

LOS ANGELES

"The City of the Angels."



"The City of the Saints"

SALT LAKE.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE CENTURY.



APOSTLE BRIGHAM YOUNG being out of the State, the "News" has not been able to obtain from him an expression of his sentiments concerning the century now passing and that which is about to open; but we know that if he were here he would endorse the expression of his brethren of the Apostles, and bear a similar testimony to theirs concerning the greatest event of the Nineteenth Century; that is, the restoration of the Gospel and the ushering in of the dispensation of the fulness of times, under the inspired Prophet Joseph Smith. This testimony he has borne for many years and in many nations, and we are assured he will continue to do so as long as life remains. He is now in Mexico; but wherever his duty calls him his voice is ever heard in testimony of the truth of the Latter-day work, and in counsel and instruction to the Latter-day Saints. His name is identified with the great work of the last days, and his illustrious father builded wisely upon the foundation laid by the martyred prophet of the Nineteenth Century.



THE leading purpose of God in all ages has been to exalt and redeem mankind. Through all the generations from the beginning, as recorded in the Old Testament, there was a thought of the coming of a Restorer of the human race, to effect reconciliation, to expiate transgression, and to provide means for man's return to the immortal state with the Father. The story of the Old Testament, which is but the preface chapter of the New Testament, reveals the way in which God provided for the fulfillment of the promise.

Christ came to earth, just as the patriarch, the law-giver, the priest, and the prophet had foretold. He took away the sin of Eden, restoring also the Gospel of salvation, by which men, through obedience, might be reconciled to God. He "became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him."

Notwithstanding all that had been said of His coming, He was yet rejected and wickedly put to death. But He arose from the grave, ascended to the Father, became the first fruits of the resurrection, and will again return to earth. The evidences of the promise of His coming in the meridian of time are no stronger than the prophetic utterances of the second coming. His second advent is declared by the ancient prophets, by Himself, and by modern revelation.

Every age of the centuries since His crucifixion has presented leading events indicating that the promise of His second coming to earth is as clearly remembered by God as was the promise of His first. His early followers were put to death, or fell into disbelief; but the promises remain, and the day of restitution will surely come, the day of the triumph of Zion, when the righteous "shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." The world's Sabbath, the Millennium, the seventh thousand years which is right at our door, will witness its fulfillment.

Look but upon the developments of science and thought of the past five centuries; the invention of printing; the Reformation, which gave the printed word of God to the people; the discovery of America, which opened up liberty of thought and action—all tend to prepare for the great event which occurred in the opening years of the century now closing—the birth and calling of the Prophet Joseph Smith. God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ came to this modern prophet, restored again the original plan of salvation, the Priesthood, the true Gospel, to men on earth, and inaugurated the dispensation of the fulness of times, in which all things are to be restored as spoken of by the mouths of the holy prophets.

Through this visit, a work is begun by which a people will be prepared to meet the Savior when He shall again visit the earth, to reign upon it in peace a thousand years.

The century now drawing upon us is also to be one of preparation. This revealed Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations before the end. Men are now called upon to repent, and be baptized, thus placing themselves in line with the purposes of God, which are rapidly developing, toward the time when the Savior shall dwell upon the earth with His chosen people—His Church. His people are the Latter-day Saints. His Church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His mouthpiece is the prophet who stands at their head. This is my testimony. I bear this testimony to all the world. I do it soberly, and in the full knowledge of what I say. I have been associated with this work for forty years—for two-fifths of the century now closing. I have had experience among men of the world, and have come in contact with the thought of this unparalleled century, of invention and science, and am in the full enjoyment of my unimpaired senses. This testimony, therefore, does not come of ignorance, fanaticism, or a lack of experience with the thought and actions of the age, or the methods of the men of the world; but I bear record that it has been made manifest to me by the revelation of the Spirit of God. I know it is true.

FRANCIS M. LYMAN.



WITH the close of the Nineteenth Century ends an epoch transcendently superior in importance to any since the dawn of the Christian era. The development of letters, art and science which has been phenomenal is but part of the aggregate achievements of the century about to terminate. The fraternities of the races of man have undergone marked changes for the better, so that at the close of the century, peoples of different nationalities are nearer and exercise amenities unknown in 1801.

