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THE PROPHET'S BIRTHPLACE.

It is an interesting narrative that we present to our readers in this issue of the "News"—the story of the purchase by the Trustees-in-Trust of the Church of the farm and home of the nativity of Joseph Smith; accompanied with the plans for the improvement of the premises and the erection thereon of a monument to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Prophet's birth.

In this year of grace, a hundred years from his advent into the world, and eighty-five from the opening of the heavens to him, and the appearance and voice of the Father and the Son—it is altogether fitting that such an interesting event should occur. The knowledge of it will be received with glad and thankful hearts by the people who love and revere the name of Joseph Smith.

He has come to be known more universally than any other personage of the age in which he lived—if not than any of any age—except the Son of Man Himself. There is no land under the skies in which his name as the "Mormon" Prophet has not been spoken; and this is in fulfillment of one of the earliest prophecies concerning him. The angel Moroni, on the occasion of his first visit to him in the year 1823, declared among many other things that his name should be known for good or evil among all nations, kindreds and tongues.

This is well nigh true today, and it marks Joseph Smith among the historic characters that have appeared in the world's history, and gives him a distinction and place that no other can occupy.

His name is spoken evil of by those who do not know his mission—who are in darkness and ignorance concerning the glorious truths which were revealed to him for the redemption and salvation of his race. His name is spoken of for good, in solemn reverence and profound respect, as a prophet of the living God, the revealer of sacred and holy principles, the devoted leader and affectionate brother, the martyred saint, by those who have come to a knowledge of the truth concerning him. That his name is famed everywhere is attested by the respect in which it is held, and has been and is borne to all the nations of the earth by the members of the Church which he organized. He belongs to them as the founder of their faith under God and to the world as a prophet, revealer and seer declaring to mankind the mind and will of the Lord, and calling them to come unto Him by the voice of authority.

He belongs to no family or faction, but is one of the world's great ones—a friend of God, a lover of his fellow men. No man ever gave up his whole life with greater devotion and unselfishness to the performance of his duty and mission to his fellowmen than he. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Joseph Smith having finished his earthly ministry went like a lamb to the slaughter—guiltless, with offense towards no man, and sealed his life's work with a martyr's blood. That the great people who owe their deliverance from the spiritual darkness of ages, and who have been prospered in following the teachings and example of this mighty prophet, should delight to honor his memory, and perpetuate their testimony concerning him in the enduring stone, is most praiseworthy. The sentiment will find an echo in the heart of every enlightened and honest person.

The people of Halloway and Sharon generally are sincerely alive to the interest and attraction this improvement will add to their pleasant surroundings. While it is possible that there are some narrow-minded souls who, on account of jealousy or spite might for the moment have feelings ruffled by the enterprise of the "Mormon" people in unbuilding, in this actually appropriate manner, the fame of the man they wish to honor, as they have honored him for more than three-quarters of a century, and serious injury to their sensibilities will not result. The greater part of mankind will easily see and applaud the correct motive and loyal spirit that prompts this act of respect by the Latter-day Saints. The monument they build at his birthplace will, however, but feebly and partially express their faith and love. In their lives of devotion to the holy truths he revealed; in their fidelity to the trust he committed to them; in the development and triumph of Zion, which he predicted, and which is as sure of fulfillment as that his name is known among men, will an everlasting monument be reared in his honor, and a tribute that shall never perish be paid to his memory.

SECRETARY HAY.

The announcement of Secretary Hay's death is a shock to the country, because it was supposed that his trip abroad had greatly benefited him, and that he had many more years of usefulness before him. He was still a "young" man, compared to many a statesman who has faced the storms and held the wheel of the ship of state with strong, firm hand. He has directed the policy of this country during a particularly momentous period of American history, and he has done so with a success that entitles him to a place by the side of our most famous statesmen. The Spanish war, the Chinese Boxer embargo, the Panama affair, and the Russian war have brought before our government many intricate and embarrassing problems, such, indeed, as only a man of profound insight, uncommon breadth of view, great decision of character and the courage of his convictions could have met promptly and solved wisely. That Mr. Hay has been equal to all these unforeseen occasions and has emerged from every one of them with dignity and to the advantage of the American people is the verdict that will be endorsed by impartial history.

