

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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CONFERENCE NOTICE

The Seventy-fifth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, commencing on Thursday, October 6, 1904. A general attendance on that day of the officers and members is requested and expected.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN B. WINDER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

PESTILENT REPORTS

It is stated that many tourists who visit this city are scared away and do not prolong their stay, because of reports that the drinking water here is impure and contains the germs of typhoid and other diseases. It is reported that this story is circulated "from train to train," until travelers are frightened and while here call for filtered or distilled water, to say nothing of stronger beverages, and that they therefore do not stay here any longer than is necessary to take a brief glance at the city of the "Mormons."

Of course there is no foundation in truth to the watery tale. Analyses repeatedly made by competent persons, including City Chemist Harnes, have demonstrated the purity of the streams from which our supplies are drawn, and while typhoid fever has claimed some victims at times as in other parts though not to the same extent, there is no reliable evidence that the cause lay in the water used in our families.

We do not believe that the story has had the effect claimed to anything like the alarm reported. The stay of the average tourist is short, because of the time limit of his transportation ticket and the number of places embraced in his tour. But there may be something in the rumored scare, or rather its alleged effects upon the traveling mind. However, there are tales that are told which have a far worse impression than does the story about the waters. And they are as destitute of real foundation as any falsehood that ever emanated from the lower regions, although they mainly proceed from the pulpit and the press.

The reports that are spread abroad about the beliefs, the practices and the conditions of the "Mormon" people, are much more likely to keep folks from staying here long, than any misrepresentations about the drinking water. And they are of home manufacture. They are concocted largely for political and sectarian purposes. They are so grossly false, and many of them so grotesquely absurd, that they should be rejected on sight or first hearing, by people who use their own brains. But there are so many people who do not think for themselves but give credence without reflection to what they hear or read, that the most ardent nonsense passes with them for fact, and thus mankind is deceived, and error flashes abroad while truth is refuted in the rush of the world's affairs.

The libels, false accusations, buffalogues of men and matters of import, inferences and insinuations of the most scandalous character, insults and blackguardisms proceeding from creatures whose personal lives are bestial and infamous, that are given publicity every day for the basest of purposes, are so common here and so notoriously untrue that they are common and pass almost without protest or censure. But they are concocted for outside effect and for a time accomplish their despicable purpose.

They are the vile stories that frighten tourists, that scare away capital, that prejudice the public mind against Utah, that do injury to the State and hinder its advancement. And yet there are respectable men and firms here who know these rumors and charges to be utterly untrue, and who are damaged in business and property by their diffusion, who are notwithstanding too timid or careless to raise a voice or lift a hand to stop the tide of vituperation and calumny, that ebbs and flows at the will of miserable miscreants whose resentment is a pestilence and whose breath breeds rottenness.

The virtue of patience is cultivated in the midst of these conditions, and that is of much value. "Learn to labor and to wait" is the poet's advice, and it is good to follow. That these maligners and their ilk will fall and fall into oblivion, is as sure as that light will

drive away darkness and the creatures thereof, and justice will claim its own here and hereafter and "verily, they will get their reward!"

## GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

Friends of the Dr. Groves L. D. S. Hospital will be pleased to learn that Dr. Joseph S. Richards has received from Mr. David Keith, of this city, a cheque for one thousand dollars in aid of the hospital. We learn that Senator Thomas Kearns has promised to duplicate the amount and its arrival is confidently expected. We return thanks on behalf of the committee for this liberal assistance.

These and other donations from different sources are highly encouraging to the promoters of the institution. It is progressing finely, is near to completion and in a very short time it is hoped by the October conference, will be open for occupation. It is not to be exclusively for the benefit of people of one church or denomination but pro bono publico.

If there are other generous persons who wish to give their aid to a worthy enterprise which will crown their names with honor, they will do well not to delay in sending in their contributions for the new hospital, which is one of the needs of the State and of the times, and which will be conducted on the most scientific rules and principles and be first class in every particular. Now is the time to extend the helping hand!

## CITY LIFE UNHEALTHFUL.

Mr. Balfour, recently, in an address before a British scientific association argued in favor of the proposition, that the modern tendency to crowd into cities is prejudicial to health and fecundity. The close quarters, he said, of the tenements are not alone responsible, since in rural villages crowding produces no such ill effects; the air of the city is inferior and becomes devalued before coming to the lungs of the town dweller. Reference was made to the fact that the rise in the death rate of London during a fog, when the "dead air" remains in the city, always is considerable. He adduced evidence for the statement that town life is favorable to the numerical preponderance of a dark-eyed and dark-haired race, and that such are more liable than the light-eyed and fair-haired to pulmonary tuberculosis, to neuritis (including epilepsy) and to cancer.

