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DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PART TWO.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1903. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

A "Mormon" Bishop WHO Traces His Ancestry Back FOR A Thousand Years.

It is the proud right of Bishop W. B. Preston to be able to boast of a family tree that took root in England early in the tenth century. He traces his strain, like a clear stream, back to the time before William the Conqueror left his native Normandy to go forth and "take" a nation. He has followed his ancestral tree back to 1040 A. D., and has the names of every sire and son who mark the steps in this genealogical ladder. If he felt so disposed he could adorn the walls of his home with portraits of a legion of ancestors that would excite the envy of a Bourbon. Warriors, scholars and diplomats, patriots, rebels and loyalists, they all are to be found in the solemn procession that the Bishop, so to speak, has resurrected. At times they have served the king in battle and in the halls of diplomacy; some have worn titles thrust upon them by a grateful monarch, and some have scorned them. Edward I leaned heavily on the arms of the Prestons during his imbroglios with Scotland. Other kings since then have felt the aid of their staunch blood. Some of the most majestic ruins of England mark the last sad remnants of the former homes of the Prestons, such as Furness Abbey of Lancashire. If one thinks that Bishop Preston is not "the manor born," let him look at the deceiving yet noble outline of the

said to be at the head of the temporal affairs of the Church, since his position is that of Presiding Bishop. He is the fourth man to hold that very responsible office since the organization of the Church, and he has administered its affairs with signal ability. He is a native American, having been born in Franklin county, Va., Nov. 24, 1836, and is now, therefore, 67 years of age. He lived on his father's farm until he reached the age of 19 years, when he began clerking in a store near his home, and a little later on moved to Lynchburg, where he worked until 1852. He was then 22 years old and the strong blood of his race demanded a wider field, where there were greater opportunities. So he bade goodby to his native state and pushed out into the world.

WENT TO CALIFORNIA.

Finding his attention drawn towards California whose magic name was then on every lip, he journeyed to the Golden state. But the craze had not taken root in his blood, gold digging not being the natural bent of his nature. So he abandoned the placer claim and the wild miners' camps, and settled down in Yolo county, California, to follow the more peaceful pursuits of farming and cattle raising. The young Virginian had for his neighbors the Thatcher family, and through those people was made acquainted with the religion of the Latter-day Saints, to whom, up to



THREE DISTINGUISHED PRESTONS.

Three distinguished Prestons are found in the persons of the trio whose portraits comprise the above group. They are, reading from left to right, Stephen Preston, uncle of the subject of this sketch; Bishop Preston, himself, and Thomas L. Preston, of the faculty of the University of Virginia.

dino and into southern Utah, then north to Salt Lake City. The company arrived home on New Year's day, 1858, and the following February Elder Preston married Miss Harriet A. Thatcher,

remained as such until the road passed into the hands of the Union Pacific company. In May, 1877, the Cache stake was organized with Moses Thatcher as president and William B. Preston as his first counselor. The latter held this position until April, 1879, when President Thatcher was made an Apostle, and he succeeded to the position of president. On April 6, 1884, William B. Preston was called to act as the Presiding Bishop of the Church to succeed Edward Hunter, whose death occurred in October, 1883.

STRONG BUSINESS MAN.

It would not be fulsome praise to say that every day, from the day of his ordination to the high and responsible position he holds, up to the present, has vindicated the wisdom of the choice. Bishop Preston embodies within himself the qualities of the best business man together with a highly spiritual nature, a combination that could not fail to place him among the strongest men of his race.

The notice in the Deseret News of a publication recently issued by Bishop William B. Preston having revived interest in that gentleman's genealogical researches, a short sketch of the Preston family tree so far as at present known, will not be without interest, and is herewith given:

PRESTONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The record of the Preston family runs

in Westmoreland, were entailed upon them by the crown.