According to the biographical sketch published, Abraham Lincoln conceived a liking for Mr. Hay, then a bright law student, and when he went to the White House, made him one of his secretaries. He became of great service to him and deeper in his confidence than any other person. He wrote the President's most personal letters and was intrusted with the most delicate missions. At the close of the administration Hay was sent to Paris as secretary of the American legation. Thence he was transferred to other legations and thus became familiar with the methods of almost every court in Europe. Returning to America, he devoted himself to literature. He married a heiress, the daughter of Amasa Stone, Jr., of Cleveland, O., and built a palatial home in Washington, which speedily became the center of the social and literary element of the capital. He was assistant secretary of state in the Hayes administration and after that resumed his literary work and completed his life of Lincoln. In 1891 he was made ambassador to England. A year later he was appointed secretary of state by President McKinley to succeed William H. Taft.

Mr. Hay thus acquired the experience necessary to qualify him for the important work that became his life's mission. It is to be feared that he devoted himself too strenuously to the affairs of state, and that he broke down under the too severe strain. The country owes him a monument of gratitude just as much as if he had given his life on a battle field, in the defense of the flag.

THE SABBATH DAY.

Sunday in this country is becoming ever more like the "European" Sabbath, which has been justly criticized by Americans. What with our "sacred concerts," our rush to summer resorts, our baseball games, our heavy Sunday traffic, and more or less deserted places of worship, the day is anything but a holy day.

The idea that underlies the Sabbath is this, that as the Creator "rested" on the seventh day, so man, who acknowledges Him as God, must also labor six days and rest on the seventh, and this was to be a sign of the covenant between God and His people. Consequently, he who disregards this "sign" treats the covenant itself of which it is a sign, with contempt.

To ancient Israel the Sabbath also became a day upon which especially to remember the deliverance from Egyptian bondage. It was, therefore, a day upon which to remember, especially, the gratitude the people owed to the Deliverer, and the strongest motive for keeping the entire law. This motive has become still stronger in our dispensation, because our "deliverance" comprehends much more than a national exodus, and is much more complete than was that of Israel of old.

We are not in favor of the long-faced observance of a Sabbath that has no meaning, but we believe it should be a day of rest from all kinds of unnecessary work, and it should be a day of worship and rejoicing. The Lord is ever ready to bless those who keep His covenants, and this is especially true of the observance of the Sabbath. "I gave them my Sabbath, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I, Jehovah, sanctify them." (Ezek. XX, 12.) This contains, in a few words, the entire doctrine on that important subject.

TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

The proclamation of the Mayor placing certain restrictions upon the fiery display of patriotism on the Fourth of July, should be carefully noted by the citizens generally. Its purpose is not to detract from the pleasures of the day, but to prevent accidents, or reduce the chances of accidents to a minimum.

Special attention is called to the prohibition against setting off fireworks in alleys and back yards, or the discharging of guns, or other fire arms, and the placing of torpedoes, or other explosives, upon the car tracks. These are all excellent regulations, and if they are observed, there will be very few serious mishaps.

We hope the officers will do all in their power to see to it that these rules are kept, but they must have the aid of parents and guardians. Otherwise their efforts will not be sufficient. The "toy pistol" is placed under particular ban. As the Journal of the American Medical Association points out, the term has an indefinite meaning, including both the little affairs used for exploding flat paper caps as well as pistols manufactured for the use of 22-caliber cartridges. The paper cap pistols do not, however, figure conspicuously in the list of accidents. The pistol that most frequently causes trouble is, according to that journal, the single-barreled device, built to fire 22-caliber blank cartridges. It is of extremely cheap construction, and most

of the accidents are entirely due to the carelessness of the users, who get their hands in front of the muzzle, at the time of the explosion.

THE WAR TALK IN SWEDEN.

From Stockholm comes the somewhat startling news, that the provisional government of Norway has mobilized the entire Norwegian army, and that three classes of the "conscription" are in training. The dispatch comes in a rather roundabout way, from the city of Trondheim to a country paper in one of the northern provinces of Sweden, and thence to Stockholm. It is difficult to understand how such an important item of news could escape the representative of the Associated Press in Christiania, provided the report is true. Possibly the original sender of the dispatch has mistaken the annual drill of the conscripts and the usual military summer maneuvers for a hostile demonstration against the eastern neighbor, a mistake that would be pardonable during the crisis.

