

well worthy to live for, to suffer and even die for.

President Woodruff has left with the Saints his testimony upon another point, which, as history proves, is of no small importance. It is this that before the death of Joseph and Hyrum, the Prophet left upon the shoulders of the Twelve the responsibility of carrying on the work of God. Upon this point his testimony was clear and positive. In an address in the Assembly Hall on February 23, 1892, the speaker said:

"As I have said, Joseph Smith organized the Church. He lived but a short time with us—though longer than the Savior did after He entered the ministry. The Savior lived about three and a half years from the time He commenced His ministrations among the people until He was crucified. Joseph Smith lived some fourteen years, if I mistake not, after he organized this Church. He also was slain. But before he died he organized the Church with Apostles, Patriarchs, Pastors, Teachers, and the whole government of the Church of God; and that Priesthood he organized or laid the foundations of remained with the people after his death, as Brother Roberts has said tonight. The Twelve Apostles stood next to the First Presidency of the Church; and I am a living witness myself to this work. I am a living witness to the testimony that he gave to the Twelve Apostles when all of us received our endowments under his hands. I remember the last speech that he ever gave us before his death. It was before we started upon our mission to the East. He stood upon his feet some three hours. The room was filled as with consuming fire, his face was as clear as amber, and he was clothed upon by the power of God. He laid before us our duty. He laid before us the fullness of this great work of God; and in his remarks to us he said: 'I have had sealed upon my head every key, every power, every principle of life and salvation that God has ever given to any man who ever lived upon the face of the earth. And these principles and this Priesthood and power belong to this great and last dispensation which the God of Heaven has set His hand to establish in the earth.' 'Now,' said he, addressing the Twelve, 'I have sealed upon your heads every key, every power, and every principle which the Lord has sealed upon my head.' Continuing, he said, 'I have lived so long—up to the present time—I have been in the midst of this people, and in the great work and labor of redemption. I have desired to live to see this Temple [at Nauvoo] built. But I shall never live to see it completed; but you will.' Now, we didn't suppose but what he would live. We didn't comprehend what he meant. Neither did the Twelve in the days of the Savior comprehend what He meant when He said, 'I am going away from you; if I go not the Comforter will not come unto you.' And so we did not understand Joseph when he said he would not live to see that Temple completed; it was not given us to realize it at that time.

"After addressing us in this manner he said: 'I tell you the burden of this kingdom now rests upon your shoulders; you have got to bear it off in all the world, and if you don't do it you will be damned.' That was pretty strong language, but it was full of meaning. It was full of significance. Joseph was trained in the Priesthood before he came to this planet. He understood the Priesthood perfectly before he came here. He understood its work and its lineage, so far as lineage applies to offices in the Priesthood. He also understood that he was going

away from this earth; but we did not know it until after he was put to death."

That the Gospel is true and that the power to administer the affairs of the Church remains in the Church, even though death effects changes, is the testimony of one who was well acquainted with the Prophet of God. These truths have been handed down to the Saints. They are a tower of strength against a world that knows not the Gospel and also against those who would mar the progress of the work of God by strife and confusion.

MAHDISTS' AWFUL DEFEAT.

It begins to look as if the British Egyptian forces were remembering Gordon as the United States remembered the Maine. A desperate battle was fought on the 2nd with the dervishes at Omdurman, in which the latter were seriously defeated with great slaughter on their side, the assailants losing only 200 men; the town was taken and the Mahdists were routed in considerable disorder. It is very evident that the British, now thoroughly in earnest, have made ample preparations and, it being a contest of civilization with all the might which comes of it against the darkness of a dark people in a benighted and barbarous land, there can be but one outcome to it—the natives will be the losers and their own blood will bedew their own soil which, in their heathenism, they seem to think they have a right to hold and defend.

The accounts show that the Mahdists fought with conspicuous valor. Their assaults upon the advancing English columns were made with the impetuosity of landslides, but they could not withstand the withering fire from the improved artillery and other arms of the invaders, and in every case fell back where they were alive and able to do so. Whole squads were annihilated, but not in some cases until some of the fighters had struggled to within a few yards of the enemy's lines. The spectacle at the close must have been something awful, but, as the natives still have determination and resources, it will doubtless not be the only one of the kind before the latter, crushed and broken up, are compelled to accept of such peace as may be granted them.