From Westmoreland, branches of the family early spread into the adjoining counties of York and Lancaster, but we find that eighteen generations after Leofhus Sir Thomas Preston, still held the old ancestral inheritance of Preston Patrick, as also the lands appurtenant to Under Levin Hall. During his lifetime, Sir Thomas added still further to the family holdings by the purchase of Furness Abbey and Holker Park, of Lancashire.

The ruins of Furness Abbey are still one of the attractions to tourists in the vicinity of Barrow in Furness, and present a very imposing appearance even in the ruin wrought upon them by several wars and nearly seven centuries of time. A most remarkable state of preservation is shown in the "Manor House," here illustrated, where the Prestons of the Manor made their home for over 250 years.

The war between the adherents of King Charles I and those of the English parliament, in 1642, came very near bringing extinction to the Preston family. They not only themselves joined forces with the king, but they heavily encumbered their estates in his behalf, so that at the close of the war in which Cromwell came to the dictatorship, the once powerful house not only found itself bereft of the flower of its manhood, but was on the brink of fin-



APPROACH TO MAIN ENTRANCE OF FURNESS ABBEY.

The view here presented gives an idea of the beauty of the architecture employed in the erection of Furness Abbey. The walls shown in this picture are about 40 feet high.

"Manor House," where the Prestons made their home for over 200 years. During the civil war the family was loyal to Charles at a heavy cost, indeed, for they nearly all lost their heads as well as their fortune.

A branch of the family removed to Virginia in the sixteenth century and its blood has become mingled with the nobles of the land. In Virginia, their native colony, their voices were amid the grave protests that led to the Revolution, and during that sanguinary period they fought with the other heroic spirits of that day, for in their bosom glowed that same love of liberty that animated the breast of Washington.

From this branch, the venerable Bishop springs, but since he is not disposed to speak of his remarkable genealogy, the "News" will tell a portion of the story for him.

THE BISHOP'S OWN LIFE.

William Bowker Preston might be

that time, he had scarcely given a passing thought. He became a member of the Church during the month of February, 1857, having been baptized by Elder Henry G. Boyle. Almost immediately thereafter he was called into the ministry by the late Pres. George Q. Cannon, who was then presiding over the Pacific Coast mission. The new fledged missionary traveled through Upper California and that vicinity until the fall of 1857, at which time Pres. Young called in all the traveling Elders and Saints, because of the invasion of Johnston's army.

CAME TO UTAH.

Elder Preston came to Utah in a company led by Henry G. Boyle, and one of the members of which was Moses Thatcher, his future brother-in-law. It was too late in the season for the company to hazard crossing the plains so the journey home was made down through Los Angeles and San Bernar-

who is still living.

WAS A MINUTE MAN.

When Pres. Young organized that famous military body known as the "minute men," Elder Preston was one of the number and stood ready at any time to protect his people at any cost. He was in the "move," and went south as far as Payson, but in the early spring of 1858, joined a company of 22 others and went to the Platte bridge, to bring to Utah a large stock of merchandise that had been cached there by the "X. X. Company," when the relations between the people of Utah and the government became embarrassing. There was no little amount of danger involved in this expedition, as the "Utah war," was just over and the soldiers stationed at Fort Bridger were still feeling ugly towards the "Mormons," and awaiting the slightest pretext to pounce down upon them. But the young men performed their missions success-



THE PRESTON FAMILY CREST.

"This crest bore the pretty conceit of a castle, from whose high tower rose an eagle, plumed for higher flight, with the pious aspiration at its base: 'Si Dieu veult'—which freely rendered means, 'Leaving the towers of earth, we soar to V. (God willing) to heaven.' This crest, with slight variations for different branches of the family, has been the distinguishing insignia of the Prestons from the earliest times, whether in Scotland, England, Ireland or America.

fully although they passed through many dangerous places.

SETTLED IN PAYSON.