It is quite possible, however, that the present leaders of the Norwegian policy, in view of the fiery speeches in the Swedish parliament, a few days ago, have deemed it necessary, or at least prudent, to remind their friends of the fact that they are prepared for any eventuality. We cannot believe, though, that the war sentiment will prevail in either country. The wise counsel to peace, which has so recently been given, under the most trying circumstances, by the aged monarch, will, we hope, influence public opinion sufficiently to prevent what would amount to fratricide. King Oscar's message to the extraordinary session of the Swedish parliament cannot but act as oil upon the troubled waters.

In order to understand the situation it is necessary to remember that the Scandinavian union has, by Sweden, always been considered a political necessity, while the Norwegians have been inclined to the view that it has acted as a brake upon the progress of their country. When Sweden was compelled to cede Finland, Russia, of course, came that much nearer to the Swedish border. Swedish statesmen then considered it necessary to make some arrangement with Norway, whereby a common defense of the peninsula should be secured. Norway was then a province of Denmark, but the European statesmen coincided in their views with those held by the Swedes. They, too, deemed it necessary to establish a comparatively speaking, strong Scandinavian "band" as a barrier against Russian western advance. Norway was therefore unceremoniously severed from Denmark, and the so-called union was established. In Sweden the opinion is still very strong, that the dissolution of the union means that the bar against Russian aggression is let down, and that the existence of both countries as independent states is placed in jeopardy. That opinion is responsible for the heated war talk in the press on that important subject.

VICTORY.

The following gems of thought we copy from an exchange:

"When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile, inwardly, glorying in the insult—that is victory."

"When your good is evil-spoken of, your wishes are crossed, your task is rendered, your advice ridiculed, and you take it all in patient, loving silence—that is victory."

"When you are content with simple raiment, plain food, and simple solitude, any interruption—that is victory."

"When you can bear any discord, any annoyance, any irregularity or impunctuality (of which you are not the cause)—that is victory."

"When you can stand face to face with folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, contradiction of sinners, persecution, and endure it all as Jesus endured it—that is victory."

"When you receive care to refer to yourself in conversation, nor seek after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown—that is victory."

We add: When selfishness is overcome, so completely that you can say, even in the face of death, "not my will but thine be done"—that is supreme victory.

MR. PLATT'S DEPARTURE.

In the departure for Los Angeles tonight of Howard V. Platt, Salt Lake loses one of its most efficient and popular railroad men. For years he has been identified with the operating departments of the Oregon Short Line and has fashioned for himself a name that occupies a strong place in western railroad affairs.

When E. E. Calvin, a stalwart in the profession, recently left Utah to become the General Manager of the Southern Pacific with headquarters at San Francisco, he made an offer to Mr. Platt that was altogether too good to ignore. Accordingly he laid down the duties of Division Superintendent of the Oregon Short Line to assume a larger and more lucrative responsibility of the same nature on the Orange Belt Lines of the Southern Pacific, with the Angel city as his place of residence. And thither he goes tonight with his family, taking with him the respect and esteem of the hundreds of men who have labored under his direction and the good will and hopes for still higher promotion in the days to come, from countless others who have learned to know him as a man among his fellows, genial and generous, calm and conservative, with the ability to quickly read the minds of men and analyze situations and dispose of perplexing problems that so often arise between employers and employees, and possessing the full confidence of both, he is peculiarly fitted for a calling such as his. In times of industrial dissimilitude and rumble or discontent among workmen the value of a personality at the helm like that possessed by Mr. Platt cannot be estimated. To give complete satisfaction to the management of a great railroad corporation and at the same time to inspire working men, with real or fancied grievances, to know that their interests are likewise to be fully guarded, is a rare talent. Such a talent has Mr. Platt. The unostentatious and effectual work that he performed in Utah and Idaho is a matter of record. His activities are

now to be transferred, permanently, mayhap, to the Golden Gate State. What he did in the way of good rail-roading here he will without doubt duplicate there. That his lines may run in pleasant places is the wish of the Deseret News and the many other friends he leaves behind.