The experiment of self government in the United States has crystallized into a tangibility that commands the admiration of the world. Within its ample fold in the year 1900 the ideal is prominently suggested. Notwithstanding the degenerate stratum still found in society, a person is secure in "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," when according to others the same privileges.

The industrial phases of the world are in marked contrast with those of the past century, inasmuch that nearly all that is required for the comfort of man is being produced in every civilized country in the world. Yet there is a melancholy thought in this connection that while mankind are better off than their ancestors, it is an open question whether we are better morally than they were; whereas, judged by our opportunities and environment, we should have improved morally and religiously in the same proportion as we have otherwise advanced.

The social status of the race in many parts of the earth at the present time may be vastly improved since the opening of the century, but, judged by the standard of the Great Master, the world is not yet ready to pass muster in the Divine Presence. Still, we may say the world moves; and while moving it is to be hoped it will advance in the right direction.

Concurrent with other events of the century, one has transpired that adds greatly to its glory and renown—one of magnificence that casts a halo of light into the future, namely, the manifestation of the Lord in person, who opened the heavens and has spoken to man again, has revealed the fulness of the Gospel and ushered in the dispensation of the fulness of times, in which the way shall be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man.

The Twentieth Century will receive a rich heritage of good bequeathed to it by its predecessor, and it is not utopian to say that among its possibilities may be seen the realization of the hopes and expectations of all the prophets since the world began.

M. W. MERRILL.



THE prediction of the prophet of old, that the Lord would pour out His spirit upon all flesh, has been verified to a wonderful degree during the present century.

The visitation of the Father and the Son and the introduction of the latter to the modern prophet, the bestowal of the Holy Priesthood and the outpouring of the divine light, not alone exalted the spiritual and led to great religious fervor, it also awakened in men's minds the spirit of invention. The home, the farm, the garden, have been made more desirable in every way; labor-saving devices, comforts and adornments, have been added in pleasing measure. The glorious results of inspiration upon the minds of Franklin, Watts, Stephenson, Fulton, Morse, Edison and hundreds of lesser lights, in the field of invention, are seen in our steamships, railways, telegraphs, telephones and printing presses, in the lighting of cities, all kinds of improved machinery, the transmission of information, and the discovery of hundreds of practical utilities of every kind. These may well cause us to exclaim with Professor Morse, "What hath God wrought?"

If in the closing days of the nineteenth century such wonders have been manifest, what of the incoming one, with man's inventive genius improved and quickened by experience, and enlightened by an increased flow of the Holy Spirit? The wide diffusion of book-learning places the humblest men of today side by side with the most exalted of all former periods.

The Redeemer of the world, standing as the Great Ruler and Judge among men in the flesh and with His government of love, established and binding us together in universal peace and union, is a pleasing prospect.

The developments of the nineteenth as compared with the twentieth century, will appear but as stars in the firmament beside the resplendent light of the noonday sun. Our Heavenly Father has decreed a millennial day. Are we not hastening to the enjoyment of its privileges?

JOHN HENRY SMITH.



IN the merciful providences of our Almighty Father, we will soon have the privilege and blessings of the family gatherings and happiness of another Christmas Day—a day held for the celebration of the natal day of the appointed Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

The Latter-day Saints have observed the 25th day of December as a general holiday, for social family gatherings, and religious worship; although they do not believe that Jesus Christ was born on that day. And the old tradition of Santa Claus is kept, which brings presents and happiness to the hearts of their children, inasmuch that the day is looked forward to by them with joy and anxiety.

The Latter-day Saints appreciate any kindly reference to our Lord Jesus Christ, for they are blessed above any other people on the earth because of their faith and the knowledge they have obtained through their obedience to the everlasting Gospel restored in these last days.

They are not dependent upon tradition. They enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is a revealer. It is the Spirit of truth to guide those who obey the doctrine of the Father into all truth, and show them things to come. This Spirit of truth is the educator of the Saints to prepare them for the second advent of the Messiah and for eternal life. His fellowship gives them eyes to see, ears to hear and the understanding heart.

