

for them. Have you done anything for them? A great many people in the Church have not done anything yet. Only a comparatively few people in the Church have seemed to have much interest in this work; and I will venture to say here that there are plenty of people that have contributed liberally towards building the temples and they have not entered into them yet. I find people of this kind almost every day. They say they have helped build the temple, but they have not had time yet to go in and officiate. "But I must take time," is what they will exclaim.

Brethren and sisters, to me this is important. It is important to you also. It is a responsibility that the Lord has placed upon us, and His servants have carried out His designs in relation to these things. The opportunities are placed within our reach wherein the hearts of the fathers may be turned to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. In fulfillment of the words of the Lord. I thought I would treat for the few moments allotted to me on this particular point, because I have interest and have labored now for some time in this direction, and realize the importance of the work. The Presidency of the Church hold the key to this work. They direct its affairs; and as I said to you, perhaps the Lord has not revealed everything to them yet, but He will reveal line upon line, as He did to the Prophet over a year ago the propriety of extending the sealing ordinance farther than we had previously done. Of course, that added a little more work to the temples. So other things may be revealed by and by. But suffice it to say, we have a great many things revealed that we have not done anything about yet. A great many of us have not yet baptized for our kindred and friends, and they are numerous on the other side of the veil. We have more relatives and friends on the other side than we have here, and when we go there we will meet them. Some people spend their time and their means to search out the genealogies of their fathers, and some are waiting for the genealogies to come to them. The counsel that I have given to the Saints in this regard is this: do for those that you have. Some will say, "I am waiting till I get a few more names before I go to the temple." But do not wait for that. Go and officiate for those you have, and then in humility seek the Lord that the way may be opened for you to obtain more records. The Lord is moving upon quite a number of people in the world to write records and genealogies—more so at present than ever before. People are searching after these things, and perhaps they know not why; but the Lord is moving in this direction, and a great many people can obtain their records through this channel, if they will manifest an interest in it. Of course, it takes a little time and perhaps a little means to accomplish this. But we are here to do this work. The Lord requires it at our hands, and it is important that we should give it consideration, and not let our lifetime pass away without availing ourselves of the opportunities that are presented to us. It is said that everybody cannot get a recommend to go to the temple. If there are any that cannot get a recommend, they are in fault themselves perhaps, and I would advise all the Saints to straighten themselves up, humble

themselves before the Lord, repent and turn unto the Lord, and accomplish this work that is required at our hands. Your kindred are looking anxiously to you to do this. Let not the day of the opportunity pass by; but seek with all diligence to accomplish what you can in your lifetime in the interest of your kindred. Our time is only short here; just a few years and we have got through. We hear of people that have lived seemingly quite a long time amongst us; but it is really only a few days and they pass away. So it will be in our case. In a hundred years from now perhaps there won't one of us be here, but we will be numbered among those that were. Therefore, avail yourselves, my brethren and sisters, one and all, of the opportunities of officiating for your kindred in the house of the Lord. God bless you. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

HOKE SMITH ON THE NEGRO.

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HE Hon. Hoke Smith, Secretary of the Interior, has made a number of visits to Georgia during the past few weeks. His eyes have been opened by the Atlanta exposition, and he overflows with enthusiasm about the south and its wonderful development. He thinks that Georgia is the coming El Dorado of the United States, and he paints its prospects in such glowing terms that they make you think of the Indian chief of that name who smeared his body with oil and then sprinkled it with gold dust, so that he became an animated golden statue. This chief took his baths in a sacred lake, which was bedded in gold and emeralds, and by his extravagances made his country a synonym for the golden goal of all fortune hunters. Well, Hoke Smith thinks this goal is now located in Georgia. I called upon him at the Interior department yesterday, and was straightway admitted to his sanctum sanctorum. I waited there a few moments while he disposed of such dignitaries as a Congressman or two, an Indian chief, Buffalo Bill and department chiefs, and then, with a single question, formed the siphon which brought out enthusiastic information about the south from the Secretary's mouth in a steady stream. My question was as to whether the exposition showed that the south was advancing, and whether there was any chance there for a poor man to make a fortune. The Secretary replied:

"The south is full of possibilities. From now on it will grow like Jonah's gourd. It will become an agricultural and industrial empire, and it is only on the edge of its development. I believe the lands upon the southern Appalachian chain form some of the best fields for investment today. There is no place where a man can make money quicker or surer. There is no land more healthy. Take the upper part of Georgia. The lands there are nearer heaven and the sky than most other agricultural parts of the Union. The air which blows

over them is loaded with ozone, and the average height is about 1,000 feet higher than Washington, and it has a better climate than you have here. It is warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, and I have never suffered there from the heat as I have here at the capital."

"The climate may be all right, Mr. Secretary," said I, "but I have heard the land is not. They say the soil is worn out, and I have heard wicked people say that the only things that could be raised upon it were sheol and Christmas trees."

"That is not true," replied Secretary Smith, indignantly. "We have millions of acres of good lands, and the worn-out lands need only a little cultivation and care to bring them up. It is out of those very lands that poor men can make fortunes. All that they need is subsoiling and cultivating, and with the addition of a little manure they can be made to blossom like the rose. These lands you can now buy at from five to ten dollars an acre. After they have been cultivated a few years they become worth from twenty-five to thirty dollars an acre. Take the man who has \$1,500 to invest. He can buy 100 acres for \$1,000 and have \$500 to stock his place and to help him along for a year or so. He will put a part of his land in wheat and oats and another part in grass for his stock. The third portion he can put down in cotton, which will bring him in all the cash he needs from year to year. The profits of his farming will pay all his expenses and give him a surplus. At the end of five years his 100 acres, if he uses it rightly, will be worth \$3,000 instead of \$1,000, and he ought to be at least \$5,000 richer than when he bought the land. There are men who are doing this in Georgia today. A great many are making money off of fruit. There is no such land in the world for peaches, apples and grapes. We sent hundreds of carloads of our peaches to New York this year. The high altitude makes them sweeter and juicier than the average peach, and when they come in, they drive the others out of the market. We are producing grapes which make good wine, and the state is changing in that the people are now diversifying their crops."

"You used to raise nothing but cotton?"

"Yes. But we are now raising all of our own corn, and we make our own pork instead of buying it of the big packing companies of the north. I have just gotten a case of hams from Georgia which I expect to use on my Washington table. They are, I think, equal to the Smithfield hams, and they were made on the highlands of north Georgia, and cured with smoke from hickory and oak."

"How about south Georgia?"

"It is equally fertile, but as you get down nearer Florida you have different kinds of crops. In the northern portion of the state, wheat, oats, barley and corn can be cultivated with good results. The cotton belt begins a little down, and as you get near the Florida line, you find that oranges can be grown at a profit. Other kinds of fruit can be cultivated almost anywhere, and there is scarcely a crop of any kind which cannot be raised in some portion of the state."

"You speak only of Georgia. How is the rest of the south?"