The firecracker must go—off.

A soft answer hideth a big stick.

Norway is still trying to storthings right.

In Russia the flames of revolution spread like a June grass fire.

Many members of the riksdag find it hard to let Norway go her way.

Mayor Weaver's victorious career has been as continuous as that of Marshal Oyama.

Iowa's population has declined. None of Ohio's population was ever known to decline.

General Linovitch is taking it easy. This is the first time a Russian general has taken anything.

It is astonishing how much weight ice loses in being carried from the ice wagon to the refrigerator.

Ex-Chief Engineer Wallace has discovered that Secretary Taft is a great deal hotter than Panama.

It would pay the "Car to hire Secretary Taft to go to Russia and sit on the lid. Russia hasn't his equal.

What a relief to the "Car the news of a battle in Manchuria, even if it told of defeat, would be at this time.

An Osage, Mo., father has named his new son Ebenezer Nicodemus Obedah. The child's last name is Swatt. Swatt's in a name?

People who let their hose run all night (there are lots who do) should be looked after by the police. It is simply a wanton waste.

To the Germans the battle of the Sea of Japan teaches the lesson of bigger battleships. To Russia it taught the lesson not to monkey with the buzz saw.

"Insist, then, on being somebody. It is not only important, it is easy. You can fool everybody but yourself," says Edgar Salters. And Edgar is wrong, for in that assertion he has fooled himself.

Some of the members of the "James H. Hyde and Associates" are handing over money made by that combine to the Equitable Life Assurance society. Conscience has made cowards of them all.

The Mayor calls attention to the fact that it is unlawful to sell or give away toy pistols. Heretofore along about the Fourth that law has been broken with impunity by some dealers. Now let it be enforced.

And now John D. Rockefeller has given ten million dollars for an endowment fund for higher education in the United States. This will silence forever the whole tribe of "tainted money" croakers. And so he does two good deeds at once.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Thomas A. Kempis.

If thou intend and seek nothing else but the will of God and the good of thy neighbor, thou shalt thoroughly enjoy inward liberty.

Christian Work and Evangelist.

We have had quite enough of denominational controversies and energies expended on denominational apologetics and polemics. It is not, then, to unity of creed, statements, not to the rigid uniformity of the Bishop's Quadrilateral, which has already exhibited its own insufficiency by the refusal of a general convention to take up with it when opportunity offered—it is not to these or either of them that we look for progress in church unity. Certain it is, not even in public worship can outward uniformity be secured, for Protestants—genuine Protestants—will never consent to regard the minister as a priest delegated by God, to offer sacrifice for the people. What, then, is the practical outcome of the inquiry? It is that denominationalism is wrong wherever it interferes with the salvation of men and the spread of the kingdom of God, as it undoubtedly often does.

Presbyterian Banner.

(The doctrinal type of Christianity) has its dangers. It is attended with the danger of reducing Christianity to a skeleton of abstract principles denuded of the flesh and blood of heart and ethics, turning it into a system of theories, problems and puzzles in mathematics. It is attended with the danger of crystallizing into a set form of words and refusing to adapt itself to any new light and larger experience, confusing the outer creed with the inner faith, and failing to recognize truth except in the old form of words; thus remaining stagnant in the midst of an ever advancing age or disenchanted in the midst of a larger world, antiquated and helpless in the face of new conditions and problems, as would be an army with sixteen century weapons confronting a twentieth century foe.

Sunday School Times.

It is easy to theorize about the blessing of adversity when we are not exposed to it. It is not so easy to rejoice in such blessing at the time when we most need to do so. Indeed, when a child of God shows entire readiness to take the Father at his word, for a calling such as his, in times of industrial dissimilitude and rumble or discontent among workmen the value of a personality at the helm like that possessed by Mr. Platt cannot be estimated. To give complete satisfaction to the management of a great railroad corporation and at the same time to inspire working men, with real or fancied grievances, to know that their interests are likewise to be fully guarded, is a rare talent. Such a talent has Mr. Platt. The unostentatious and effectual work that he performed in Utah and Idaho is a matter of record. His activities are



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