

DESERET EVENING NEWS
 Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.
 PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
 (Corner of First Temple and East Temple Streets
 Salt Lake City, Utah.)
 Charles W. Penrose, Editor
 Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
 One Year, \$2.00
 Six Months, \$1.25
 Three Months, \$0.75
 One Month, \$0.25
 Single Copies, \$0.05
 Foreign Edition, per Year, \$3.00
 Single Copies, \$0.10
 EASTERN OFFICE:
 104-105 Times Building, New York City. In
 charge of B. E. Cummings, Manager Foreign
 Advertising from our Home Office.
 Correspondence and other reading matter
 for publication should be addressed to the
 Editor.
 Address all business communications
 to the Business Manager.
 SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 5, 1901.

DID JOHN BECOME A SKEPTIC?

"Would you please answer the following questions, through the 'News' or personally:
 "1. Why did John the Baptist send to Jesus to ask if he was the Christ?
 From Matt. 11 ch. 2 and 3 verses.
 "2. Had he lost the Holy Ghost, the spirit of revelation?
 And oblige yours very respectfully,
 M. M. N.
 The foregoing comes from Idaho. It relates to an incident in New Testament history, which has caused a query in many inquiring minds. After John the Baptist had been specially raised up as the forerunner of the Messiah, and had testified repeatedly in public that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, it is very improbable that he had any doubt concerning the divine mission of the Savior. That he did as he had lived, a true and valiant servant of the Lord, is evident from the fact that he appeared in this generation to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdrey, bearing the keys of the Aaronic Priesthood, which he bestowed upon them. Jesus also bore witness to the greatness of John's prophetic mission and character, as will be seen in the chapter referred to.
 The key to the apparent difficulty is this: The individuals who came to Jesus had been inquiring of John concerning the Messiah, and after he had spoken so often and openly as to the Sonship of the Savior, John, perhaps impatiently, being vexed at their queries, told them to go and ask him themselves. It was for their information, not for John's that he sent them, and for theirs, not John's, that Jesus made his reply. This will answer both questions at once. Read the whole chapter, and the context will bear out this meaning given to the text that is cited. John fulfilled his mission, and died a martyr to the cause he so nobly sustained.
 But suppose, for argument's sake, that John in prison, and shut out from knowledge of what was going on outside, should for the time be clouded in mind, and be tempted to make the inquiry. Even that would show but a temporary weakness, like that of Peter when he made the denial which is so often mentioned. Both Peter and John were true to the end, and the spots, supposed to blur their shining records, serve to show up by contrast the great glory of their lives and the integrity of their real character.
NO CRISIS, NO RIVALRY.
 The San Francisco Call publishes an article, evidently furnished from Salt Lake, headed "Mormon Church Facing Crisis." It states that the "right of succession in the Presidency is a matter of keen rivalry," and goes on to explain a situation in the "Mormon" Church which largely exists in the imagination of the writer. The spasmodic efforts of some public journals, local as well as on the outside, to exhibit familiarity with "Mormon" ecclesiastical affairs is very amusing, but sometimes becomes irritating because of the false impressions they create among the uninformed.
 In this instance there is a mingling of fact and fiction, that illustrates the ignorance in relation to the spirit and order of the Priesthood in the Church, which is so prevalent among newspaper men who pretend to knowledge of inner affairs in "Mormonism." There is not, neither can there be, any "rivalry" as to presiding positions in the Church. The idea that Apostles or other leading Elders contend or scheme for place and power, is utterly fallacious. The tactics of politicians, the ambition of candidates, the opposing forces of supporters of favored friends, are all foreign to the system called "Mormonism." There is no place in it for any of those disturbing elements. They are precluded by the system itself. It is so organized that it is ready for any emergency that may arise, and its procedure is so fixed by revelation and rules established by custom, that "rivalry" is entirely out of the question.
 As a matter of fact, there is no occasion for anything of the kind set forth in the Call article, nor is there any dispute or misunderstanding or doubt on the subject of succession, among the dignitaries of the Church. It is also a mistake to think there is any "suspension of apostolic functions," when Apostles are selected for any special position or work. An Apostle is an Apostle, no matter where he may be appointed to labor or preside, and the President of the Church and his counselors lose none of the "apostolic functions" when they act as the First Presidency.
 When prominent newspapers desire to present to the public anything relating to the doctrine or discipline of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they would do well to consult some of its authorities before publishing the effusions of non-"Mormons." It is very seldom indeed that one of that class obtains correct information about the Church or its principles or workings, and a disposition to be exact is very rarely exhibited by persons who aim at sensation.
 There is no crisis, present or prospective, which the Church has to "face," there is no rivalry, active or incipient, among the prominent men of the Church. Its organization is complete

THE PARTING HAND.

