us see how his statement about law-making bodies fits Utah, the place we are interested in, as he endeavors to make it do. A careful examination into the classification of all the legislatures Utah ever has had shows the vast majority of the members to have been farmers. No other industry has received anything like such representation. The farmer's vote has dominated the legislature throughout. We make no objection to this large percentage of legislators from the farming class. It suits us perfectly. We merely cite it to warn the public of Prof. Mills's unfortunate absence of veracity in his deliberate statements. He has given several other evidences of it in the quotation made, but we will pass them by. Again he says:

As all know, there has been but one Territorial fair in the past three years, and as far as agriculture is concerned, it was simply a side-show of the last fair. Now Utah has more money invested in and derives more revenue from agriculture than from any other industry. Why, then, should agriculture be side-tracked at our fair?

This assault on the Desert Agricultural and Manufacturing society ought to be very entertaining reading for Utah farmers who recall how much