

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### PRESIDENT WOODRUFF TO "THE WORLD."

As stated in the NEWS of Wednesday evening, the New York World of Sunday had a statement on the subject of "Fifty Years of Mormonism in America." It occupies one page of that paper, giving a sketch of the Mormons in Utah from a non-Mormon standpoint, as well as the items named in the announcement we made yesterday. The letter from Elder Brigham Young, to which is given the title, "What the Church has done to prosper Utah and make its citizens prosperous," is a succinct statement of the work of the Mormons in opening up and settling this State, of the business, educational and social operations carried on, and gives a comprehensive idea of the part the Mormon people took in bringing the great West under the influence of civilization. The illustrations on the page give portraits of the late President Brigham Young, of President Wilford Woodruff, Elder Brigham Young and Miss Louise Savage (daughter of Elder C. R. Savage of this city); also pictures of the Eagle Gate, Temple Block, interior of the Tabernacle, and grave of President Young.

The leading place is given to the letter of President Woodruff, sent at the request of The World received here on July 1st. The New York paper announces that "Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church, writes for the World, in his ninety-first year, of the achievements and destiny of the Mormons," and gives the letter as follows:

I was one of the original Pioneers. I entered Salt Lake Valley on the 24th of July, 1847. I was born March 1, 1807, in Farmington, now called Avon, Hartford county, Conn. I am, therefore, ninety years of age.

Brigham Young entered Salt Lake Valley in my carriage. He was sick, and had been for several days, and my carriage was the only one with a bed in it.

When we arrived at the spot where we could have a good view of the valley he wished me to turn the carriage, which I did, so that he could look without obstruction when the door was opened on the side. After gazing on the valley for a while he said: "That will do, drive on; this is the place. I have seen this valley before in vision."

A few of the Pioneers had gone ahead and cut a road through a quaking aspen grove, and, after reaching the valley, commenced to break ground, but it was so very dry and parched that it could not be ploughed until it was watered. I had in my carriage one bushel of potatoes, and had determined that I would not eat or drink until those potatoes were planted in the earth. With some assistance I planted those potatoes, and they, with some others that had been brought along, were the beginnings of the potato crop in Utah, which afterwards became famous.

We were on Mexican soil, but we raised the American flag, which 500 of our picked men were defending in the war with Mexico. We went to work at once and enclosed a ten-acre plot on three sides with a ten-foot adobe wall,

forming the remaining side with log cabins. This was for a protection against Indians. We also proceeded to dig ditches and bring out water from a small mountain stream to irrigate the parched and thirsty soil.

Scarcely anything else was growing on the land but sagebrush, and there was hardly a white man's house within a thousand miles of us.

President Brigham Young went to work with others to lay out Salt Lake City. I assisted in the work. With our surveyor's chain and compass we laid it out according to his plan, with streets 132 feet wide and crossing at right angles, and the beautiful city of Salt Lake as it stands today is the result of those plans carried out as he directed. God has blessed the land, and this arid and barren desert has been made to blossom and bear fruit and to produce all things necessary for the sustenance of man and beast. We have been able to build up pleasant homes and make a desirable refuge for the people of our faith from every land and clime. Natives of all the civilized nations, and of some countries yet considered uncivilized, have been gathered into these mountains, and after much misunderstanding of our aims and motives and of the work which we have been called of God to do, we and our fellow-citizens of different faiths and parties have been admitted into the great Union of States and permitted to take part in the affairs of our country which we love, and to help sustain that glorious Constitution which, we believe, was inspired by Almighty God.

I have made my home for fifty years of my life in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, and have passed through all the difficulties and trials incident to a newly settled region and a territorial form of government. I desire that the principles of liberty for which my ancestors fought shall prevail not only in Utah but throughout this broad continent.

I am a full believer in the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I heard him say before a large assemblage in Illinois that if he were the emperor of the world, and had control over the human family, he would maintain the liberty of mankind, and would sustain every man, woman and child in the enjoyment of their religious freedom, no matter what their opinions might be. These are my sentiments today. In the providence of God I have traveled many thousands of miles in both hemispheres and have been preserved in His power through numberless dangers and serious accidents. That I am alive today is by His mercy.

I bear testimony that Joseph Smith was raised up by Almighty God as a Prophet in the last dispensation and fullness of times; that he brought forth the Book of Mormon and translated it by the gift and power of God for the benefit of the world in the latter days. I know that the Book of Mormon is true and is a divinely inspired record. I know that Brigham Young was inspired of God to lead the Latter-day Saints from persecution and bondage to a land of liberty in the heights of the mountains. And I bear testimony that the system which is called "Mormonism" is of God and for the welfare and salvation of the human family.

I do not expect to remain very much longer on this earth, but I expect to give an account for all my acts and words before the Lord, and I declare before God and all men that the apostleship and priesthood which I hold as the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latte-

day Saints has been sent down from heaven by divine revelation in the day and age in which we live; that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, and that by obedience to His commands all mankind may be saved.

I ask God to bless this nation and all the upright and honest in heart of every sect and party and country; and may light and truth and liberty prevail till the whole earth is redeemed from sin and evil!

WILFORD WOODRUFF.

### HEALTH OF PRESIDENT WOODRUFF.

The health of President Woodruff today continues to show steady improvement, and all indications are of a favorable character. He is still feeble, however, and remains at home to obtain that quiet and rest which are necessary to his convalescence. His spirits are cheerful, and yesterday he was inclined to come to his office, but was dissuaded from doing so, as unnecessary exertion and worry on such a warm day would not be conducive to his physical well being. He anticipates being present, however, at the Jubilee ceremonies next week, and looks forward with pleasure to the opportunity of gazing over this beautiful and prosperous valley on the fiftieth anniversary of the day when he entered it, a barren, desolate region which, under the divine blessing, later became a delightful home for the Saints.

### AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT.

Some time ago the announcement was made from London that a valuable manuscript had been found on the border of the Libyan desert, by Messrs. Greenfell and Hunt of the Egyptian exploration party. The manuscript was written in Greek, probably about 200 years after Christ and contains what purports to be eight logia, or sayings of our Savior. The work of deciphering and translating it was at once commenced, and the publication of its contents was looked forward to with much anticipation among biblical scholars. It seems, however, that the importance of the manuscript at first was overestimated. A synopsis of it appears in a London cable to the New York Sun as follows:

The first saying is: "And then thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

The second saying is entirely new. It reads: "Jesus saith: Except ye fast to the world ye shall in nowise find the kingdom of God, and except ye keep the Sabbath ye shall not see the Father."

The third saying is similar to that contained in John I, but the form is different. Christ describes himself as standing in the midst of the world, finding all men drunken and none athirst. It reads: "And my soul grieveth over the sons of men because they are blind in their heart."

The fourth saying has perished, only one word remaining. This is the Greek word for beggary. As this was not used by Christ in any Gospel, the saying is considered to have been new.

The fifth saying, which contains certain gaps, is regarded as of extraordinary interest. It reads: Jesus saith: "Wherever there are (here occurs a gap) and there is one (gap) alone I am with him. Raise the stone and there thou shalt find me; cleave the wood and thou I am."

The paragraph is entirely unintelligible.