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## BIRTHDAY OF THE PROPHET.

This is the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was one of the greatest characters in the wonderful drama of the nineteenth century. No prophet of God, save the Redeemer of the world, was mightier than he as a revealer of truth, a restorer, a healer, a translator and a seer.

Born into the world December 23, 1805, he was raised in obscurity with his parents in Sharon, Windsor county, Vermont, and in his illiterate boyhood was favored of God with a glorious, divine manifestation. When but a little more than fourteen years of age, the Father and the Son appeared to him in answer to simple, trusting, fervent prayer, and warned him against following the vain religious systems of men, promising him that the pure plan of salvation should be subsequently made known to him.

Three years later the angel Moroni revealed to him the everlasting Gospel as written in the records of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, which he afterwards obtained by the aid of the heavenly messenger and translated into the English language, by the gift and power of God.

Then came John the Baptist as a ministering angel and ordained him and his scribe, Oliver Cowdery, to the Aaronic Priesthood. This was followed by the appearance of Peter, James and John, who conferred upon them the keys of the Apostleship and of the holy Melchizedek Priesthood.

Thus the dispensation of the fullness of times was ushered in, preparatory to the advent of Christ as the King of nations, the royal Ruler of the earth, the Resurrection and the Life.

Joseph the Seer also translated the Book of Abraham found with an Egyptian mummy. He received revelation upon revelation bearing precious truth for the enlightenment and salvation of mankind. All the heads of previous dispensations visited him and conferred upon him the keys and spirit of their ministry.

He organized the Church of Christ in its former perfection with all its officers, principles, gifts, ordinances, ceremonies and institutions, endowed with the same powers and inspired with the same spirit that was poured out on Pentecost. He made known the plan of redemption for the dead who knew not the way of life while dwelling in the flesh. He made plain the doctrine of the Godhead, which to the world is a perplexing mystery. He showed the plan of the Temple of God in which the ordinances may be administered that prepare men and women to enter the Divine Presence, and for eternal union in the family order wherein is everlasting glory and perpetual increase.

He drew aside the veil that hides the infinitude of creations peopled with the sons and daughters of the Almighty Father, in their various stages of progress through darkness, sufferings and struggles, towards ineffable and ceaseless bliss. He demolished the follies and vagaries of man-made religions and introduced the obedient believer to the path of sure knowledge and personal communion with the Source of all light and truth.

He founded towns and cities, projected the plans for sacred temples, taught pure principles of government religious and secular, encouraged education, built a fine city to which were gathered many thousands of people from various nations, pointed the way to the future home of the Saints in the Rocky Mountains, drew to his heart the love and admiration of some of the strongest of earth's noble spirits, endeared himself to his faithful followers, and lifted their souls from the perishing things of this lower world to the immortal glories of the heaven of heavens.

He predicted the great civil war nearly thirty years before its eruption, and showed the way by which it could be avoided. He prophesied of many events that have come to pass. He healed the sick with a touch; stirred the religious world to its inmost depths; endured the scoffs and taunts of bigots and sectaries; suffered imprisonment and mobocracy; devoted all his powers to the cause of human redemption; fell a martyr to the hate of the wicked, and sealed his testimony with his own blood.

The ecclesiastical system which he established, by divine direction, is the most complete, compact and powerful organization extant. It is the wonder and admiration of all who examine it impartially, and of thousands who denounce it while adding to its praise.

The truths which he made known will never perish from the earth. The spirit which he administered will never be suppressed. The light that he shed forth will never be extinguished. The links which he furnished for the chain that unites the past with the present and the future, for the completion of the work of universal redemption, will never be sundered. The dispensation that he introduced is the last before the consummation of all things, the binding of Satan and his hosts and the coming of the earth's Redeemer and Ruler, the Son of God.

In His everlasting Kingdom, among

the brightest and mightiest of the shining host, none will stand in honor and in rich reward higher than Joseph the Seer, the head of the last dispensation. We venerate his memory and commemorate his birth, on the eve of those festivities that celebrate the first advent, as the Babe of Bethlehem, of the Lord of life and glory. Hail to the Messiah, the Christ, the King! And hail to His servant the Prophet, the Seer and the Revelator, who is the forerunner of His coming to reign for evermore!