On his return to Utah Elder Preston settled in Payson, erecting an adobe house with his own hands. The following winter he went to California in a small company, for the purpose of buying merchandise for his father-in-law's store. He got back in the spring of 1859, with two wagon loads of goods after a hard and perilous trip.

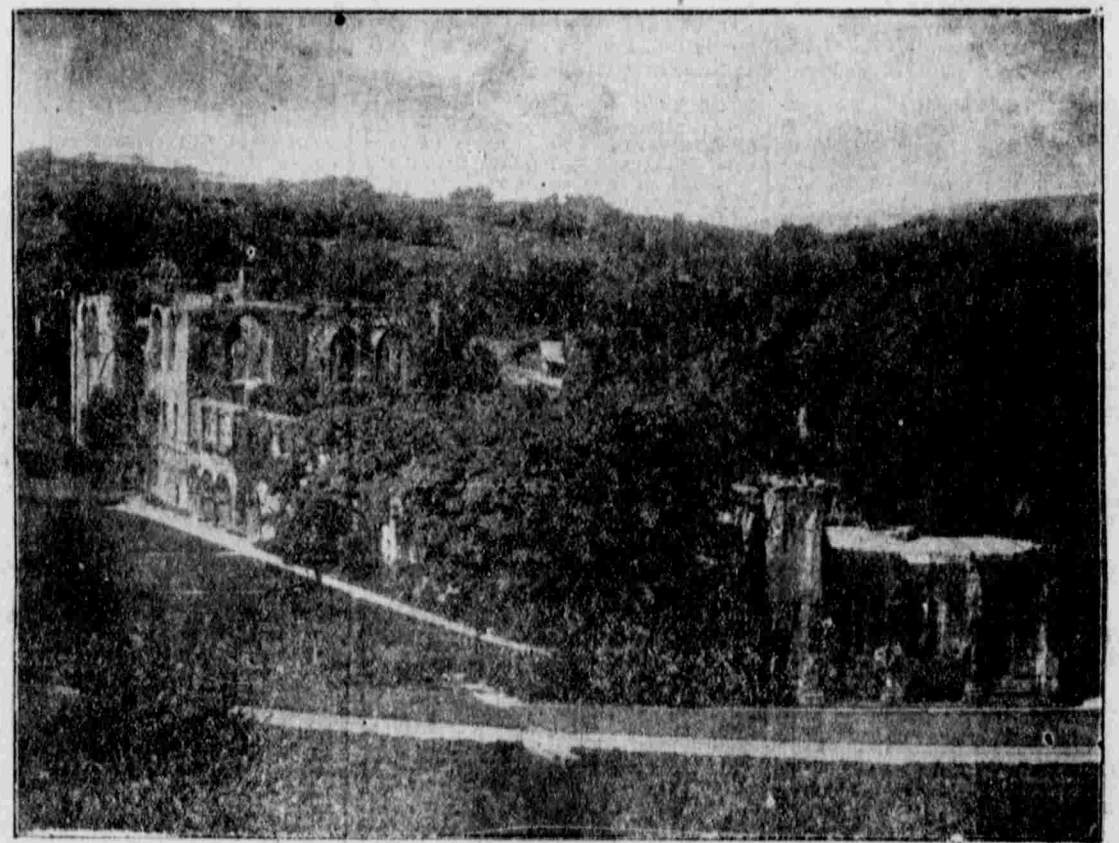
CACHE COUNTY PIONEER.