On this occasion the Saints can be congratulated upon the sweet peace and happiness they enjoy through being obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ, who as the Scriptures say, "being made perfect He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."—Heb. v: 9. Through our faith, humility and obedience, we receive the recompense of reward, namely, the knowledge of God, whom to know is eternal life.—John xvii: 3. Faith and obedience alone can bring unto us this choice knowledge. We have to do the will of the Father to know of the doctrine. This is the key of eternal life. For to know the only true God and Jesus Christ who was sent of God is eternal life.

In the social gatherings of the Saints, Jesus Christ is always remembered. Every Sabbath we remember Him in partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and praise and thanksgiving is rendered to our everlasting Father in heaven for the eternal life and happiness He hath made it possible for us to obtain, through our faith, humility and obedience, and not only on Christmas Day, but always in the hearts and homes of the Latter-day Saints is the Savior beloved, honored and revered.

GEORGE TEASDALE.



THE Nineteenth Century with its joys and sorrows is now finished, and the Twentieth is beginning its course. How sublime the thought of standing upon the dividing line of centuries, one receding into the dim past, and the other beginning to unfold its mysteries!

In contemplating a century we are struck by its vastness, and we realize that it is impossible to grasp the whole record of a hundred years of human activity. We see but a small number of its leading events, a few—so very few—of the acting characters, and but a little of the sum total of the results produced by the exertions of the men who have lived and labored during the century. And yet at no time have the facilities for studying current history been so great as at present. The immense army of writers for magazines and newspapers have been so many recorders of what has transpired during the century. They have accumulated almost an infinite amount of information concerning the men and events of the past hundred years; still it forms but an insignificant portion of the whole record, for, to write this in full would require, perhaps, five thousand millions of biographers, and when these were obtained they would constitute only the brick and building material for the complete historical structure. There would still be the task of writing the histories of the men who have lived and labored, and countries—profane and ecclesiastical—before our record can be equal to the books which John the Revelator saw "opened," and men were "judged out of the things that were written in the books." In these must be found the works of all men, and the thought is forced upon us, that however humble the individual may be, his words and acts cover pages in the annals of the recording angel.

What has been recorded concerning us? This is a momentous question for all, and, as men are also self-recording beings, by scanning closely their lives, applying severe criticism to all their acts, not allowing self-love to turn blemishes found, into perfection. It is possible to give very nearly the correct answer to the question.

The Latter-day Saints, standing before the opening portals of the Twentieth century, should with hearts swelling with gratitude to God for the great things He has done in the past century, restoring His Gospel and ushering in "the dispensation of the fulness of times," form the firm resolve not to repeat past errors, but to prove themselves the children of God in spirit and truth, and then courageously step over the threshold of the new era, and do well the part assigned them.

ANTHON H. LUND.



TO my mind the most important events during the century which is just closing, were the appearance, after nearly 1800 years of darkness, of God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, in the boy Joseph Smith, and the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth.

The life of our Savior was one of sorrow. He was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. His life was largely passed in poverty, and He died on the cross. Such a life today would be looked upon as a failure, and no doubt it was so regarded by the people who lived in His time.

The life of Joseph Smith was also one of sorrow and persecution, finally ending in martyrdom. It, too, would be considered a failure, judged by the ordinary standards erected by men; but both these instances show us that the love of God for His children is not to be measured by the standards of this world.

In a revelation to Joseph Smith we find the following: "Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for, lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days." This promise was made to Joseph Smith in July, 1830, and if there were no other evidences that he was a prophet of God, the afflictions, the mobbings, and the drivings through which he passed in its fulfillment, would very strikingly testify to the fact.

The adversary has blinded many a man's eyes by inspiring him with the idea that the proper estimate of God's blessings to man and His love for His children, was to measure man's blessings by the standard of this world, namely, power, position, ease, and wealth; but the exact opposite is the case, and I would that everyone realized the fact.

Speaking of the sufferings of our Savior in the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph, the Lord says: "Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit; and would that I might not drink the bitter cup and shrink. Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men."