## MOODY IS DEAD.

The news of the death of Dwight L. Moody will be heard with sorrow throughout the Christian world, and particularly among English-speaking nations. He and the late famous preacher, Mr. C. H. Spurgeon, whose testimony has been heard in sermon and song, in exhortation and anecdote, loud and clear than that of any other representatives of the pietism of this century.

They are both gone. Dwight L. Moody was born in Northfield, Mass., on the 5th of February, 1837. His early education was that of the average country lad at that time. In 1856 he went to Chicago and became interested in missionary work. During the Civil war he was employed to do missionary service, and again, shortly before and during the war with Spain, he was very active. It was his firm conviction that revivals nearly always precede great calamities, and his observations of life seemed to justify this.

The Chicago fire in 1871 took place in the midst of a "revival." Mr. Moody used to say that he committed a terrible mistake at that time, when one evening he told his audience to consider until next day, whether they would serve the Lord or not. The next day, Chicago was a smoking ruin, and some of his audience had already been hurled into eternity.

Mr. Moody obtained his greatest fame in 1873, when he was called to go to London to start a revival there. In company with Ira D. Sankey he visited England, Scotland and Ireland, and created much religious enthusiasm.

Moody was a unique character. He had no conception, apparently, of a church, with a divinely instituted organization, or officers having divine authority. But he was deeply impressed with the reality of eternity, and with the awful consequences of sin here and hereafter. He therefore appealed to his fellowmen, with all the fervor and burning zeal of a preacher of repentance, to flee from the wrath to come. Figures like those of Spurgeon and Moody are exceptional in a world of levity, doubt, and mammonworship. When they disappear there is something missing, and the vacuum cannot be filled by imitators. Moody was faithful as far as he had light. His reward will be ample. The world will regret his absence.

## HAWAII'S STATUS.

The people of Hawaii are showing a little annoyance at congressmen who think the islands should be given a probationary form of government such as is suggested for Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Hawaii came into the Union by the act of its own government and people, and not as the prize of war. It thinks it ought to be treated differently from the Spanish-American possessions, or at least that it ought to be considered differently in providing a form of government for it. It is a thoroughly Americanized country, and practically an English-speaking country. Its form of government is modeled on the American system, and even under the monarchy it had a popular and representative government. These conditions make the people think they should not be compelled to take a back seat with those who have not enjoyed such liberties or exercised such functions of self-government, but should be allowed at least the powers of the ordinary Territorial government in the United States.

## THE GOAL PASSED.

The Deseret News takes this occasion to wish its corps of agents the best compliments of the season, and to extend to them its sincere thanks for their untiring labors during the year now closing. All have been working with a will of late to push the circulation of the Semi-Weekly News up to the 15,000 mark by the New Year, and all will be pleased to learn that the goal has not only been reached but passed. The circulation today stands at 15,400, and is still advancing. The gratifying gains in the other issues of the "News" and the increase in all its business departments, are interestingly set forth in a letter to President Snow and a response from him in another part of this issue.

While all our agents are entitled to credit for these results, it is only justice to say that the four traveling representatives of the "News," Messrs. C. C. Shaw, Albert Jones, A. C. Brown and R. G. Lambert, whose duties take them among the resident agents in all parts of the West, deserve special commendation for their earnest and vigilant endeavors in behalf of the paper. A Merry Xmas to them and all who have contributed to the remarkable success of the Deseret News in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

## THE MUTUAL LIFE.

The action of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York in choosing an old-time resident of this city to manage its Utah affairs is an evidence of the shrewdness and far sightedness of its officials. Their choice of Mr. Trulon S. Wells for the position shows, too, that they know how to select their men. The Mutual Life is a company, the name of which is a synonym for magnitude and solidity the world over. Its financial operations are greater than those of many of the governments of this earth, and even its competitors in the life insurance business acknowledge that it stands at the head of its class. Some of the stupendous figures of the great company will be found in this impression of the "News." We congratulate Mr. Wells on his appointment and the company on securing so able and reliable a manager.