At this time the beautiful Cache valley was being opened up, so in company with his father-in-law and his family, he removed to the north and camped on the present site of Logan city, so it may be fairly said that William B. Preston and Ezekiah Thatcher were the founders of Logan. In November of the same year Apostles Orson Hyde and Ezra T. Benson went to Cache valley at the instance of Pres. Young to organize the settlements that had been built up there under the direction of Bishop Peter Maughan, the veteran pioneer and the idol of the red men. When Logan was resolved into an ecclesiastical ward Elder Preston was chosen as Bishop, the selection being perfectly natural as the young man had evinced a courageous and enterprising spirit that had already attracted the gaze of Pres. Young. He was ordained on Nov. 14, 1859 and at once inaugurated a campaign for the development of the country that was as vigorous as it was business like. One of the first things he did was to perform the chief part in projecting the Logan and Hyde Park canal which has been a blessing to the inhabitants of Cache valley ever since. In the spring of 1860, while the snow was still on the ground, he assisted Surveyor Jesse W. Fox, in laying out the city of Logan, and during the next year his time was pretty much all taken up in receiving immigrants, who had begun to pour in, and apportioning homes to them.

BECOMES A LAWMAKER.

This same year he was elected to the Legislature and spent the winters of 1862-3 sitting with those who made the early laws of this state. During the two successive summers he made two trips to the Missouri river by ox team to assist immigrants into the mountains. The winters of 1863-4 he also spent in the Legislature and at the conference of the Church in April, 1865, he, with forty-six others, was called to go to Europe to perform a mission. Elder Preston had charge of the company as far as New York, and there he left his friends to visit his parents in Virginia, whom he had not seen for thirteen years. He found that the war had left them destitute, but aside from that unfortunate condition he had a pleasant visit. He then returned to New York and sailed for Liverpool, arriving there on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1865. He was at once called to preside over the Newcastle and Durham conference, and labored in that capacity until January, 1866, when he was called to take charge of the business department of the Liverpool office. He remained in the office for three years, and in the meantime visited the Paris

exposition in August, 1867. After serving for three and a half years in the missionary field, he was released to return home. He sailed from Liverpool on July 14, 1868, on the steamship Colo-



REAR VIEW OF FURNESS ABBEY RUINS.

rado, in charge of a company of 600 Saints, and reached Salt Lake the following September.

BISHOP OF THE CHURCH.

The transcontinental railroad was being constructed at this time and the Bishop's active spirit naturally found a congenial field here. In the winter of 1868-69 he was in Echo canyon, projecting a portion of the Union Pacific road as a sub-contractor under President Brigham Young. As soon as his work here was over he returned to Logan and in 1872 was again sent to the Legislature, and served continuously in that body until 1882. In April, 1871, Bishop Preston was called to succeed Bishop Peter Maughan, who had just died, as presiding Bishop of Cache valley. In that same year he united the people in the support of President Young in the construction of the Utah Northern railroad. The road was completed as far as Franklin in May, 1874, and the company that was organized to control it consisted of John W. Young as president, and William B. Preston as vice president, and the latter

back to about 1040 A. D., before the invasion of William the Conqueror, when Leofhus De Preston comes to notice as the owner of a large estate in Mid-Lothian, Scotland; and from that time forward the family has been prominently before the people among whom its members have lived. And this in striking contrast to the career of most of the Old World "landed gentry." Almost without exception, the titled houses of England, after flourishing for a few generations, have, for some reason or other, vanished because of their dissolute manner of life, or from close intermarriage relations, become extinct. But the Preston star, though at times in partial eclipse, has ever been in the ascendant.

Leofhus De Preston's grandson, William, was one of the nobles chosen by King Edward I. of England, to arbitrate between Balliol and Bruce, as to the Scottish succession. To this circumstance is probably due the fact that a powerful branch of the family soon after removed from Scotland to the north of England, where the estates of Preston Richard and Preston Patrick

ancial ruin. But such was the virility of the Preston blood that in the course of two generations the family was again to the front, and there are still in England, Scotland and Ireland, several titled families of the house. Counting from Leofhus, Bishop Preston has records covering 28 generations of the Prestons in Great Britain.

THE VIRGINIA PRESTONS.