I have mentioned these truths to impress upon the minds of my readers the necessity of making the proper estimate of the love of God, and to say that His love is not evinced by giving men power, position and wealth in this world. God's contempt for wealth, it seems to me, could not be more perfectly emphasized than in the birthplace of His only begotten Son. How true it is that individuals, communities, and nations develop in adversity, and decay in the days of great prosperity. If we can arrive at the proper estimate of what God considers a blessing, we shall have made a grand start in the right direction in the year that opens the new century.

The world long ago confessed the grandeur of Christ's life and the success of His mission among men; despised and rejected then, He stands at the head of Christianity today.

The real character of the Prophet Joseph Smith is steadily and surely dawning upon the minds of men.

Josiah Quincy, the author, educator, lawyer, statesman and philanthropist, visited Joseph Smith forty-five days before his martyrdom. In his book entitled "Figures of the Past," he says: "It is by no means improbable that some future text book for the use of the generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: 'What historical American of the Nineteenth Century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen?' and it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: 'Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet.'"

To my mind the answer, "Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet," can be truthfully made today.

In conclusion I will say that in writing for the Christmas "News," I know of nothing that would please me more than to be able to say something that would impress upon those who read my words, the necessity of laboring for the greatest of God's gifts, namely, life eternal, and if I could do that I would feel that I have been repaid a thousand times for any exertion on my part. Let me close by bearing my testimony as a humble servant of the Lord, that I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. That I know that God hears and answers prayers and that every honest soul who will obey His commandments will receive the witness of the Holy Spirit and will be able to testify as I have done.

HEBER J. GRANT.



THE Nineteenth Century! What a mighty volume of unparalleled events is recorded during the period intervening between its ushering in and going out. It has been, save one, the most important one hundred years the world has ever seen. The only exception is the one which gave to mankind the birth, the ministry, the atonement, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The present century opened in the infancy of the greatest human government ever founded upon the earth—the greatest because directed by One who knows the end from the beginning. With the birth of the nineteenth century came the mortal existence of a coterie of men greater and better than whom no century has ever produced. Joseph Smith, the great prophet of the last days, and under our Lord and Savior, head of the most glorious Gospel dispensation ever committed to man, was born in 1805. His successor, Brigham Young, the prophet-leader, colonizer, pioneer and statesman founded what promises to be in some respects, the greatest commonwealth of the nation, was born in 1803. Across the mighty deep in grand old England, the Prophet John Taylor was born in 1805, while Presidents Wilford Woodruff and Lorenzo Snow saw the light of day in 1807 and 1814 respectively. All of these, with the exception of our beloved leader, President Snow, have passed away within the cycle of the century that gave them existence, and all have witnessed and performed mighty works for the blessing of mankind.

The early part of the nineteenth century also brought forth many of the notable men and women who have played conspicuous parts in the history of our country and particularly in its great struggle for existence. I believe it can be truly said that it has produced a greater percentage of human benefactors than any century since the dawn of time. With the development of great characters have come great achievements. There can be no question that this century is distinguished above all others for new discoveries and inventions along the line of human progress and in all the arts and sciences. It seems that the Supreme Creator in His boundless wisdom and knowledge reserved the nineteenth century for the ushering in of the accomplishment of His mighty purposes in the earth.

To the nineteenth century we must soon bid an everlasting farewell. Her time is past, her race is run; but her immeasurable benefits to mankind will live on forever, and the memory of all her great events will be resurrected in the volumes which record the deeds of all men and nations. The Twentieth Century is now very near its dawn. We welcome the same with high anticipations of a bright and glorious future. From the beginning to the end it will be fraught with portentous events. Wars, pestilence, famine, fire, earthquakes, and divers destruction. Remarkable improvements, innumerable blessings, will come as well. In it the redemption of Zion will be witnessed; the restoration of the Jews will be brought about; the building up of Zion and Jerusalem will likewise be accomplished; the wicked will be overthrown and the nations of the earth will prepare themselves so that the Lord of Glory may rule over them.

All hail the glorious day! May the truth spread abroad and every barrier to its progress be broken down. And may her sons and daughters in every land and clime exclaim: "What hath God wrought!"

MATHIAS F. COWLEY.