# THE ROBERTS CASE REVIEWED.

There are so many inquiries as to the facts in relation to the election of Hon. B. H. Roberts and the measures adopted to prevent his occupancy of a seat in Congress, that we deem it necessary to give a brief review of the whole matter.

At the regular State convention of the Democratic party, Sept. 14th, 1898, in Salt Lake City, B. H. Roberts was nominated as Representative in Congress for Utah on the first ballot, receiving a large majority over several competitors. The delegates present came from all parts of the State, having been duly chosen at county conventions. Both "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" participated in the proceedings. He was considered the most popular candidate and the most capable man for the position. His nomination occasioned great enthusiasm. There was no distinction made between the religious opinions of the candidate and those of other members of the convention.

At the Republican State convention held September 23rd, 1898, Alma Eldredge received the nomination of his party for the office of Representative. "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" also participated in his selection. He was a "Mormon" holding a prominent ecclesiastical position. He was the free choice of the delegates present, who were also regularly chosen by the people. The State was thoroughly canvassed by both candidates, meetings being held in all the prominent places. The contest was fairly but vigorously conducted.

The whole contention was political. The "Mormon" Church took no part either in the nomination or the canvass on either side. Prominent "Mormons" participated in both, but solely as American citizens, exercising their indisputable rights. An Apostle accompanied the Republican candidate in his tour of the State, and made strong appeals in his favor and in support of the Republican party, but this was not as a Churchman.

A personal attack was made upon Mr. Roberts, on account of his alleged domestic relations, by the Republican paper in Salt Lake City. To this Mr. Roberts made no reply, as it was not relevant to the question of his election as a Democrat or of his legal qualifications for the place. The assault kept up in this manner, made friends for him and aided in his achievement of a victory. The returns of the election showed 35,296 votes for Roberts, 29,631 for Eldredge, and 2,878 for Foster, making a plurality for Roberts of 5,665. The Democratic non-"Mormon" nominee for Supreme Judge on the same ticket received 34,670 votes, the Republican nominee 31,573 votes. Thus Mr. Roberts ran ahead of his ticket.

At the proper time the successful candidate received his certificate of election. The Governor and Secretary of State were both Republicans, but found no reason to withhold the evidence of his election, against which there was no contest. Thus everything connected with the election was legal and regular.

The religious ministers of the several sects in Utah combined, with but one or two exceptions, to arouse the country against the gentleman thus fairly elected. In doing so they united partisan and religious hatred. They were of the opposite party in politics, and hostile to the Church of which Mr. Roberts was a member. They were aided and abetted by the Salt Lake Tribune in arousing the country against the "Mormon" Church, alleging that it was by the influence of that body that Mr. Roberts gained his election; also that in choosing him the agreement with the nation, embodied in the State Constitution, had been violated; that new polygamous marriages were being solemnized, and the State was "filling up with plural wives who were not wives when Statehood was obtained, and with thousands of polygamous children;" that Mr. Roberts represented this condition of affairs and was chosen for the purpose of "cramping polygamy down the throat of the nation."

The preachers traveled throughout the country publishing these statements from the pulpit, while their organ here echoed their fulminations at home. The press of the country took up the refrain, and petitions were circulated for signatures, asking Congress to repudiate the Representative from Utah and to take steps to prevent his sitting as a member.

So much misinformation was spread throughout the land, that a veritable storm of indignation was aroused and only one side of the subject could obtain a hearing.

A New York paper of the sensational species, espoused the cause of the crusade and hired spies to pry into the family affairs of the Congressman from Utah, and of the Mormon people generally. By this means cases of the continuation of family relations in plural families were brought to public notice, and in a few instances fines were imposed for this infraction of a State statute.

Attempts were made to convict Mr. Roberts of this offense, but they were not commenced until he had left this State on business in the East, preparatory to his going to Washington to attend the Congress. During all the many months while he was in Utah after his election, no step was taken to prevent his leaving the State in time for the opening of Congress, fears being entertained that if, as was probably the case against him should fail when taken earlier, he might gain his seat in spite of his accusers. As it was, when the complaint against him was filed, a considerable time after his departure, the plotters against him spread the false report that he was a "fugitive from justice."

