

LIFE OF PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Discourse by Elder B. H. Roberts
At the Tabernacle Yesterday Afternoon.

RARE GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Audience Listens With Rapt Attention to the Speaker Who Recited the Work of Man.

A discourse on the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Elder B. H. Roberts characterized the afternoon session of the Ensign stake conference. The tabernacle was completely filled and the large audience listened with

apt attention as Elder Roberts delved into the teachings of the great prophet of the nineteenth century and brought forth gems of thought meet for the seeker after truth, religious, scientific or philosophical.

As a text, Elder Roberts read the following extract from Jephiah Quincy's "Figures of the Past": "It is by no means improbable that some future text-book for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question concerning like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet." And the reply, absurd as it doubtless seems to most men now living, may be an obvious consequence to their descendants.

The speaker referred to the names made upon the minds of their countrymen and of the world by such statesmen, philosophers and theologians and inventors, as Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Longfellow, Poet Emerson, Fiske, Franklin, Compton, Edwards, Channing, Beecher, Abbott, May, Whittier and Edison. In R. M. Johnson's address to compare Joseph Smith with others, he said:

"The condition of the world religiously at the time of the advent of the subject of this discourse, was briefly summed up by Elder Roberts. While Christians believed that God had given revelations from God to man, that it times past angels had visited the earth, that men had even talked face to face with deity, the opinion was universal that neither the present nor the future would witness any such manifestations again. The doctrine taught is that God will be here no more, body parts or passing in a word, immaterial; that out of nothing He has created the universe and all life and animation. Regarding man's salvation many vague ideas prevailed, redemption or damnation by the mere caprice of the Creator being a possibility, that largely obtained against those erring the poor prophet proclaimed in no uncertain tones. He announced anew the truth that God is a material Being that man is in His image, for he beheld the Father and the Son that earth's children were entitled to communication from heaven. The promises of the prophets of the visitation of angels were again to be blessed mankind; that salvation was not for a chosen few, but was within the reach of all who desired it that man's soul is immortal and endowed with such attributes as shall lead him onward and upward throughout all time."

GEMS CONTRIBUTED.

If these teachings were all that Joseph Smith had announced to a religious world believing entirely to the opposite, they would have stamped

him as being a heretic of no mean importance. declared Elder Roberts. But these were only the commencement of his sayings and doings in the realms of thought. Directly or indirectly he contributed gems that will yet be woven into a spiritual philosophy that shall win universal recognition. The doctines that there is no God, that there is no devil, that in which there is no kingdom, that intelligence was not created, neither can be, and other principles of a similar character, were dwelt upon by Elder Roberts. The prophet left on record proverbs that answered the definition of Emerson, proverbs that will live. A few of them were enumerated, as follows:

"The glory of God is intelligence." "No man can be saved in ignorance."

"A man is saved no faster than he gains knowledge."

"Adam fell that man might be man that he might have joy." "The elements are eternal, and spirit an element inseparably connected, receiveth a fullness of joy."

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PATRIOTIC AMERICANS.

"This prophet of ours is, pre-eminently the American prophet," he declared. "Never was a greater mistake made by mortal man than when it is supposed that the followers of Joseph Smith can be anything else but ardent, patriotic Americans. Let me show that to you. Over and over again in the sacred books produced by him these two great continents of the western world are pronounced to be the Promised Land. Here Eden rose; the valley of Adamondishman is out there in the Missouri valley. Here Adam and the patriarchs dwelt, and here the archangel Michael, or Adam, gathered his posterity about him in the valley of Adamondishman; and though bowed by age yet strengthened in the spirit of God, he sent his angel to the grand president of this earth and foretold what should herald his posterity to the latest generations. This is the land of Zion. This is the land, according to our prophet's teaching from whence shall go forth the law in fulfillment of the prophecy saying that the time should come when the law should go forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. The Constitution of this land our prophet proclaims to be an inspired instrument.

"If you will listen you may hear," he continued, "away down below us, some murmur coming up like Joe Smith, plagiarist; Old Joe Smith, the money digger, Old Joe Smith, the spodding, moneymonger and publisher, as in the Book of Mormon; Joe Smith, the Bcentous—a babel of confused voices pealing the memory of the prophet, as we stand here amid the glory of his achievements."

Can you believe your senses? When two of them, taste and smell having been impaired if not utterly destroyed, by Nasal Catarrh, are fully restored by Ely's Creme Bon, can you doubt that this remedied disease at least has been said of it by the thousands who have used it? It is applied directly to the affected air passages and begins its healing work at once. Why not get it today? All druggists or mailed by Ely's Brothers to Warren Street, New York, on receipt of 55 cents.

CONFERENCE IN ENSIGN STAKE

Many Reports On Conditions Among the Auxiliary Organizations Are Made.