In consequence of his election to the important office of County Commissioner, Mr. James H. Anderson has resigned his post as telegraph editor of the Deseret News, which he has occupied ever since the new management took charge of the paper. Previous to that, Brother Anderson was identified for many years with the Deseret News as compositor, foreman, reporter and editorial writer. He was for twenty-nine years a faithful worker, devoted to the interests of this journal, and his experience as a printer, familiar with all departments of the trade, his excellent memory, his acquaintance with Utah affairs, and the experience gained while on a foreign mission, combined to make him a valuable member of the staff. His knowledge of local conditions and his judgment as to ways and means, will render him very useful on the board to which he has been elected, and we wish Brother Anderson further success and greater pleasure in the new position on which he is about to enter. Every person belonging to the "News" establishment will join us in congratulating him on attaining to an important public office, and in desiring his future health, happiness and prosperity.

ON FINAL AUTHORITY.

The exchanges from all parts of the country tell of watch meetings at the dawn of the century, by which those interested in religious work hoped to awaken new life in the old churches, and attract new members.
 At the same time, those intimately acquainted with the religious conditions of the masses find an indifference to religious "revivals" which is truly remarkable, in view of the claims made by the leaders of various denominations.
 One of the causes of this indifference is by an intelligent observer said to be the prevalence of what is known as higher criticism. Among the masses, who understand but imperfectly what the question in controversy is, there is an impression that the Bible is all myth. Pulpit orators in vain seek to prove their doctrines by the Scriptures. Questions from holy writ do not have much more effect than an appeal to Northern, or Greek, mythology would have. In the minds of many the name of Jehovah excites no more reverence than the name of Thor or Jupiter. The teachings of Jesus are held to be no more authoritative than those of Confucius or Socrates. There is no authority, and the consequence is indifference to the pulpit teachings.
 Just as the break down of Romanism in past centuries was followed by a wave of rationalism, so the present onslaught on the Bible has been accompanied by a flood of infidelity, from which no temporary "revival" seems to furnish a safe ark or refuge.
 What the "Christian" world needs is the establishment of divine authority in all matters of both faith and practice. There must be a foundation more firm and solid than either the dictum of men, or the disputed documents handed down from ages. Anything short of divine revelation, such as was always given to the children of God in the most critical periods of their history, must perish in the storms that now rage around those who "live by faith." When this fact is understood, it will be seen why the Almighty, in the century of higher criticism, raised up His prophets to speak to the world, as He did formerly.
 And we are happy to learn that the truth is slowly dawning, even upon the occupants of pulpits. A missionary just returning from the East says an intelligent clergyman, in a conversation, expressed himself to this effect: "If your people are morally clean, as you state, they are bound to come out on top, for we are rotten." And that is the key to the future, "Mormonism," represented by a clean people will prevail, for that alone offers a safe foundation for faith in God, and in man, when higher criticism shall have undermined Protestantism, as this shook Romanism to the very foundations. When the authority of councils, popes and the Bible itself, is disputed, the authority of the Lord still remains, and to that authority "Mormonism" appeals.

AN IDEA OF JOURNALISM.

The New York World of Tuesday, Jan. 1, appears in a most unique form, 32 pages, but only four columns wide. It contains a great amount of news, local and foreign, but all in a most condensed form.
 The issue comes as the suggestion of Mr. Alfred Harmsworth as to what the twentieth century journalism will be, or ought to be. Mr. Harmsworth is the editor of the London Daily Mail, and he was invited by the World management, to take charge of the New Year's issue of that journal, to illustrate his idea of the new century news paper.
 Mr. Harmsworth thinks the paper should appear in a form convenient to read on the cars, or in the rocking chair; that it should be indexed, so that the busy reader can obtain at a glance an idea of the contents without having to laboriously search through page after page; and that it should contain some of the best news of the day, with which no one in no other way can become acquainted.
 He asks the American public for an impartial verdict upon this enterprise. We believe it will be quite generally endorsed. Among the intelligent newspaper readers there has long been a deeply felt want for condensed news, with all superfluous matter eliminated. So called "full" accounts, in which the effort to elaborate merely for the sake of filling space is but indifferently con-

coated, are not appreciated. Whether Mr. Harmsworth's idea will be carried out immediately is another question. There is another feature of journalism that should receive attention during this century, and that is the selection of news items. Sensationalism should not be its chief attraction. The pyrotechnics that burn and throw sparks for a moment and then are no more, may make the children, but they may also cause injury for life. And the same may be said of the literary firecrackers that are the only distinguishing marks of some public journals. What the people need is a press that fearlessly speaks the truth for the sake of the truth, and that stands up for what is right without regard to pecuniary reward. The twentieth century press would do well to combine the ideas of Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Harmsworth, by so doing it would come very near perfection.