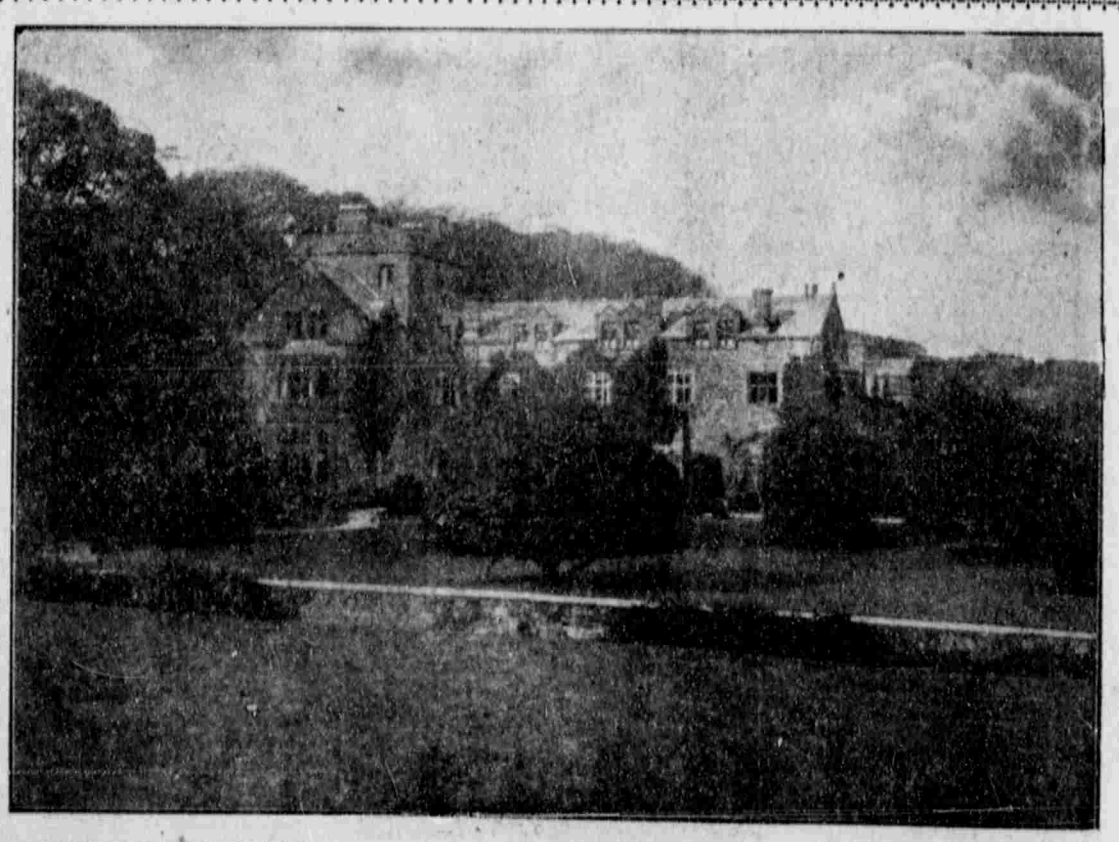
Forty-seven years after the rise of Cromwell, the family had so far recovered its fortunes as to add six warriors, brothers according to tradition, to the forces of King James II, when he advanced upon Londonderry for the memorable siege of 1689. Three of these perished before the walls of Derry two returned to Yorkshire, and one, Archibald, remained in Londonderry, where, in 1699, his son, John, the ancestor of the Prestons of Virginia, was born.

John Preston removed from Londonderry to Virginia with his wife, Elizabeth Patton Preston, and five children, in 1749. And here the same prominence waited upon the members of the fam-



SIDE VIEW OF FURNESS ABBEY RUINS.

The work of demolition commenced in 1537, upon the act of confiscation at the instance of Henry VIII, but in recent years, every effort has been made to preserve this beautiful specimen of early architecture.



THE MANOR HOUSE.

The building here shown was the part of Furness Abbey used as the residence of the Abbot, and was erected in 1127 A. D. The branch of the Preston family that lived here for over 250 years was known as the "Prestons of the Manor."