The Ensign stake quarterly conference was held yesterday, the first meeting convening at 10 o'clock in the Assembly hall. There were present on the stand Presidents John R. Winder and Francis M. Lyman; Elders Hyrum M. Smith and George F. Richards, of the council of the apostles, and the presidency and leading elders of the stake. Elder Richard W. Young presided. Music was furnished by members of the Twentieth ward Sunday school, the selections being "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah"; "Joseph Smith's first prayer"; "The Christmas Carol"; "Far, far away on Judas's plain"; "When Hamil ton G. Park offered the invocation, an benediction was pronounced by President Francis M. Lyman.

Elder John M. Knight reported the general condition of the Ensign stake, with its various quorums and auxiliary organizations. Never before had there been such interest manifested among Church members in the matter of attendance at meetings and in the performance of all ecclesiastical duties. Upwards of 90 per cent of the entire membership of the Church are each Sunday represented at sacrament meetings, and in some of the auxiliary organizations the attendance reaches nearly the 100 per cent mark, in some instances.

Elder Knight said that many persons not members of the Church are being cared for by the Relief society of Ensign stake. The sick and convalescent of all creeds and classes receive the prompt and kind cooperation of sisters of the society and their benevolent kindred, no restrictions. The Religion classes, he observed, were perhaps more lacking in interest than any other organization, and the speaker urged upon parents the necessity of seeing to it that their children were identified with Religion classes.

PRESIDENT R. W. YOUNG.

The general and stake authorities of the Church were presented for the vote of the conference by President Richard W. Young, and all were unanimously sustained.

Speaking of the report given by Elder Knight, president Young endorsed the same in every detail. Perfect harmony exists, he said in the presidency of the stake and between its members, theishops, members of the high council and all officers of quorums and auxiliary organizations. A resolution was made by President Young for the parents' classes provided for in the stake schools. The aim was to educate fathers and mothers, that they in turn might be teachers of their own offspring. The children are in the Sabbath school but two hours a week while they are at home, or under its jurisdiction, the remainder of the entire seven days. Not only would the attendance of parents at Sabbath school prove beneficial to children but the day would be made one of less drudgery, less feasting, less visiting, and be what it should be, a day of rest and worship.

ELDER HYRUM M. SMITH.

Elder Hyrum M. Smith said that the reports given of the Ensign stake were most encouraging. The splendid spiritual condition of the people was no wonder, as with such leaders it could well be otherwise. As with the priest as with the people.

Elder Smith held the opinion that the Primary association is one of the most important organizations in the Church. When a knowledge of truth and love for it are instilled into a youthful mind, the possessor will seldom stray far from the narrow path, and if perchance he does in a measure

wander away for a time, the sweet remembrance of childhood days will sooner or later bring him to repentance.

The faith and constancy of Church leaders was dwelt upon by Elder Smith, from the Prophet Joseph Smith to President Lorenzo Snow, and he remarked that the present leaders are not one whit behind their predecessors in integrity and right living. With them it is the Kingdom of God and last and all the time. The authorities should be sustained with good words and good works. There is no such thing as failure where the kingdom of God is concerned, said Elder Smith in conclusion.

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Elder George F. Richards said that when he removed his family into Edson stake he was more or less apprehensive that his children would not find in the city necessary spiritual attention. But in this he has been happily surprised. No man could more definitely be found than is manifested in behalf of the young people of Edson stakes.

Two great obstacles seem to stand in the way of people who are converted to and desire to become identified with the Church of Christ. The first of these is the contumely heaped upon one who attempts to follow the Savior's commands and the other is

the day.



THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH.

Whose Hundred and Second Anniversary Occurs Today.

Today is the hundred and second anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The history of the Church he founded has shattered delusions about its aims and projects, until today, after almost a century of acquaintance with it, the people of the world find it a force in religion much more to be dealt with than when the ancestors of some who would still give the strongest blows in their power to its undoing, sought to exterminate it by ending its founder's life through assassination.

Joseph Smith lived only 39 years, and ended his life by sealing in blood a testimony which has steadily grown in significance ever since until the last Church conference became also the greatest and strongest in spirit.

At the age of 14, the services of Joseph in behalf of a religion began. At the age of 17 this mission took definite shape, and at the age of 22, the translation of the Book of Mormon was commenced. April 6, 1830, at the age of 25, the movement took shape in the definite organization of the Church, and after 14 years of service in its behalf, its founder turned the work over to others, who, through years of most bitter persecution, succeeded finally in allegiance to the cause he tops of the Wasatch mountains, where today thousands of fellow religionists are establishing a center for it in the expense, and live in greater peace with the world than it has previously been their privilege to enjoy.

For the strong—that they may keep their strength.
For the weak—that they may regain their strength.
For the young that they may grow in strength.

Uneeda Biscuit

the most nutritious food made from wheat.

Clean, crisp and fresh.

In moisture and dust proof packages.

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