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THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE PROPHET.

Eighty two years ago today (Dec. 23rd) one of the most remarkable men not only of modern times, but who figure in the history of our planet, first saw the light in mortality. The fact of his greatness is largely conceded among civilized peoples. Its universal acknowledgment may be confidently anticipated. Although this concession is made, many of those who make the admission are in dense ignorance of the genius of the work he performed. None, however, can escape the conviction that the mark he made in history is both distinct and deep.

Those who accept of the sublime theories he propounded claim, the impress of his labors to be eternal, and therefore ineffaceable, destined to become broader and deeper until it covers the globe and extends into the bosom of eternity. Those who thus view his mission, look upon him in the light of an instrument in the Divine hand through whom the initial process to bring about a far-reaching purpose was inaugurated, and that as a medium for the attainment of so great an end his native qualities were adapted to the consummation of his mission. That man was Joseph Smith.

Those who accept of the mission of the prophet as he announced it claim that he organized, under divine direction, the Church of the Redeemer, the anniversary of whose birth is popularly believed to occur next Sabbath. It is one of the most simple yet complete organizations that ever existed on earth, so far as one may be guided in the comprehension of the subject by either sacred or secular history. While its ramifications are multifarious, the parts are so clearly defined that the relative position of one to the other is easily understood. When analyzed it exhibits the beauty and adaptability of the rhetorical figure by which the Church is compared to the human form divine, each part having its peculiar function, the adhesion of every member being necessary to the health of the whole.

Comprehended in this organism is a marvelous spiritual power which attracts men and women of different languages, customs and nationalities from every "kindred, tongue and people," from the remotest parts of the earth, to a common centre. This influence is so potent that the genuine adherents of the faith make sacrifices in maintaining their association with it that are pneumatic in this cold and selfish generation, ever ready to throw odium upon the truth and distort the motives of those who cling to its genius.

The system is beneficent in its nature, attracting not many proud, not many noble, after the manner of the estimate of the world, but the poor and the meek of the earth flock to the religious standard it raises, and their condition is changed in every direction. Under the influence of religious devotion and the divine blessing not only are mortals gradually elevated in the scale of being, but the very earth smiles, blooms and yields under their magic touch.

Joseph Smith introduced a system of philosophy that has never been refuted, and it might be said, so far as the bulk of its opponents is concerned, has never been investigated. Those who combat it are as blind men fighting the wind, and despite their frantic efforts the breeze "bloweth where it listeth." The sound thereof is heard, but who knows its source or its destiny? He parted the curtains which separated this from the eternal worlds, that whosoever desired might feast his belief through the power of the eyes of his spirit and satisfy his soul with the matchless magnitude of the power, glory and dominion of the Most High, gaining a glimpse of the principles which govern the universe constructed by the Divine Majesty. In this respect the great prophet of the nineteenth century, through the medium of a vision be-
held by him on February 18th, 1832, communicated more intelligence than is comprehended by the whole world at large, but like the many sublime truths he was the honored instrument chosen to convey to this generation, it is as a light shining in a dark place, "the darkness comprehendeth it not."

Among other remarkable features which he accomplished the Prophet gave to the world one of the most wonderful books ever placed in the hands of men—the history of the ancient races of this continent in order to deceive the people in relation to the resurrection of the Redeemer, men were prompted to falsify the fact,

palming upon the populace the fabrication that his body had been stolen by his disciples and privately conveyed away. Similar attempts have been made to manufacture a false source for the Book of Mormon. One by one the refuge of lies have been torn from the faces of the inventive hypocrites, and men have been forced to admit that some other source than the Spaulding Story and other similar subterfuges must be sought to account for the origin of the work. Added to these exposures are the discoveries that are constantly being made upon this continent, showing the former existence on this land of civilized races, whose relics substantiate the authenticity of the popularly rejected record. The book itself is largely prophetic and, aside from the attestations of witnesses, whose testimonies have never been impeached, it bears unmistakable evidence of its own correctness.

The whole work which Joseph Smith was instrumental in establishing is intensely prophetic, its course being outlined by its founder, from infancy to destiny. It is fulfilling and will continue to fulfill the conditions upon which its perpetuity is insured, notwithstanding that its history is marked by many ebbs and flows. It proclaims the divinity of the calling of him the anniversary of whose natal day has incited the foregoing reflections.

THE "LITTLE BROWN MAN."