NEW CENTURY THOUGHTS.

This is, according to the Springfield Republican the greeting of Mark Twain to the Twentieth century:
 "A salutation speech from the 19th century to the 20th, taken down in shorthand by Mark Twain.
 "I bring you the stately matron named Christianity, returning bedraggled, besmudged and disfigured from pirate raids in Kiachoo, Manchuria, South Africa, and the Philippines, with her hair full of manes, her pockets full of beads and her mouth full of pious hypocresies. Give her soap and a towel, but hide the looking-glass."
 It is good enough to be preserved in any scrapbook where literary curiosities are gathered.
 Ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, in reply to the question, what, in his opinion, is the chief danger that confronts us in the new century, says, in the New York World:
 "Ignorance, greed, centralization of wealth and of social and political power, and the consequent inequality of position and opportunity without which liberty and justice cannot exist."
 President Hadley, of Yale, replies to the same question thus:
 "Legislation based on the self-interest of individuals or classes instead of on public sentiment and public spirit."
 There is no lack of warnings as to the dangers that confront mankind from time to time, but the trouble is that very few have the wisdom of heeding those warnings and the moral stamina to act accordingly. Nations will plunge into dangers, as cattle into the flames of a burning stable, and resist every effort at leading them to a place of safety.

UTAH POSTER.

Utah Poster is the name of a Swedish weekly published in this city under the auspices of some representative Scandinavians. The current number is a very creditable literary effort. As a special article it has a brief biographical sketch of Apostle Anthon H. Lund, and on the editorial page appears a good translation of the greeting of President Lorenzo Snow, to the world. The paper has a page of news from Sweden, and another page of local and Utah news, and besides, interesting stories. The advertising patronage is quite liberal. The Swedish residents of Utah have, we believe, quite generally felt the need of a paper that would bring them news from their old home, and be a messenger of peace from those valleys to friends they have left behind, and as such we can recommend Utah Poster to the Swedish public. What Elkhous has for many years been to the Danish-Norwegian settlers in this region, Utah Poster, we understand, will be to those from Sweden. Success!

Past day tomorrow. No services in the Tabernacle.

If hazing did not kill Cadet Booz it can hardly be claimed that it tended to prolong his life.

Smallpox has broken out at Harvard university. Those having it are entitled to a doctor's degree or certificate.

Yesterday the Senate threshed over once more the Philippine question. How much better it would be to thrash the Filipinos.

How can a reservoir be filled when there is not water to fill it? That is a problem which confronts the water authorities.

Once again Aguinaldo is reported dead. That man seems to have as many lives as a cat. In fact his nature appears to be quite feline.

School trustees, read Attorney Dan Harrington's letter in this evening's "News." It is sound and timely, and right to the point.

One of the best things to stick to is a good resolution, but at the present a large number of people seem to be satisfied with something other than the best within reach.

Lord Roberts has settled down to work in the war office and Lord Kitchener has settled down to work in South Africa. And so here endeth the Boer war.

Whitaker Wright, the moving spirit of the London and Globe group, recently collapsed, had the stalls in his stable adorned with his beliefs and valuable paintings. All of which shows that he lacked good horse sense.

In Chicago, the world's greatest live stock market, 14,822,315 head of live stock was handled in 1900. The valuation was \$22,000,000. This is the largest valuation on record, and many times greater than at any other live stock market.

The United States began the nineteenth century with 5,308,000 population; it closed it with 75,300,000. On January 1, 1892, it had 1,015,000,000 acres in territorial area, and 100 years later it had 2,405,000,000 acres. No other country approaches it in growth.

The name of the new district attorney of New York city is Plibbin, and the newspapers are making suggestive remarks to him by asserting that most of his predecessors have been Philopockets. If he does his duty with New York officialdom, as it is commonly des-

cribed, he will earn the title of Phil-Jail.

Notwithstanding the efforts of doctors, inoculation in all forms is meeting with intelligent determined opposition. In New York even the prominent live stock breeders object to injections of tuberculin into their healthy live stock, and are clamoring for the repeal of the law which they now find is working a useless hardship.

The suspension of a native Filipino judge, for improper administration of the duties of his office, has been made permanent by the Taft commission. Just before his retirement from office, Gov. Roosevelt removed from office the district attorney of New York city for much the same cause that the Filipino judge was suspended. The administration of justice in the Orient and in the Occident is not so greatly dissimilar after all.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

New York Churchman.
 The order and unity of a national and Catholic church admit the very largest possible liberty, but that liberty must be based upon some principle of obedience. To law, else liberty becomes license. The laws of the American church are enacted by general convention, and the moral obligation to obey the laws of general convention is not dependent upon whether those laws are essential to doctrine. If we may add anything to the church's ritual which does not contradict her essential faith, then surely we may omit any unessential part. Perhaps we should have a larger liberty, but in order to secure the legal right to have it, we must first be absolutely loyal to the law that we have. Because if we will not obey the laws that we have, there is little hope that we would obey better laws.