This gloomy view of the tendency to crowd into cities may be but too well founded. The facts presented emphasize the necessity of the scrupulous observance of the rules of sanitation, a supply of pure water, the opening up of parks, and other modern improvements. American cities, especially in the west should not be in danger of becoming death traps. They were founded on a magnificent scale with ample room for expansion. The streets and thoroughfares are wide enough to permit the free circulation of air. The buildings have as yet liberal ground, although the tendency is already manifest to cut up "lots" into diminutive pieces, and place dwellings in the rear as well as the front of the lots. Laws for the regulation of such things may be called for, since it is proved that overcrowding of cities means sickness, and a high death-rate.

## LYNCHERS AND CHURCHES.

The officers of the Methodist church in Statesboro, Ga., where recently two negroes were lynched under particularly shocking circumstances, have taken notice of the affair, to the extent of issuing a call upon the members of the church. Rumor has it that some of the members were in the mob of lynchers, and the "call" directs those that were there, provided the rumor is true, "to make public confession of wrong, with expression of penitence and contrition," or to withdraw from the church. It is a commendable measure, but does it go far enough? One who takes a part in a lynching is a murderer, and to call upon murderers to "make public confession of wrong, with expression of penitence, or to withdraw from the church," cannot but be considered an irregular proceeding. Church discipline must have more severe rules for the treatment of that class of transgressors. The Atlanta Constitution thinks that "when it is made known from one end of this country to another that the Methodist and the other branches of the Christian church have no room for lynchings among their membership; when it is made clear that the lyncher's crime is against not only the state, but the church; when the text furnished by the Methodist church of Statesboro is adopted by the preachers throughout the land, a long step toward the prevention of lynching outbreaks will have been taken." This would indicate that, in the opinion of that paper, the participation in lynchings by church members is, by no means, a rare occurrence, "can that be possible?" Can it be true that members of Christian churches are largely responsible for the unspeakable crimes of mobs in this country? If so, the facts should be generally known.

## MORAL SURGERY.

A somewhat curious story is told from Indianapolis, Ind., about a boy who was cured of moral defect by a surgical operation. Surgery has made wonderful progress during the last few years, but if the story referred to be true, this may be the first time it has been employed to effect a moral cure. The claim is that a boy, fifteen years old, was considered incorrigible. When he was taken out of school he had only reached the second grade. Last March he was brought into court by his mother, and charged with incorrigibility. The officers believed that he was suffering from a physical defect. An examination by Dr. John Kohlmeier bore out their theory. The mother recalled that when he was three years old he fell while wading in a stream and struck his head on a stone. Dr. Kohlmeier's examination showed there was a concave formation of the skull where it should have been convex. An operation was performed the first week

in July. Three pieces of the skull were removed, and on the under side the surgeon found a thick growth which has been pressing heavily against the brain. Fourteen days later the boy was permitted to leave the hospital, and now, we are told, he was no longer surly and unmanageable, but ready to obey the wishes of his mother. She could hardly understand what was responsible for the complete transformation, for the boy is now, it is said, as bright and happy as other children.

The story suggests that perhaps in a great many cases, criminal tendencies depend on physical formations, or rather malformations. The bodily organs, being the instruments through which the spirit operates, the operations must be imperfect, if the instruments are entirely out of order. No matter how skillful a mechanic is, with bad tools his workmanship will show defects. There is a moral training as well as a physical training. And the aim of moral training is similar to that of physical. Only its scope is to form and strengthen that which we call character, in accordance with moral standards, while the physical training confines itself to the body. It cannot be denied that certain physical formations may impede progress along certain moral paths. Otherwise, why should it be more difficult to some to speak the truth, than it is to others? Why should there be kleptomaniacs? Why should many feel themselves utterly unable to quit drink? Moral training in all such cases, if correctly conceived, means by gradual and earnest application to perfect the physical features and give them the form necessary for the performance of that which is right. It is a long process, especially after the age of childhood is left behind. It is always difficult, but especially so, after character is once formed. Is it true that the knife of the surgeon can come to the aid of the teacher, as of the physician? That is the question.

"Quo Vadis" is Kuropatkin's favorite novel.

When a man quits politics for good, it is usually for the public good.

What a splendid dark horse the learned horse Hans would make!

The man who has mastered Russian nomenclature is the true spellbinder.

Of the motives behind the New Liberal party "not the half hath been told."

So cheerful are most candidates that their hopes cannot be blasted with dynamite.

Columbia still wants satisfaction. What she needs is a right good spanking.

All the letters of acceptance are so long that there is no room for a postscript.

When the Czar wants to read about a Russian victory he reads about Shipka Pass and Plevna.

Peary is going after the north pole again. How well has he learned his lesson, "Seek and ye shall find."