Some time since a formidable syndicate, composed of Americans mostly, was organized, having for its object the formation of a mammoth bank in China. Silver was to be the basis of its circulation, that metal being quite valuable enough for the burden of exchanges in a land where the only circulating coin among the masses is copper and some pieces having no more financial value than a fraction of a mill. The plans were all arranged, the concession was granted by the Chinese government, and the scheme was all ready for floating, when the finance department of the Flowery Empire ordered a temporary halt. This resulted in more or less deliberation and investigation, the upshot being that the temporary order was made perpetual. This was bad for those who had made all preparations for an investment in the scheme, as it could not have resulted otherwise than in an immense interest on the outlay; but the Viceroy proved as firm in his negative position as he had been hasty in permitting the concession to be granted.

China is the most wonderful of all the nations. It is not classed among the powers at all, though it contains 450,000,000 people, more than all the first-class powers of the globe combined. Its people are the direct link between the dim and misty past and the living present. Many of the practices, perhaps most of them, which prevailed in China prior to the historic period, a long while before the reign of Confucius, are in vogue yet, and they are not all barbarous or heathenish, though partaking to a greater or less degree of both in every instance. They had a newspaper before Greece erected its majestic columns, before Rome, Arabia or Syria had an alphabet, before, in fact, any form of civilization had taken root upon the western lands. Its monetary system is so primitive and erratic that we cannot understand it, for the reason that it is coeval with events beyond our records and researches. It is this latter condition that made the establishment of a modern financial system there so attractive on this side the globe. In no place can so few financiers do so well as where a comparatively barbarous numismatical condition prevails, and they thus would have had a broad field opened up to them. But if the Chinese are behind the times of today, they are satisfied with their condition and it would be worse than useless to attempt the reformation of a people who are too bulky to be moved and too ancient to be understood.

The comparatively few Chinese who come to this country do so not for advancement nor as a rule for permanent residence, but for silver. A thousand dollars of our "white money" is an immense fortune in China. It would buy more of the copper of their native country than a horse team could draw. To accomplish this result, they have only to be exactly what we as a general thing are not—hard and systematic workers, plain livers, and never quailers; of a cost unselfish. They can afford to work cheaply, and so far as we are concerned, they soon become infected with our advanced ideas of the value of labor, and then they charge almost as much as the average white man. They are always employed, because they will turn their hands to anything, and if they don't know it they pick it up with a readiness and thoroughness approaching the marvelous. They are not wanted as a rule, especially on the Pacific Coast, the cry of taking labor from the white man always confronting them. Nowhere on the coast is the Chinaman treated more humanely or considerately than in this city. He is not petted, fondled, nor even invited, and no one cares when he goes or how long he stays; but there is no pelting with stones, systematic robbing, destroying of property nor organized at-

tempts upon life like there have been and are yet in many places. The Rock Springs and Washington Territory outrages are events of but yesterday, and although the government paid dearly for those transactions, it did not wipe out the stain upon a land consecrated to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

BAD NEWS FOR THE COLONISTS.

Some few months ago a company was organized in Connecticut, having in view the settlement and building up of a city, or a number of cities in a portion of Southern California. To this end a large quantity of land was obtained from the Mexican government and a very fair beginning made. The town of Ensenada is the result of this movement, and it is described as a very pretty, well located and desirable place, growing steadily, not under the impulse of the "boom" which is still raging across the bay, but with that better and more stable growth indicative of permanency. Ex-Governor Murray and G. S. Erb, Esq., the prominent hotel man of this city, have, we believe, important positions in the company, and are at the scene of operations most of the time. But what threatens to be a standing annoyance, if not an insuperable impediment, has just been placed in the way of the colonists. The dispatches announce that Mrs. Maria Burton has established her right in the courts of the City of Mexico to the lands in that section known as Ensenada de Todos Santos, claiming by virtue of one of those old grants with which so much of Old and New Mexico is honeycombed. The property is valuable, but is more so now than it was before because of the American improvements, the town of Ensenada, or a large part of it, coming within the tract covered by the conflicting titles. Perhaps the woman can be bought off; perhaps she has been waiting for developments before settling up her claim in the courts for that very purpose, as it is certain no one was putting the lands to any use of consequence before the colonists went there.

THE REDEEMER.