War is an inhuman way of settling things, but it seems to be as much the first impulse of nations now as at any previous time since the dark ages. Sometimes it is the only way, however, as the defeat of Spain bears witness to.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

The news of the successful battles of the Anglo-Egyptian forces in Soudan minds the reading public that there is with the victorious army a man whose life's history is almost as wonderful as a tale from the Arabian Nights. We refer to Slatin Pasha, an Austrian by birth. Slatin, a young lieutenant, went to meet Gordon at Khartoum and was made governor over Darfur. At that time a strange fanaticism seized the Egyptians, and a cunning politician, Mahom at Onaled Ahmed, proclaimed himself the Messiah among the Soudanese. He gathered numerous followers and commenced a campaign against the Egyptians and Europeans. Khartoum was captured and Gordon murdered.

Slatin tried his best to hold his province, and fought many battles for the khedive, but finally he found himself isolated without hope of succor, and had to surrender. This was in 1883. He was made a slave and endured for twelve years the hardships and indignities

his captors saw fit to inflict on him. Finally he was rescued through the efforts of Major Wingate, director of military intelligence, Egyptian army, and Baron Heidler, the Austrian ambassador at Cairo. It was the intelligence brought by Slatin concerning the conditions in Soudan, that made the British resolve to send out the present expedition for the purpose of reconquering Khartoum and the surrounding territory, and also to revenge the death of Gordon. The Anglo-Egyptian army has advanced slowly, building a railroad along the route, but the work of redeeming the country from the rule of the dervishes has been accomplished this time. There will be no more tragedies like that in which Gordon, left to his fate by the government, fell a victim of dervish frenzy and fanaticism.

RESOURCES OF THE WEST.

Mr. J. A. Lateka in the September Forum has an interesting article on Gold and Other Resources of the Far West. In this he says in part:

"If a pin be placed at Denver, Colorado, on the map, and another at Stockton, California, and a string be drawn from one to the other, an air line will be marked, passing through the heart of a wonderful gold territory. Slightly to the north of Denver is Central City, and southwest of that city is Cripple Creek; about thirty miles to the north of the string Leadville will be found; in the southwest corner of Colorado will appear Telluride, Rico, and other points where gold is mined; Marysvale in Utah, almost due south of Salt Lake City, will appear to the south of the string; fifty miles to the north of it, near the line between Utah and Nevada, will appear Osceola; Deep Creek lies north of Osceola and on the southern edge of the great desert west of Salt Lake; Detroit and several other rich gold-camps are almost due east of Osceola; Pioche lies one hundred miles south of the string; and the wonderfully rich gold territory of the Monkey Wrench district lies southwest of Pioche.

"Now, north and south of the string will appear dotted on the map of Nevada the gold-camps of Grant, Freiburg, Reville, Kawich Valley, San Antonio, Gold Peak, Hot Springs, Belleville, Candelaria, and numerous others. Almost under the string, in California, we find Bodie, and to the north of it Markleville and other points, all on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains. On the western slope of the great Sierras the string will be almost on the Utica mine, which is located between San Andreas and Sonora. North and south of the Utica mine are hundreds of rich gold mines in profitable operation.

"The distance from Denver to Stockton is about twelve hundred miles. On no portion of the habitable globe is there a region so continuously and enormously rich in gold as the territory described; and yet, notwithstanding this fact, the progressive Yankee has scarcely made a start in opening and developing these riches which have been entombed for millions of years, and which will remain so sepulchred until we awaken to an appreciation of the fact that the states of Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California, bear within their bosoms more wealth than ever was dreamed of by Croesus."

But Colorado, Utah and Nevada, the writer in the Forum says, have boundless possibilities of development in addition to the mineral resources, and in proof of this he states that thirty years ago he traveled southern California and found a sage-brush waste with land worth 50 cents an acre. At that time Los Angeles contained 4,000 souls.