JOSEPH SMITH
THE PROPHET

by

PRESTON NIBLEY

"The most precious gift that Heaven can give to the earth; a man of genius, as we call it; the soul of a man actually sent down from the skies with a God's message to us."—Thomas Carlyle.

DESERET NEWS PRESS
Salt Lake City, Utah
1948
the principles of truth I succeed in uniting men of all
denominations in the bonds of love, shall I not have obtained
a good object?” (History of the Church, Vol. 5, p. 498.)

He proceeded to explain the first principles of the Gospel
to his audience. “We believe in faith and repentance,” he
said, “and so do the Christian world. Some of them also believe
in baptism by immersion, as we do, but none of them accept the principle of laying on hands for the gift of the Holy
Ghost. Therein we differ from the Christian world."

“You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if
it is not done in view of the remission of sins and getting
of the Holy Ghost. Baptism by water is but half a baptism
and it is good for nothing without the other half—that is
the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Saviour said ‘Except
a man be born of the water and the spirit, he cannot enter
the Kingdom of God.’"

On Wednesday, July 12th, 1843, Joseph dictated to his
secretary, William Clayton, the revelation known as section
132 in the Doctrine and Covenants on “the eternity of the
marriage covenant, including the plurality of wives.” This
revelation led to the practice of “plural marriage” by the
Mormon people until October Conference in 1890, when the
members of the Church were advised by President Wilford
Woodruff, “to refrain from contracting any marriage for-
bidden by the law of the land.”

Certain descendants of the Prophet Joseph Smith have
endeavored to maintain that he was not the author of the
above named revelation and that he did not institute the
practice of “plural marriage.” Such a view is contrary to the
facts which are well known to the historians of the Church;
but we do not have space nor time to go into this matter here.

Between the 12th and the 23rd of the month, Joseph's
time was spent alternately between his office and his farm.
On Tuesday the 18th he tells us that he was “making hay”
on his farm. On the 21st he records that he rode out to his
farm with his daughter Julia, who at this time was twelve
years of age. He took great delight in this little girl, his
adopted daughter.

On Sunday the 23rd, Joseph again spoke from the stand
in the Grove.