An attempt to accuse him of a felony fell through for lack of evidence. The charge preferred against him and which has not yet been tried, is for a simple misdemeanor. That is no legal bar to voting or holding office. Even if he had been convicted of this offense, it would form no disqualification for a seat in Congress, either under the laws of Utah or of the United States.

The acts of Congress which disqualified polygamists from voting or holding

office in the Territory expired when Utah became a State. Indeed they were abrogated by a repealing clause in the Enabling Act, so as to permit all persons who had been so disqualified, to take part in the formation of the new State. That act provided also that all male citizens of the United States over the age of 21 years, who had resided in said Territory for one year next prior to the election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, should be authorized to vote for such delegates.

The Constitution of the new State conferred the elective franchise and the right to hold office, on citizens of the United States, male and female, of the proper age and residence. Therefore the former disqualifications on account of polygamy have been entirely removed. It is affirmed that Mr. Roberts, some years before Utah entered the Union as a State, contracted marriage at different times with three women, according to the then rites and ceremonies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that he has continued his relations with them. It appears that these marriages were solemnized, not only previous to Statehood but before the Manifesto of President Wilford Woodruff was issued, advising the cessation of plural marriage and announcing his determination to obey the laws of the land.

When the Enabling Act for the admission of Utah was passed by Congress, as a condition precedent the people of Utah were required to insert in the State Constitution a provision, "that polygamous or plural marriages shall be forever prohibited." The Act was silent in reference to marriages already contracted. This was intentional on the part of Congress. The conditions existing in Utah were taken fully into consideration, and it was understood that existing relations should not be disturbed; therefore the word "polygamy" was not used, but the prohibition was carefully worded as above.

When the State Constitution was framed by a convention organized under the provisions of the Enabling Act, the prohibition required was inserted in that instrument in the exact language used by Congress. And an additional clause was inserted, providing penalties for the infraction of the ordinance against "polygamous or plural marriages." Mr. Roberts was a delegate and took an active part in the framing of that Constitution and the passage of these provisions.

A Territorial statute relating to polygamy, unlawful cohabitation and kindred offenses, passed February 4th, 1892, was given full force in the new State only to this extent: "In so far as the same defines and imposes penalties for polygamy." The remainder of the law was purposely, and after full debate on the question, omitted. That showed the intention of the framers of the Constitution not to provide against the minor offense, and from that time until some years later it was considered void or a dead letter. Not until the laws of the State were codified was the old Territorial law completely revived, and that was done without the full understanding of the Legislature till the haste of adopting the great mass of Revised Statutes.

Polygamy, as defined by Congress when Utah was a Territory, consisted of the act of marrying a wife or husband during the lifetime of an undivorced wife or husband. It was punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment not to exceed five years, or both.

The act of living with more than one woman in family relations was defined by Congress as "unlawful cohabitation," punishable by a fine not exceeding \$300, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

The Utah laws used the same phraseology. The Acts of Congress and not those of Utah, are responsible for these legal definitions. The two offenses are distinct and different, and must be so regarded by all who desire to understand the situation.

There have been no prosecutions for polygamy since Utah became a State. There is no evidence of any cause for such proceedings. That is a sufficient answer to the charge that Utah has broken her compact with the country. It was complied with by the adoption of the simple provision of the Enabling Act. It has been kept both in the letter and in the spirit. Polygamous marriages have ceased in Utah and they are not solemnized by the "Mormon" Church anywhere.

It has never been denied that men who contracted plural marriages many years ago and who are still living, have continued to care for, acknowledge and cherish their plural families. If in doing so they are amenable to the law they will have to meet the consequences, but this is no violation of any compact with the nation. The number of such families is rapidly decreasing by the death of one or more of the parties.

Mr. Roberts has not been legally accused of the crime of polygamy. There is not the slightest evidence that he should be brought against him on such a charge. His alleged offense is the minor one, of which he has not been convicted and of which there are grave doubts that he can be convicted. There are circumstances associated with his case that have never yet been explained. These will no doubt be brought forward when necessary.

