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Moroni Looks Down upon a World at War

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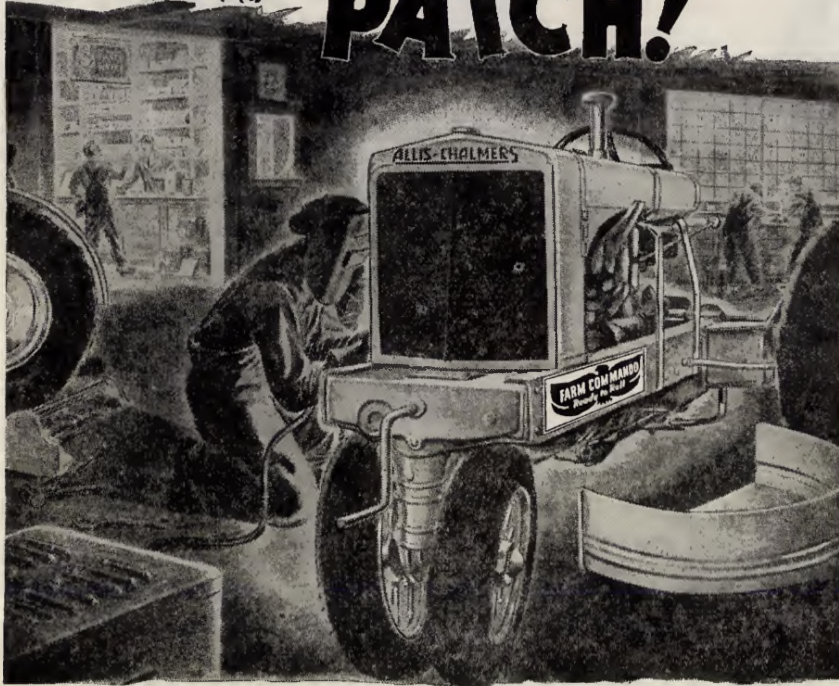
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Abstract: This article describes how Moroni experienced two aspects of war—he rallied his soldiers in defense of their liberties and later witnessed the destruction of his people. Moroni later wrote concerning the destruction of his people.



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MORONI

Looks down upon a World at War

By E. CECIL McGAVIN

THE first great Nephite general who bore the name "Moroni" led the armies of his people against the Lamanites nearly a century before the birth of Christ. He it was who rallied his people in a defensive war when the hosts of the Lamanite warriors came against the peace-loving Nephites.

The historian has said of this engagement and the spirit with which the Nephites went forth to battle:

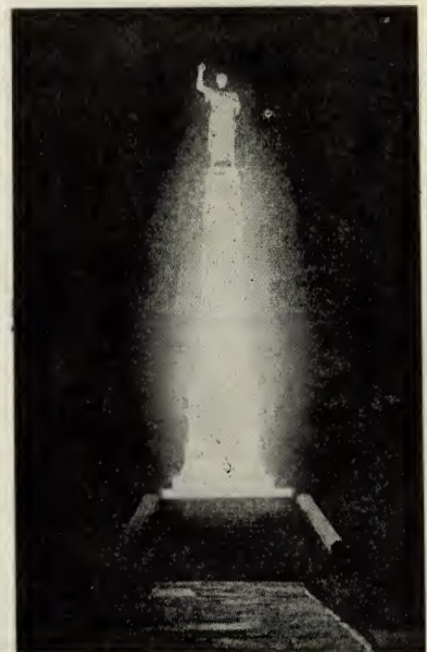
. . . the Nephites were inspired by a better cause, for they were not fighting for monarchy nor power but they were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites of worship and their church.

And they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God; for the Lord had said unto them, and also unto their fathers, that: Inasmuch as ye are not guilty of the first offense, neither the second, ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain by the hands of your enemies.

And again, the Lord has said that: Ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed. Therefore for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion. (Alma 43:45-47.)

Years later another Moroni, the custodian of the sacred records of his people, witnessed a vast nation go forth to war from which not a single Nephite re-
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THE ANGEL MORONI MONUMENT, BY TORLIEF KNAPHUS, AT THE HILL CUMORAH



THE IMPROVEMENT ERA

Moroni

(Concluded from page 6)

turned alive. The first Moroni rallied his soldiers from among the God-fearing Nephites who were entitled to the protection of heaven as they armed to defend themselves against a ruthless and wicked foe. The later Moroni witnessed the annihilation of his people because they had forsaken the God of the land who had promised to protect them only as they merited divine intervention.

Moroni wrote of the destruction of his people when he was the sole survivor of the Nephite nation:

And behold, the Lamanites have hunted my people, the Nephites, down from city to city and from place to place, even until they are no more; and great has been their fall; yea, great and marvelous is the destruction of my people, the Nephites.

And behold, it is the hand of the Lord which hath done it. And behold also, the Lamanites are at war one with another; and the whole face of this land is one continual round of murder and bloodshed; and no one knoweth the end of the war.

And now, behold, I say no more concerning them, for there are none save it be the Lamanites and robbers that do exist upon the face of the land.

And there are none that do know the true God save it be the disciples of Jesus, who did tarry in the land until the wickedness of the people was so great that the Lord would not suffer them to remain with the people. . . . (Mormon 8:7-10.)

If the voice of Moroni could be heard today telling the fate of this nation, I wonder what his words would be!

Eulogy of the Bell

(Concluded from page 19)

brighten her home. Well do I recall the words of one aged sister: 'Sister Lula, if God ever blesses you with a child, I'll ring the church bell.' One evening just as the sun had gone to rest, I could see the aged sister on her crutches walking down the street. She turned into the church, and soon the bell was ringing loud and clear. It seemed happy to tell the little village that Sister Lula was the mother of a beautiful daughter.

"Now, do you understand why I love the old bell?

"Yes, our church is beautiful—and how faithfully those in charge have worked to make it so. The people here have stood by their leaders.

"I stood under the walnut tree in my back yard and watched the workmen lower the bell from the top of the church. It cried out as if in the agonies of death. No one seemed to realize we'd no more hear the sound of one that had served so faithfully. Now it will be placed in a cellar where the cobwebs will cover its form, and when I go to the other shore there will be no bell to tell of my departure. . . ."

Mother's reminiscing done, neither of us spoke for a long time. We listened, both of us, to the tones of memory evoking a past that cannot die so long as there is someone to tell the story of the bell.

JANUARY, 1944



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