

SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 23, 1903

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The birth of George Washington, the patriot, the warrior, the statesman, the "father of his country," is celebrated today. He was born Feb. 22, 1732, but the 22nd of February coming this year on Sunday, the event is generally observed today. There is no need for us to eulogize the great character whose very name signifies to Americans, and indeed to the whole civilized world, the virtues that make their representatives preseminent. His valor, his devotion to country, his calm but steadfast reliance on the Almighty, his generalship, his endurance, his wise management of public affairs, are all universally admired; but the distinctive feature among his many grand traits is that love of truth with which his name is chiefly associated.

The people of Utah hold Washington in as high estimation as do any of their fellow-countrymen. They also recognize in his life and works a divinely selected spirit, destined to a glorious career for the benefit of humanity. He was called of God to the station he occupied, and so were the valiant champions of freedom who laid the foundations of this government, enunciated the principles that enter into the Declaration of Independence, and are formulated in the Constitution of the United States.

Prophets are inspired for their particular religious labors and messages. They move in their own special sphere. But other factors in the sum of the world's advancement are also raised up by Divine Providence, each in his time and season and place. This does not presuppose perfection of the individual but adaptability for the work to which he is appointed. It does not secure to him eternal salvation, or interfere with his free agency in any respect.