As this is the last issue that will appear before the dawn of the day observed as the anniversary of the birth of the Redeemer, we wish one and all—friends and those who do not feel friendly—"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

This time the occasion dates on the Sabbath. This is appropriate, being a day of rest as well as, in this instance, one of rejoicing. It will afford a better than ordinary opportunity for those who have practically taken upon them the name of Christ to worship Him who rules in heaven, and consider what so sacred an obligation means. The object of every true disciple is to emulate the glorious example of Him who died and suffered for a sinners world. The object of pursuit should be the attainment of the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." He is the ideal man, and the effort of each should be to reach the perfect standard that He erected by putting into practical effect all that was good and noble. He was harmonious with His own divine nature, and with the principles by which the moral universe of the Father is governed.

Witness the humility of Him who came not to assert His own will, but the will of the Father that sent Him! With what force He could, in consequence of His examples proclaim the necessity of the candidates for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven becoming as little children. That injunction came from one who washed the feet of His disciples; being the exemplar of all, He was, notwithstanding His greatness, the servant of all. How frequently He was moved with compassion. There is a world of meaning in these two significant words—"Jesus wept." While His meekness was so marked as to excite wonder when we read of the circumstances under which it was evinced, He was not incapable, when in mortality, of being aroused to intense but righteous indignation, under which the thieves and money changers who desecrated His Father's house felt the weight of His right hand wielding a whip of thongs. His love for little children surpassed description, they being of the Kingdom of heaven; the affinity was probably based on mutual innocence, combined with the helplessness of the little ones. How utter was His detestation for hypocrisy. In His rebukes of this revolting sin He would have shocked the sensibilities of modern society people. When duplicity was exhibited even by those who invited Him to partake of their hospitality He failed not to exclaim "ye scribes and pharisees, hypocrites!" He abjured the spirit of retaliation or revenge; this trait was signally exhibited when He was treated with disrespect and two of

His disciples wanted fire called down from heaven to consume the offenders. "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them," He exclaimed.

The crowning manifestation of magnanimity, patience and unyielding love, under the greatest ordeal and sacrifice of which this creation has been the scene was given while He hung upon the cross and was enduring unspeakable agony. He cried, in pleading tones, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

When men who have taken upon them the name of that great Being contemplate such virtues and self-immolation, and reflect that it is their duty to emulate His brilliant example, they sink into self-insignificance at the greatness of the task. But while men may not hope to approach within sight of the standard, they can at least struggle along, gradually gaining ground, step by step, precept upon precept, until the whole life is devoted to the doing and production of righteousness and the establishment of truth. It is a great thing to be a Saint, in the true sense of the term.

He who ascended on high will in these latter times descend. That stupendous event will be preceded by and contemporaneous with mighty revolutions in the affairs of men. The fig tree is putting forth its leaves. The summer is high. It is given to the faithful to know the signs of the times. That same glorious personage, the anniversary of whose birth into this mortal sphere is popularly believed to occur tomorrow, will before long appear on this creation, over which it is His right to reign. Who will be prepared to meet Him?

GUARD YOUR RIGHTS.

SERIOUS business demands the attention of the citizens of this city, although it is a season of festivity; and merry-making should not be permitted to cause them to forget or neglect it. We are informed that in some instances names of registered voters are being stricken from the lists by the registrars. Voters, to prevent being deprived of their rights, should see to it that their names remain upon the lists. Persons eligible for registration, who have removed from the precincts in which they were registered should interview the registrar in whose precinct they now reside, and all who have the right to register and vote, and have not, for any reason, secured that right, should not neglect to do so. A saint to the wise should and will be sufficient.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The anniversary of the birth of the Savior occurring, according to popular belief, to-morrow (Sunday), Monday, December 26th, will be observed, in honor of the occasion, as a holiday. In consequence the News will not issue again until Tuesday. We have endeavored to compensate for the necessary omission of one number by making this a double issue.

The whole of the matter contained in the four page extra consists of original contributions from local writers of recognized ability. Doubtless our readers will find them to be interesting, as they not only present a variety in style, but the subjects are also distinct. The attraction will be all the greater because of the two stories presented having a local connection.

So far as the news portion of the issue is concerned, it is free from a cold, hard, business cast, the only object being to give to our readers a holiday number that will, in the range of literary productions it embodies, afford to the perusers a combination from which amusement and instruction can be derived.

Without indulging in self-commendation, but allowing the paper to tell its own story, and hoping it will be acceptable, we bid our patrons adieu till Tuesday.

CHRISTMAS AMONG THE NEPHITES.

Whether or not the anniversary of the Savior's birth was celebrated as a holiday among the Nephites is uncertain. The record we have of them affords no distinct information upon this point. Their history from the date of the birth of the Savior until the waging of the war that resulted in their extinction as a race, is very brief, as abridged by Mormon, and affords but meagre information of their social customs.