New York Christian Intelligence.

After deducting Romanists and Jews, the sick, aged, and infants, and allowing for irregular attendants, it seems certain that full one-half of the people of this city are present at church services. The habit of church attendance, if account be taken of the second service, the proportion of churchgoers would be found still less. The question is, how shall this condition of things be improved? It cannot be done by changing the character of the church service. This has been tried again and again. Magic-lantern shows, more elaborate music, pulpit discussion of current events, advertisement of taking themes, have been found ineffective, to be of only temporary value, and in the end to increase rather than diminish the evil. This is the natural result. Such methods give the idea that the aim of the church is merely to entertain its attendants, and its attractions will soon become less strong than what is elsewhere offered. If the church seeks to compete with the opera and the variety show, it will certainly fail. The attractive power of the church is the same as that of the cross. Its office is to save men, and nothing will do this but the faithful preaching of the gospel.

New York Evangelist.

As in Achan's time, so now, the first great peril lies not in opposing enemy but in attacking Christ. The world cannot be won by Christians who are more anxious for personal enjoyment, enrichment, or power than for divine conquest. It turns from the ideals we champion to our lives. It does not demand impossible perfection, but it does demand genuine sincerity and true humility. With the deeper spiritual vision characteristic of his maturer years, Mr. Moody began all his later evangelistic campaigns with earnest and devout effort among churches and Christians. From the beginning until now, the things men most intensely desire are the things which they most certainly secure. There is no mystery about the wealth and learning of these later years. The toll is unrelenting; heart-aches are not counted; sacrifice is never measured. Under these conditions, it would have been miraculous if Mr. Moody had not increased and learning advanced. The need of the hour is not that we should go back to either the poverty or the illiteracy of the past. With philosophy and passion, in pulpit and hotel, God asks that Christ be supreme.

New York Outlook.

Very significant of the tendency of public opinion is the simultaneous article on "Knickerbocker Days," by E. S. Martin, E. A. A. Grange tells about "How to Judge a Horse," and Vance Thomson writes about "Beauty on the Plains." This article has a number of fine illustrations. "The Patronage of High Bear" is a story of adventures among Indians, by Owen Wister. Emil Finkler talks interestingly about the "Fable Press." "A Samaritan of the Le-Bar" is an illustrated story by R. L. Ketchum. Brander Matthews discusses "Americanisms Once More," and Francis E. Clark, D. D., writes about "Some Chinese Oddities." Among the remainder of the list of contents, "Questions of the Day," "The First Men in the Moon," and "The Knight of the Golden Fleece," by Edgar Saltus, attract special attention—Irvington, New York.

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INAUGURAL BALL

Given by the officers of the NATIONAL GUARD OF UTAH.

In Honor of GOV. HEBER M. WELLS

And the State Officers.

SALT LAKE THEATRE, JAN. 7, 1901.

Most elaborate electrical decoration ever arranged in this city.

Tickets, 15 extra lady 21. Spectators' tickets, admitting bearer to balconies, 50c. Tickets on sale at Salt Lake Theatre Saturday and Monday until 6 p. m., and by members of the committee. Present invitations when securing tickets.

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HALF PRICE SALE
 At Z. C. M. I. Commencing
MONDAY, DEC. 31, 1900.
 Ladies' Jackets and Fur Goods, Scarfs, Collarettes, Coats and Capes, all new, and the latest styles.
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200—Men—200. 50—Horses—50.
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 "A Riot of Enthusiasm. A Triumph of Stage Craft!"—New York Journal.
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the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington. The publishers of this magazine have conceived the splendid idea of making its covers of historical and educational value, and this is the first of a series of famous paintings to be reproduced in this way. The number opens with a story, "The Reign of Soggy Smith," by Harry L. Snydman, which takes the reader to the frozen wilds of Alaska and depicts life in that region. This is followed by another story, "The Woman-Beater," by Israel Zangwill. Then "The National Convention of Cuba," is discussed by special correspondents of the Monthly. There are several other stories, and appropriate illustrations. The frontispiece is a striking drawing representing the expiration of the year—Fifth Avenue, New York.

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NEW GRAND THEATRE,
 M. MARTIN KALLMAN, Manager.
 Monday, January 7th,
 First Performance of
Ralph E. Cummings
 And His Incomparable Company
 In N. C. Goodwin's
 Greatest Success,
A GILDED FOOL
 Seats for the first two weeks now on sale. MATINEE SATURDAY ONLY. Reserved Seats will be 25c in any part of the house. Matinee seats sold only on Saturdays. Box Office open continuously from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.
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