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# Church News

EDITORIAL PAGE

## 2 great women

**N**ext week thoughtful Latter-day Saints will note the anniversary of the coming of the Angel Moroni to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

It will be remembered that there was a series of visitations by the Angel over a period of four years, and that then the young Prophet was given the plates of the Book of Mormon.

Translating the book was fraught with many dangers, threats to his life, attempts to steal the plates, and continued persecution.

In addition to loyal men who stood by his side, two great women sustained him through it all. These two wonderful sisters defended the Prophet day and night, bore testimony of the divinity of his calling, and gave their witness also to the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

One of these women was the Prophet's mother, Lucy Mack Smith. The other was his ever-devoted wife, the mother of his children, Emma Hale Smith. They never hesitated to valiantly defend him, never recanted, never denied their testimonies of his work.

The mother accepted the account of the First Vision of the Prophet, and with her husband defended the boy's good name, encouraged him in the work, stood loyally by his side even to the martyrdom.

But likewise did Emma, his wife. Actually she suffered more for the gospel than did the Prophet's mother, for she went through the severe persecutions, imprisonments, the attacks with tar and feathers, attempts on his life, the death of one of her eight children, personal exposure during her own illness — always by his side,

always loyal, always loving and forever brave.

One of her — and Joseph's — sons, Alexander Hale Smith, is quoted in Zion's Ensign for Dec. 31, 1903 (an RLDS publication), as saying that on her deathbed Joseph came back for her, that she called to him while holding out her hand at the moment of death. Said he:

"We waited upon my mother while she was sick. Just before she passed away she called, 'Joseph, Joseph.' I was at the head of the bed. My mother raised right up, lifted her left hand as high as she could raise it, and called, 'Joseph.'"

"I put my left arm under her shoulders, took her hand in mine, saying, 'Mother, what is it?,' laid her hand on her bosom, and she was dead. She had passed away."

Mr. Smith said that a short time before her death, Emma was given a vision of the hereafter in which she saw a most beautiful and spacious mansion which she and the Prophet were to have together.

In that vision the Prophet was with her, showing her the mansion. Quoting his mother, Alexander said: "I went with him (Joseph) into the mansion and he showed me through the different apartments. One room was a nursery. In that nursery was a babe in a cradle. She said, 'I knew my babe, my Don Carlos, that was taken away from me.'"

"She turned to the Prophet and said, 'Where are the rest of the children?' He said to her, 'Emma, be patient and you shall have all your children.'"

**EMMA HALE SMITH** was a great woman, and made an invaluable contribution to the coming forth of the Church in these last days.