

unite the dark skin and protruding lips of the African with the Hebrew's sharp features, twinkling eyes and nose of abnormal development. There is a very large Jewish element in the island, in proportion to its size and population. Kingston alone has a Jewish colony 3,000 strong. The control of the mercantile business; and with the same accommodating spirit which distinguished the sect elsewhere, they are always ready to lend a helping hand, under the sign of the three golden balls, to any spendthrift Creoles who are bent on ruining themselves. The exception social importance of the Israelites in Jamaica is due to the fact that the island was settled while Cromwell ruled in England—and everybody knows that the protector sympathized strongly with the refugees from flourishing synagogues in Kingston, one for Spanish and Portuguese Jews, which also includes the negroes; the other for English and German Jews.

This ought to be the most pious island under the sun, judging from the church records. Although the institutions of the Church of England are most in evidence, fully one-third of the population are Baptists, and every other religious denomination is represented. Looking over the statistics, I find that there are 40,233 Episcopalians in Jamaica; 32,428 Baptists; 22,999 Methodists, 2,292 Roman Catholics, and 27,300 members of other Christian churches.

The clergy includes 50 Baptist ministers; 30 Wesleyan; 20 Presbyterian; 17 Moravians; 6 United Methodist and Free missionaries and 10 from the London mission society; and nobody knows how many state-paid rectors and curates of the churches of England and Scotland, Romish priests and Jewish rabbis.

FANNIE BRIGHAM WARD.

FIRST THANKSGIVING.

Thanksgiving dawned on a people this year, that have a case for deep and sincere thankfulness. Americans offered up words of gratitude to God, words of praise, words of faith that will unite all in one feeling of love and kindness. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, the angel of peace has swept back the tide of war and brought to our nation a deeper love and a more sincere patriotism for America "the land of the free, and the home of the brave." The sun shines today on a prosperous and happy people. The soil has given up its products in abundance. The wheat, corn, and potatoe fields have yielded as they have never yielded before. Men have seemed to awaken to new duties in daily life, of which they had never thought; in all health and prosperity has attended our people. True, the red-handed demon of war has been abroad in the land and at sea, but the God of battles has aided the indomitable valor of our soldiers, and our flag still waves over a nation whose destiny is in the hands of God. True, there is poverty and distress in the land; there are some who are starving by the side of those who are feasting, but the lot of the American people is, on the whole, far better than the inhabitants of the monarchical governments of Europe.

Our nation has shown its power in the late war with Spain. The American people are not only progressive in the arts and sciences, they are humane and generous. They did not fight for might they fought for honor and justice, and for this reason God helped the standard bearers of liberty.

We may ask, why is it that prosperity comes to us in a greater measure than to other nations? It is because we have a God-given ability to work for right, knowing that through our hearts and minds, the Great Father makes known His will to the children of men. We

have within us that old Teutonic blood, which down through the centuries of time has put life and courage into the bodies of Anglo-Saxon descendants, and which gave us the courage and strength of our Pilgrim Fathers. We have in our veins today this determination and high regard for liberty. This is why nations wonder at our successes.

Back in 1623, Wm. Bradford, who was governor of the original New England colonies, proclaimed the first general Thanksgiving Day in November. At this time everything looked as black as a thunder-cloud for the little band, and only the strongest faith in God could have justified the call for thankfulness, when the crops were withering for lack of rain and the clouds gave no sign of relief. William Bradford's faith won. The rains descended and the crops were saved, and Americans have been imbued with this faith ever since.

While this year has brought sorrow and loneliness to many homes; while it records the terrible sufferings of war and bloodshed; yet we have cause to partake of the spirit of 1621, and offer up our thanks to God for His goodness.

The first Thanksgiving among the Plymouth colonists was not heralded far and wide but its record is:

Our harvest being gotten in, our Governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together; after we had gathered the fruit of our labours; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest King Massasoit with some minute men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our Governour and upon the Captaine, and others.