From what we know relative to the individual and communal traits of the Nephites, we are justified in presuming that they were inclined to be a cheerful, light-hearted people, sociable and affectionate. At all events it is evident that they lacked that stability of character, and that firmness and fixedness of purpose which usually accompany, in races and individuals, the characteristics of reserve, solemnity and taciturnity. The

readiness with which they could forget the causes and import of great calamities, and the significance of wonderful and miraculous phenomena, as well as their religious covenants and obligations, render justifiable the surmise that they were more or less given to pleasure, amusement and frivolity, and hence to an observance, perhaps excessive, of feasts and holidays.

Whether or not the Nephites observed Christmas as a day to be celebrated, they signaled in a most effective manner, the birth day of the Redeemer by starting from it a new chronology. They had more striking reasons for taking that event as the zero date of a new era than did the Christians on the eastern continent, on account of the marvelous and awe-inspiring character of certain occurrences connected therewith. Some of these were of a nature to overwhelm with unspeakable dread, fear, terror and remorse both Nephites and Lamanites.

The reign of the religious leaders and kings of the Nephites continued for 500 years after Lehi left Jerusalem, when a new chronology, beginning with the commencement of the reign of the judges, and with the year 510 after the departure from Jerusalem, was adopted. In the 86th year of the reign of the judges there came upon the scene one of the most remarkable characters of all history. What a swift moving, brilliantly flashing comet of the first magnitude is among the stars of heaven, Samuel, the Lamanite Prophet, is among historical characters. Other prophets have, perhaps, left more lasting monuments of their missions, as have, perhaps, some of the great warriors and statesmen whom an overruling Providence has, from time to time, raised up to accomplish its wise purposes. But when viewed in the light of his semi-barbarous ancestry, the startling not to say appalling character of his prophetic message, and the maintenance and accuracy with which he foretold the stupendous events which he had been sent to announce, Samuel the Lamanite stands without a counter-part. The sudden fulfillment of his prophecy, which so quickly followed its utterance, and so much resembled the wrecking, by a collision, of a large division of the earth, being an event of such supremely tragic interest, has seemed to eclipse the light that would otherwise have so brilliantly radiated from this remarkable revelator.

He declared that, in five more years, the Christ would be born in Judea, and that the event should be signaled by the appearance of a star, the like of which had never been seen before, and by many great wonders and signs in the heavens. One sign of most marvelous import should be given in proof that the Christ was coming; the night preceding his birth should be as light as day. A small minority only of those who heard these predictions believed them, and as the time approached when the illuminated night should happen, the unbelieving masses fixed upon a day for the massacre of all who believed in Samuel's words, unless they should be sooner fulfilled.

Barely in time to avert the terrible carnage, the great sign was given. The hours of the day passed but no night came. The unbelieving multitudes fell to the ground, as if dead, being overcome with terror and remorse. For a day, a night and a day, the light of the sun failed not. By this startling event the greater part of the people were led to listen to the Gospel, and to repent, though a spirit of lying and stubborn unbelief prevailed extensively. The memory of the great suspension of the order of nature was not forgotten, for time was thenceforth reckoned from it; but a few years only had elapsed when the masses of the people, who had been overwhelmed by it, and a realization of what it imported, forgot the terror and remorse with which they had been filled with by it, and dwindled in unbelief and wickedness, to a degree which justified the fulfillment of the portion of Samuel's prophetic message having reference to the events which should attend the crucifixion.

With the scene on Cavalry came, upon this continent, a fulfillment of Samuel's awful warning. Of the population of the western half of the world all but a mere remnant were destroyed in a few hours. In any attempt to recount the manner in which Samuel's words came to pass, the most graphic pen becomes too feeble for the service. No language at the command of uninspired man can depict, with justice and completeness, the accomplishment of his prediction.

The memory of Christ's birth, and an understanding of His mission and atonement, continued in the Church which He raised up after the great destruction foretold by Samuel, for several generations, the nativity being still kept in mind by the chronology in use. For two hundred years after the crucifixion, the members of the Church of Christ on this continent were a happy and peaceful people. Their record continues silent as to whether or not the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth was celebrated during this period, as a holiday, and we are left to conjecture upon the subject.

Be that as it may, no people on earth had more signal reasons to keep eternally in memory the birth and crucifixion of the Savior than did the ancient inhabitants of this continent. The testimonies that were given them of the divinity of His message, and of the necessity of forever remembering and obeying it, were as striking, strong and overwhelming as can well be con-