

MAINE MARTYR MEMORIAL DAY.

For the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, July 24th, 1898.

To the Presidents of Stakes and the Bishops of the Church:

Dear Brethren:—In view of the fact that the management of the Maine Monument Fund has disclaimed any intentional slight on the part of the national committee towards the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by omitting, on the 8th day of May, to call upon the Church to join the other churches of the land in holding memorial services on the 8th day of May, in honor of the brave men who lost their lives in the Maine disaster; and now asks us through its management to appoint a suitable day on which the members of the Church may hold Memorial services and take up collections for the Maine Monument Fund, we have decided to designate Sunday, the 24th of July, as the day on which such services shall be held.

It is our desire that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should be identified with all such patriotic movements as the erection of this monument to the nation's honored dead, that our fellow citizens may know that our sympathies, both in its joys and in its sorrows, are with our country. We therefore ask the Presidents of Stakes and the Bishops of the wards throughout the Church to make all necessary arrangements for holding special Memorial services at the time designated, and at the conclusion thereof to take up a collection from the people to assist in the erection of a monument to the Maine martyrs.

All moneys collected should be promptly forwarded by the Bishops to Elders Heber J. Grant and B. H. Roberts, who have been appointed a committee to take charge of this business. Address them at 20—26 south, East Temple street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Your Brethren,
WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Soon after the destruction of the United States warship Maine in Havana harbor, on the night of February 15th, a National Maine Monument committee was organized, having for its object the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of the men whose lives were lost in the destruction of the Maine. Ex-Vice President Levi P. Morton was chairman of the committee, Geo. J. Gould was treasurer,

and Paul Latzke manager of the fund. The committee included such names as Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commander of the United States army, Cardinal Gibbons, Thos. F. Bayard, Archbishop Corrigan, W. C. Whitney, former secretary of the navy; the governors of sixteen states and the mayors of seventy-four of the principal cities of the country.

Early in May the sub-committee on Memorial Day issued the following circular letter to the churches of the country asking that on Sunday, the eighth day of May, special memorial services to the Maine heroes be held and that the church offerings of that day be dedicated to the erection of a monument to make their fame lasting:

"IN MEMORIAM.

"Reverend and Dear Sir:

"The sub-committee chosen from the National Maine Monument committee earnestly desires that one Sunday be set apart upon which congregational observance may be given, in all the churches of the United States, to the heroism of the men whose lives were lost in Havana harbor on the night of February 15.

"The men who sailed into Havana under the flag of our country went in obedience to the call of humanity. It has been made plain, since the destruction of the Maine, that their fate had been foretold to them. And yet they did not falter.

"The element in their action which cannot be overlooked nor forgotten was unselfishness—the unselfishness which is the keynote of all Christian teaching and living.

"They were martyrs less to a nation's honor than to the cause of human kindness, and the unwavering courage with which they went upon their mission merits, and will have, in American history, a more enduring monument than any that can be builded of stone.

"But to the shaft which is to tell in how high esteem a nation holds the men who met death under its flag, the churches of this land should add some stones to commemorate the sacrifice to the universal brotherhood of man.

"Will you not upon Sunday the 8th day of May, in your church services, pay to the memory of the Maine's heroes the public tribute which is their due, and devote the church offerings of that day to help to make their fame lasting? It is desired to make this a 'Maine Memorial Day' throughout the land.

"If this proposition meets with your kind endorsement, please communicate with the National Maine Monument committee, Room 80, 154 Nassau street, New York. Remittances should be made to George J. Gould, treasurer, Western Union Building, New York.

GENERAL NELSON A. MILES,
Commander U. S. Army.
REAR ADM. T. O. SELFRIDGE,
U. S. Navy (retired.)
FREDERICK D. GRANT,
Former U. S. Minister to Austria.
CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,
Sub-Committee on Maine Memorial Day."

In this call made upon the churches of the country, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was omitted, and therefore no services were held by the Church or any of its branches in memory of the Maine heroes. In some remarks made by one of the speakers at the Tabernacle on the 15th of May, he referred to this slight and protested against such treat-

ment at the hands of the national committee. It appears that a newspaper clipping of these remarks fell into the hands of Mr. Paul Latzke, manager of the Maine monument fund, and he addressed a letter to the speaker in question, disclaiming any intentional slight to the Mormon Church and saying that he would regard it as a favor if that gentleman could put him in a position to repair the unintentional slight, so that the "Mormon" Church might be given the same opportunity as the other denominations to contribute its share towards the building of a monument to the memory of the brave sailor men who went down in the Maine. The nature of the Elder's reply may be learned from the following letter of Mr. Latzke to President Wilford Woodruff:

New York, June 18, 1898.

President Wilford Woodruff, Box B,
Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir—At the suggestion of Elder B. H. Roberts, I take the liberty of writing to you concerning the observance of Maine Memorial day by the Mormon Church. Through a newspaper report of an address delivered by Mr. Roberts, my attention was called to the fact that the Mormon Church was unintentionally slighted when the general appeal was sent to the churches of America for observance of Memorial day, as set forth in the enclosed circular.

I beg to disavow the intention to slight any religious body or denomination. The circular letters were, in the regular course of business, entrusted for transmission to an addressing agency, which had in its possession all the lists of churches and ministers that were available. Unfortunately, it had no such list of the Mormon Church. This accounts for the apparent slight. I should take it as a great personal favor if you would put me in a position to repair this slight, so that the Mormon Church may be given the same opportunity as the other denominations to do its share toward the building of a memorial to the brave men who went down with the Maine.

Mr. Roberts suggests that, if I addressed myself to you, it is probable that you will be good enough to appoint a suitable day on which the members of the Mormon Church may hold memorial services, and take up collections for the Maine fund. If this suggestion meets with your approval, please let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL LATZKE,
Manager Maine Monument Fund.

In view of these communications, the First Presidency have informed Mr. Latzke that they have appointed Sunday, the 24th of July, as the day on which memorial services are to be held in honor of the Maine martyrs, and to take up collections from the congregations for the Maine monument fund.

There was much disappointment and wonder here, when, in the first telegraphed list of promotions of officers who were in the battle before Santiago, the name of Gen. J. F. Kent was omitted. But a later telegram showed that the omission was in the dispatches, and not by the President, and that the brave and capable officer, known here as the colonel of the Twenty-fourth at Fort Douglas had received the merited reward of being promoted to a major-generalship.