Proclamations for Thanksgiving and special church worship were issued very early by the governors of Plymouth colony and in the Bay colony. The historian Hutchinson says:

They constantly, every spring, appointed a day for fasting and prayer, to implore the divine blessings upon their affairs in the ensuing year, and in the fall, a day of thanksgiving and public acknowledgement of the favors conferred upon them in the year past.

During the adherence of the colonies to the crown, the proclamations were headed with the British coat of arms, and the motto, "God save the King."

As the trouble between the colonies and the mother country increased, less attention was given to Thanksgiving proclamations issued by the royal governors, but in 1776 the people of the Massachusetts colony were united in celebrating the Thanksgiving day of that year. The proclamation was given at the council chamber in Boston and signed by the council. The people were enjoined to be grateful to God for "He has united these states in a resolved vindication of their rights, even to the last extremity; has given them a general council of patriots, wise to direct, raised up generals faithful to execute the measures necessary for their defense, and animated so many of the sons of America to grasp the sword, and with a manly cheerfulness endure the fatigues of war, in support of that freedom which is the birthright of all. Has led them by the hand from step to step till we have seen these states compelled, through oppression, to assert their native right to freedom and independence in an united declaration which the impartial world must justify."

In 1780 John Hancock issued the proclamation of Thanksgiving, advising all the colonies to observe it, and concluding his article with the sentence "God save the people of the United States of America."

In the library of the state department at Washington are kept all the pro-

clamations ever issued by the Presidents of the United States. The first of these was signed by George Washington and then by Edward Randolph, his attorney general. The second one was issued by James Madison; then it seems that the Presidents of the United States failed to issue any until Lincoln's proclamation in the early sixties. Washington's proclamation was:

By the President of the United States of America:

When we view the calamities which afflict other nations, the present condition of the United States affords much matter of consolation and satisfaction. Our exemption hitherto from foreign war, the increasing prospect of the continuance of that exemption, the great degree of international tranquility we have enjoyed, the recent confirmation of that tranquility by the suppression of an insurrection which so strongly threatened it, the happy course of our public affairs in general, the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens—all circumstances which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the Divine beneficence toward us. In such a state of things it is, in an especial manner, our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate accord, to acknowledge our many and great blessings to Almighty God and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience.

Deeply penetrated with this sentiment, I, George Washington, the President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations and to all persons within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19th day of February next, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and render their sincere and hearty thanks to the great Ruler of nations for the manifold and single mercies which distinguished our lot as a nation, particularly for the profession of constitutions of government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order, for the observance of our peace, foreign and domestic, for the seasonable control which has been given to the support of this order in the suppression of the late insurrection, and generally for the prosperous course of our affairs, public and private; and at the same time humbly and fervently beseech the kind author of these blessings graciously to prolong them to us; to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to Him for them; to teach us rightly to esteem their aims and value; to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits; to dispose us to merit the continuance of His favors, by not abusing them, by our accord for them, and by a corresponding conduct as citizens and as men; to render this country a more and more safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunates of other countries; to extend among us true and useful knowledge; to diffuse and establish habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety, and, finally, to impart all the blessings with peace or ask for orders, to the whole family of mankind.

In testimony whereof I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be fixed to these presents and signed the same with my hand. Done at the seat of Philadelphia, the 1st day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five and the independence of the United States of America the 19th.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By the President.

EDW. RANDOLPH.

President McKinley's proclamation to observe Thanksgiving this year was a concise and well-worded notice. There can be no doubt that it had the required effect, and that all Americans, both at home and abroad united on this holiday and gave thanks to him, who rules the destiny of the race.

LEVI EDGAR YOUNG.

IN BEAR LAKE STAKE.

Our people here at Laketown, Bear Lake Stake of Zion, enjoyed a very rich treat last evening—the occasion being the visit of Elder William Budge and Counselor James H. Hart, accompanied by Elders Mosiah Booth and Stephen Gheen of St. Charles, Idaho—all of whom favored us with addresses replete,