Boothkeepers are becoming a fad in some parts of the country. Their sayings soothe the tired ear of society.

Major-General S. S. Sumner's report on forts in the Department of the Colorado was written with much abandon.

If the Japanese insist on conducting a winter campaign, as they now threaten, it is very apt to develop into a game of freezeout.

"Is Japan liable to lose sympathy?" asks an exchange. Be that as it may, she doesn't seem liable to lose battles, which is of much more importance.

These Russians are as optimistic as the man who, when told by Noah to come into the ark, said he didn't believe that it was going to be much of a rain.

Senator Fairbanks is said to be a great reader of poetry. For the time being he has put aside this favorite occupation in an endeavor to read his title clear.

The navy board believes that the sea fights of the future will take place by night. So the vessels of the navy are practising target shooting by night. No longer will ships that pass in the night be safe.

The public schools of this city are non-partisan and non-sectarian and should be kept so. The cry that they are not is a false, foolish cry, and those who raise it would, if they could, make them anti-"Mormon." That is their aim and nothing else.

## THE LENA.

Pueblo Chief. That terror of the seas, the Russian cruiser Lena, appears to be a very harmless and pacific terror after all. Apparently the thing most desired by her crew is to be forced into neutrality by the United States government, and to be compelled to remain at San Francisco until the war is over. Instead of being a sea wolf seeking to devour American ships and American cargoes, the Lena appears much more like a frightened rabbit dodging into the open door at San Francisco to keep out of the clutches of the Japanese.

## Portland Oregonian.

Where is the note of joy from St. Petersburg at the Lena's great victory in getting into San Francisco safe and sound? Its enterprise is almost as great as Kuropatkin's.

## San Francisco Call.

The question of the Russian warship has been settled by the President without ruffling the dignity of Japan or Russia. He gives her two months in which to make repairs and get out, and as an alternative she must go now or disarm and lie here till the close of the war. Of course she will disarm and rock idly on the bay until peace comes.

## Springfield Republican.

The arrival of the Russian auxiliary cruiser Lena at San Francisco is in no sense a disturbing element. There are established rules for dealing with belligerent warships in neutral ports, and the United States government has these

rules as well as other nations. If the Lena is in a seaworthy condition, she should go to sea again after the customary 24 hours of hospitality; if, however, she is unseaworthy, the ship is entitled to stay longer in port. The Japanese minister naturally protests against allowing the Lena more than 24 hours in port, for that is a part of his business. Our government's business, however, is to make its own investigation regarding the Russian ship, its own conclusions, and act accordingly. The captain of the Lena, in any event, will be controlled by the Washington government's decisions as to his rights.

## Los Angeles Times.

The presence of the Russian cruiser Lena in San Francisco harbor recalls but other time when Russian cruisers anchored in the same waters. It was during our Civil war, in the darkest hours of danger and trial that this nation has ever known. And those who lived in those times and especially those who fought then for the preservation of the Union, will remember what a consolation the presence of those Russian ships were to us. Our gratitude to the government of the Czar then knew no bounds. But where is that gratitude now? Shame on the American who so soon and so easily forgets.

## New York Evening Post.

According to the accepted law of nations, the Lena can now make such repairs as are necessary, provided that these repairs in no way increase her powers as a fighting vessel. Repairs to machinery are not included in this category. When the time comes for the Lena's departure she will undoubtedly be allowed to take all the coal she wishes, whether her "nearest home port" be deemed Vladivostok or Lihau. Once she has passed the three-mile limit, she will be free to intercept any American or foreign vessels bound for Japanese ports with contraband. But her return to San Francisco for more coal would then be impossible, since this would be making that port a base for hostile raids upon the enemy.

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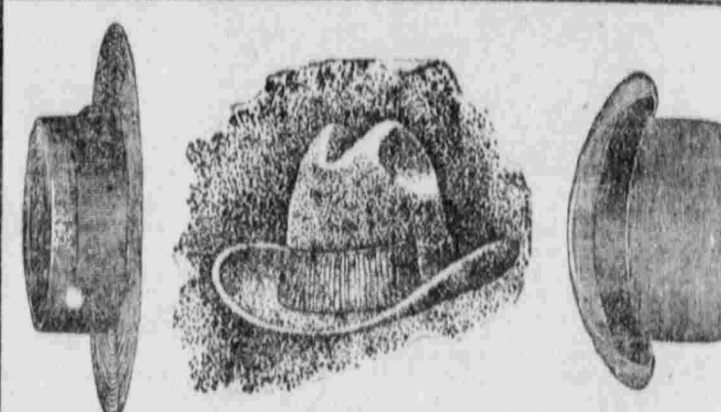
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