

newer form of this is still the ecclesiastical language of the Syrian Christians. Very early it produced a rich literature in ecclesiastical history and theology.

DECEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

The twenty-third of December of each year is a special reminder to the Latter-day Saints of the mercy and goodness of the Savior of mankind in revealing anew His Gospel in this dispensation, preparatory to His second coming. The reason for the date named occupying this relation is because it is the birthday of the great Prophet of the latter days, who was selected as the servant of God through whom the new revelation to mankind was given, in fulfillment of the prophecies of holy men, Apostles and Prophets, of old, who spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. To the Prophet Joseph Smith as a boy the Lord vouchsafed a privilege given to no other as far as history has revealed—that of a personal visitation of the Father and Son; and in his subsequent career there were the ministrations of angels who instructed him in the divine will, the conferring upon him of the authority of heaven bestowed in the Apostleship, and those visions and gifts of the Spirit which enabled him to organize anew the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth, preparatory to the time when the Head and Founder shall come to earth and reign as Lord of lords and King of kings. And in his calling as the forerunner of the second coming of Christ, the Prophet Joseph Smith is the greatest of His Prophets whom the Lord has sent to earth.

To the Latter-day Saints it matters not what may be the views of those who do not believe in the divine calling and mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith; the Saints know his calling and mission to be divine—that he was a Prophet of God, and that the Almighty so declared him in the powers of the Gospel of Christ that have attended and do now attend the work to which he gave his life. As it was with Joseph when he received the first heavenly visitation—he had seen a vision and beheld a glorious light surrounding two heavenly personages who spoke to him, he knew that he had had this experience, and he knew that God knew it, and he could not deny it—so it is with the Latter-day Saints. They know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet, they know that the Almighty recognizes and upholds the ordinances and Priesthood received by Joseph and transmitted by him to the Church, they know that the Gospel gifts and powers are with the Saints, and they know that God knows it, and they cannot deny these things. Whatever other people who do not have this knowledge may think, however they may ridicule, or persecute, or treat lightly these facts, the Saints cannot do otherwise than abide by the knowledge they are in possession of.

The work accomplished by the Latter-day Saints is a living witness of the inspiration which attended the Prophet Joseph Smith. The record of the Saints in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Utah,

and elsewhere, in their fidelity through persecution, their industry, their integrity, their temperance, their virtue, their mutual love and union, and the material prosperity which attends them, all combine in testimony of this one fact—the divine calling of Joseph Smith as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus. Without such a call there would have been no Utah as it is today, no Mormon community to make its deserts bloom and to transform its wilderness into rich gardens; no temple building in Kirtland, no Nauvoo, in this State, and no selection of the site for the great temple in Jackson county, Missouri; none of the sacrifices for the restored Gospel that have marked every abiding place of the Saints and have caused that Gospel to be proclaimed in every land to which Mormon missionaries have access. A divine revelation was necessary to the attainment of all this; and it was the Prophet Joseph Smith, in obedience to that revelation, who led the Saints to Ohio, to Missouri, and to Illinois, who pointed their way to these valleys of the Rocky Mountains and predicted their progress here, and who indicated the ultimate regaining of their rights in Missouri and all other places from which they were expelled by mobocratic intolerance.

Under a full comprehension of these facts, it is no wonder that each anniversary of the birth of this great man is a special reminder of the work which he was the instrument, in the hands of the Lord, of instituting, and which is constantly increasing in its influence among mankind for their salvation from every ill, and their crowning triumph in the mansions of eternal bliss. It is the work of the dispensation of the fullness of times, in which the Almighty unites all dispensations of His grace given to mankind on this earth—a purpose that will not fail of accomplishment. It is as the Apostle and Prophet who stands at the head of this dispensation—the humble, faithful, divinely inspired servant of the Lord who fulfilled the duty assigned him—that the Latter-day Saints honor the Prophet Joseph Smith in remembering with reverence the anniversary of his birth, giving praise over all to the Lord for His infinite goodness in touching their hearts with the glorious message of the everlasting Gospel which He has revealed anew to mankind.

THE REPORT ON CUBA.

The report on Cuba of the Senate committee on foreign relations is an interesting document. Its tone is calm and dignified and the force of its logic is irresistible. It shows that all precedents in Europe, in Asia and in America prove the right and obligation of an interested power to interfere in the affairs of a neighbor, whenever it is clear that the responsible government is unable to maintain peace and order, or whenever great national interests are at stake. Its recommendation for interference in Cuba is founded on the fact that Spain has about demonstrated her inability to establish a peaceful condition and that the bloodshed must continue to no purpose, unless terminated by some third party. There

is good ground for recognizing Cuba's government. It has maintained itself on the island for two years; its army has proved equal to 200,000 Spanish soldiers, and its diplomatic corps is well organized. The Cuban patriots, therefore, have more claims to recognition than had Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria or, in fact, any of the new states created only by the dictum of the European powers.

The report further points out that the policy proposed is in perfect accordance with the principles on which the famous Monroe doctrine rests, and that the application of these principles is of vital importance to the United States. European domination of the Western world must gradually cease. Still, the United States does not invite an armed conflict with the Spanish government. The Cuban war should be terminated and on Congress rests the duty to consider by what means this end best can be accomplished.

The probable action of Congress upon this report will now be awaited with much interest. The feeling is general that the Cuban trouble should be settled without delay, and it is to be hoped that it can be accomplished without plunging two countries into a destructive war, which undoubtedly would entail much sacrifice of life and property on both sides.

THE ELECTION LAW RULING.

The decision of the State Supreme court in the election case will be received by the people with satisfaction and gratitude. This feeling is not confined to one political party, but is shared by citizens of all shades of political opinion. The questions raised involved rights in the exercise of broad citizenship rather than anything of a political cast; and while there was no objection to any one questioning the validity of the election law having all doubt set aside by the court, the feeling of the people was that the decision should be in a line that conserved the public welfare under existing conditions. No doubt was felt that the Supreme court would follow the right, for the integrity, learning and independent fairness of the justices are fully recognized; but there was a little uneasiness with some lest an error had been committed by which, in defining the safe rule to follow, it would be necessary to apply drastic measures. Happily no such necessity existed.

In reaching its conclusion by unanimous action, the State Supreme court has entrenched itself more firmly than ever in public esteem and confidence. It has proved itself a bulwark for the liberties of the people in maintaining the effectiveness of their will as expressed at the ballot box. But it has not done so without having to draw lines very closely and carefully. This is shown in the language used in the decision. To get at the ultimate right in the case was the evident aim of the court, and it did this without hesitation or cavil. At the same time it indicates that the law is not the best that could be devised to conform with the constitutional requirements, and in that respect needs improvement as soon as the legislature can see their way clear to attend to the work.

With the feeling of general relief