The outcry against him and the "Mormon" Church, resulting in the monster petition which had so much weight with members of Congress, originated in misrepresentation, political chicanery and religious fanaticism. This he has faced with a calmness, fortitude and heroism which have forced admiration even from his bitterest foes. When he appeared in the House of Representatives ready to take the oath prescribed by law, he possessed every qualification required by the Constitution, the laws made in pursuance thereof and the rules in force in that body. He could not be legally refused the right to his seat.

The resolution adopted referring his case to a special committee before his being sworn in, was without precedent and contrary to law and congressional regulations. The cases cited by Mr. Taylor of Ohio as an excuse for the

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proposed action, were not in any sense relevant to the case of Mr. Roberts. The gentleman thus treated made no argument then as to his personal or family relations, for the House had no right at that stage of the proceedings to inquire into them. He properly confined his remarks to the question which was before the House, that is, his prima facie right to his seat. There is no such qualifications required of a Member of Congress as that pretended. It is not provided that a member must be a monogamist, a bachelor or a widower.

The assignment of this case to a committee composed of six Republicans and three Democrats all of whom had voted against Mr. Roberts, and not one of the number who had voted in favor of his being sworn in, was also unprecedented and in the nature of packing a jury against him. The whole movement was a monstrous blunder. It is now admitted generally that the action of the House in this case was entirely wrong, that Mr. Roberts should have been permitted to take his seat, and then the charges against him might be investigated by a proper committee.

The general opinion is that the gentleman thus outrageously treated will be denied his seat, not because evidence has been adduced sufficient to condemn him, but because of a popular demand, based on ignorance of the facts and caused by prejudice inflamed to fever heat, which the majority of Congressmen feared to deny.

Meanwhile Mr. Roberts is the most noted man in America. The Church of which he is a member has been brought into unparalleled prominence. Many thousands of people are inquiring into its doctrines. The result will be favorable to the truth. Utah is now maligned like its choice for Representative in Congress. She will emerge from calumny and shine the brighter for the experience through which she is passing, and when she comes out of the cloud, will be seen in her true colors of patriotism and fidelity. Those who have raised the storm against her, while rejoicing for a little time will later hide their diminished heads. Shame will cover the slanderer and the hypocrite, while the true and devoted sons and daughters of the mountain State will be valued for their integrity. And "Mormonism," which is the truth of heaven sent down to earth, will flourish and prevail and be crowned with everlasting victory!

A Merry Christmas to you all!

How do you like our Xmas edition?

Christmas ought to be a gala day, but often circumstances combine to make it otherwise.

Just at the present time it looks as though the Yaguas are after the Mexican troops, instead of affairs being vice versa. More reinforcements appear the only balm to the wound.

Sadness has a double meaning to those Dutch parents bereaved by the drowning of forty school children near Fellinghen, Holland, as told of in the dispatches today.

The London court announcement of a great feast on the event of the queen's Christmas, when compared with the social feeling in London, is but another announcement that words often express a gayety the heart does not feel.

The pleasures of the Christmas-time at Quincy, Ills., have been sadly marred by the fearful event in that town Friday evening, when eleven children were burned to death while rehearsing for a school entertainment. Words cannot express the chill of horror at reading of the tragedy.

If the complaint of Manila be true, some of the editors there can hardly open their mouths to laugh at a public official without being censured out of existence. But the other side of the alleged grievance may show that one side of a Filipino story may be anything but good even before the other is told.

Not only Germany but Germans must obey the Kaiser's commands so far as practicable. The latest general order from his majesty is in effect that Ger-

mans must show England that they love the latter as they love themselves, so far as pretensions go, at least, and the telegraphed comments of the German papers show that obedience is a well-esteemed principle among them.

Lieut. Winston Churchill wrote to Gen. Joubert, claiming release from imprisonment on the ground that he was a war correspondent and a non-combatant. Gen. Joubert took the young man's word, and ordered his release, though the letter did not reach Pretoria until after Churchill's escape. The honor of Mr. Churchill in making the claim he prefers will be readily judged by his future conduct, taken in connection with the fact that on the occasion of his capture he was doing anything but playing the part of a non-combatant.

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