

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

The first day of June, the anniversary of the birthday of Brigham Young, the founder of Utah, will ever remain memorable in the annals of this region. As long as the great work of redeeming from barrenness an empire and transforming a wilderness into an Eden is appreciated by those who reap the fruits of the labor of the fathers, the integrity, the industry, the genius, the supreme manhood of Utah's Pioneers will be reverently remembered. But Brigham Young was not only a pioneer state-founder, he was the leader of the Church of God at a time when the noblest qualities of man were required for success. As such his name will ever stand on the pages of history among those of the foremost in all ages.

In the history of mankind it is noticeable that in supreme moments when dire disaster seemed to threaten the interests of God's children, Providence always supplied the men and means needed to bring deliverance and carry out the eternal purposes. Israel in Egypt, by imperial command subjected to measures of oppression that must have led to annihilation of the nation, found in their darkest hour their great leader who with mighty arm swung back the gates of the prison and opened the road to liberty. The first Christian churches, when threatened with destruction before the accomplishment of their mission, were saved by Divine interference and the conversion of him who "labored more than all," proclaiming the universality of the Gospel to all men. The Reformation, when seemingly doomed to fall before the conquering swords of its opponents, was saved in the hour of its trial by the appearance on the scene of the hero from the north who, with the little band of warriors in the fear of God, routed the imperial hordes and died in the attempt.

Something of this nature seems to be repeated in the history of Brigham Young. At no other period in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints did the clouds hang so threateningly over it as at the time of the martyrdom of the Prophet. The enemies of the people, exultant over the supposed victory, were all bent upon following it up by a combined onslaught upon his grief-stricken friends and followers. The very existence of the Church was at stake and the question was timidly asked whether the glorious principles announced to the world by the martyr should be allowed to fall back into oblivion from which they had been miraculously rescued, for the want of a united people to continue to proclaim them and exemplify them in religious and civil institutions. As in the beginning of the Christian era the Crucifixion raised doubts as to whether the claimed messiahship of the great Nazarene was not a chimera, so after the awful days of Carthage the problem was whether the emphatic announcement was true, that in the work of Joseph the Prophet, "a great and marvelous work," in fact, the

preparation for the great Millennium, had been inaugurated. It was a time when the faith of the most faithful was severely tested and the powers of darkness locked for triumph.

In this supreme moment there arises on the scene the powerful form of Brigham Young. His words sound like a message from above and his faith shines like a fire from the sanctuary, in the darkness. The faltering ones rally; strength is imparted to the weak, and the people who have heard and recognized the signal notes of inspiration unite, and, having received power and wisdom from above, successfully accomplish the journey through the wilderness, one of the greatest undertakings of history. The Church was saved for the benefit of the world; the seemingly greatest defeat the Saints ever sustained was turned into the most brilliant victory. It was the work of the Almighty, and the man whom the Saints particularly remember on June 1 was one of the most prominent instruments in His hand for its accomplishment.

ENGLISH CONSUL KILLED.

According to the latest dispatches from the Turkish empire, the affairs there are assuming a grave aspect, and any one who follows the political events of the world with some degree of interest will naturally note the various phases which the difficulties there assume, because they are of such a nature, insignificant though they may appear, as to involve Europe in a struggle of gigantic proportions; and what makes the conditions still more important is the fact that such a struggle, in the judgment of the wisest statesmen, is inevitable, however long delayed.

It seems that the failure of the Turkish government to make any adequate reparation for the cruel massacre of Armenians has inspired the Mohammedans in the interior of Asiatic Turkey with confidence in the power of the sultan to hold his own against Europe and that this feeling is about to result in raids on Christians on a still larger scale. It is given out that the Armenians are planning an insurrection—what probably is true—and in this circumstance will be found a justification for a grand rally of Mohammedans under Turkish rule and the so-called sacred banner of the prophet for the purpose of stamping out the rebellion. What will follow, should such a "holy war," as it is called, be declared, cannot be described. According to its rules every one who can carry a weapon goes out to conquer the "enemies of the faith;" everybody's property is consecrated to the cause, and Turkish soil would be drenched with Christian blood, or with the red life fluid of Mohammedans, for both parties would be actuated by fanaticism and show little or no mercy.

At present circumstances seem to force Europe to take a hand in the impending conflict. Word comes from Jiddah, a seaport on the Red sea, in Arabia, to the effect that representa-

tives of England, Russia and France have been shot. The British vice-consul was killed, while the consuls or consular agents of the other countries were seriously wounded. It is alleged that the attack on the foreigners was made by Bedouins, but until the statement is confirmed, it will be regarded as highly improbable. Bedouins generally are noted for night attacks on belated travelers, for whom they lie in wait to rob, if outnumbering their victims; but as for these roving hordes shooting down foreign consuls in a sea port on the highroad to India, that is incredible, unless, indeed, they were induced to do so by high authority. Full details of this affair are not yet at hand, but it seems clear that in the Mohammedan world a spirit is at work prompting it to precipitate a conflict with the Christians, and if it has come to this that Europe's consuls are being massacred in broad daylight, it is difficult to see how the powers thus insulted can assume the role of passive spectators any longer.

The Russian czar, since the conversion of Russians to the Greek faith and the marriage of Vladimir with the sister of a Greek emperor in the tenth century, claims the legitimate succession to the Byzantine throne, now occupied by the Ottomans. The policy of Russia has with phenomenal persistency been shaped accordingly, every step being taken with this ultimate object in view. It is mostly due to the keen foresight of the late Lord Beaconsfield and perhaps also to his indifference to the fate of a few million Christians in Turkey, that the object has not been gained before. Should, however, the atrocities be repeated at this time that have so often shocked the Christian world, it is not impossible that popular indignation may be aroused to such a pitch that no European government would dare to interfere and stay the hand that swings the avenging sword.

Christians need not entertain any ill will against Mohammedans. The latter should be unmolested in their peculiarities; but the time must come when the unnatural condition of Turkish rule over Christian subjects and countries must be terminated, and as this undoubtedly would result in benefit to both, it is an event to be hoped for on humane principles, if for no other reason.

DECLARED ILLEGAL.

The decree of the district court in the injunction suit of James A. Cunningham against Salt Lake City, the Copper Plant company and others, adjudges that the resolution passed by the City Council on February 10, 1893, by which it was agreed to permit \$25,000 to go to the copper plant bonus, is unauthorized, illegal and void. The result is not unexpected; indeed it would have been a great surprise if the court had ruled differently. At the time the resolution was passed the News pointed out that the Council was exceeding its powers, in giving way to a demand of the boom order which, while it had much talk in its behalf, yet had not the willing support of the mass of the people. The Council made an effort