

Biblical archaeology was almost unknown, and other sources of information were equally barren. But in spite of all this the great reformer seemed to know intuitively the correct meaning of many disputed passages, and recent discoveries have proved the soundness of his judgment in selecting German substitutes for the original words and phrases. This fact becomes most clear to those who attempt to improve on the translation, as numerous translators—Michaelis among the rest—have been forced to admit.

Notwithstanding this, there are errors in his version. Sometimes he did not comprehend the idioms of the original and rendered them literally, thereby unwittingly giving to the sentence another sense than intended by the author. Sometimes the translation is wrong. Sometimes he evidently translates with a view of procuring evidence for his own doctrines against the Roman church. He was but human after all; and who cannot forgive a weakness so natural to human nature? In spite of all this, the work completed by Luther while he was ostensibly a captive on Wartburg is a monument to the greatest of Bible translators, as well as to the most successful reformer that ever lifted his voice against papal heresy on the continent of Europe.

JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET.

Today is the eighty-seventh anniversary of the birth of a man, in many respects the most remarkable the nineteenth century has produced. We refer to Joseph Smith, the Prophet, who was born in Sharon, Windsor county, Vermont, December 23rd, 1805.

The various incidents of his eventful career are engraved on the hearts of the Saints, who loved the man and cherish his memory with affectionate reverence. The world at large is also familiar, to some extent at least, with his biography; for he was one of the few whose greatness attracted universal attention and whose name will be found prominent on the pages of history for ages. How he by Heaven was chosen a special messenger to the world; the faithful performance of this work under the greatest difficulties, and the final sealing of the testimony with his death as a martyr belong to the annals of the Kingdom of God on earth and they form one of the most important chapters in ecclesiastical history of all time.

It would seem eminently proper today to reflect for a few moments on the work which Joseph the Prophet was called to perform in this age. Like Moses, who gathered the children of Israel and led them to the Land of Promise, Joseph the Prophet sounded the call to the scattered Israel, and those who heard it and believed responded and came with joyful hearts to the land above others choice in the sight of the Lord—a land undoubtedly selected and, since the time of its discovery, by the divine providence prepared for this purpose. Like Elijah, who thundered his solemn warnings against kings and nations that transgressed the laws of Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Joseph the Prophet lifted his warning voice in the midst of the nations of the earth, declaring the will and the desires of the Almighty. His appearance in the world burst forth as in fulfillment of the Apocalyptic vision:

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire. And he had in his hand a little book . . . and swore by Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth and the things that therein are, and the sea and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer, but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He has declared to His servants the Prophets." (Rev. x. 1-7.)

Like John the Baptist, who came to prepare the way for the completion of an old dispensation and the foundation of a new and more glorious, so Joseph the Prophet came to usher in a new dispensation, more glorious than any of the preceding. He came the herald of that millennium of which seers have spoken in glorious terms from the beginning of the world—the dispensation of the fullness of times.

For the accomplishing of this great work he was endowed with the most extraordinary powers from above, as might naturally be expected. He was one of the few human beings who have been permitted to commune with Jehovah, face to face, as a friend to a friend. Angels visited him and instructed him. To his prophetic view was opened as a book the past and the future. Nay, even the veil that hides from our wondering gaze the eternity was partially withdrawn before him, and, like Paul, he saw and heard inexpressible things, for the description of which human language is inadequate. Power over demons and sickness and death was given to him as to the ancient servants of the Lord. And all these superhuman endowments he, like his Master, used for the benefit of his fellowmen and the cause whose faithful servant he was.

No wonder that those who knew him best should love him most. Through him the Lord was pleased to give His children a knowledge of things eternal that truly passeth understanding, a knowledge that brings peace, joy, happiness to the heart. Through his teachings death has been deprived of its terror; the living have been brought to comprehend the glorious truth that the mercy of God endureth for ever and is efficient for salvation even behind the veil, and through him we have learned to expect that the time is at hand when the earth shall be purified and mankind live on it as before the fall in a universal brotherhood.

The whole world has already commented to reap the benefits of the brief years in which the great Prophet's earthly career was comprehended. The truths he so fearlessly and without hesitation proclaimed are gradually leavening mankind and shaping human thought. It is perceptible that many of those who despise the name of the Prophet have accepted his doctrines and are preaching the truths he first proclaimed. And this work will go on, until the

whole human family finally shall be prepared to accept them. Was it not the same with the work of the earlier prophets and the Savior Himself? Notwithstanding the fact that the world at first rejected Him, yet His work went on until the existing systems had to give way to Christianity.

Joseph's fate in the world was similar to that of all those who have been the special messengers of the Almighty. He was misunderstood, envied, hated and murdered. Yet he conquered through all, for even his death was a victory. And he still lives. In the memory of the people of God he shall live as long as there is one left on earth who is trying to serve God according to His revealed will. And in celestial glory he shall live in all eternity.

Well may the Saints of God remember today with deep gratitude their beloved Prophet. Well may they with firm determination continue to serve Him whom Joseph declared to us, for whom he lived and in whose service he died.

THE SEASON.

A resident of this city who went over to Tooele county on Wednesday last reports that while we think ourselves abundantly remembered in the matter of snow, they of that section have been more "avored" than we. During the late storm not less than two feet, and probably half a foot more, fell; but as there was but little frost in the soil, it did not all remain, and at the present time there are from twelve to fifteen inches on the level. Traffic is well nigh suspended; the Utah and Nevada train is bound fore and aft with the heavy drifts which are being blown into the cuts as fast as they can be taken out, and was lying helpless half a mile north of Tooele station. Our informant was compelled to engage the services of an experienced teamster with a strong horse and road cart, and did not arrive here till early this morning after a trip through strong gales flecked with snow and particles of ice; the road being hidden most of the way through drifting snow, impeding progress considerably and made the experience one long to be remembered.

Those who are disposed to question the statement that this is the severest winter we have had so far as it has gone for a quarter of a century past at least, have not probably been out where its effects were most distinctly visible. The mean temperature may not have been any lower nor in some cases so low as at a few other times, but this has been overborne by the unusually prevalent and powerful winds, which, coupled with a snowfall actually beyond precedent, make the season so far about as suggested—the heaviest and hardest in twenty-five years.

Of course there is or will be a compensation for all this. We look for the season at its close to show a record averaging not greatly above or below its predecessors or any of them in the matter of general weather. If this should be the case, the greater the severity now the less it will be at the other end of the winter; while the fact that great snowfalls, though at times largely detrimental to trade, comfort