

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 5, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, 1904, and continue until Wednesday, April 6. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested and expected.

JOSEPH F. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

THE COURSE OF REVILERS.

The sensational headlines which some of the local papers are printing, for the purpose of inflaming the public mind over the senatorial investigation at Washington, are very misleading and intentionally so, because not warranted by the information that follows.

The testimony of President Joseph F. Smith has disclosed nothing in the shape of a "skeleton" nor anything in the nature of a "mystery." The facts as to the "Revelation on celestial marriage including the plurality of wives," have been published to the world for more than half a century.

But, as the Deseret News has explained over and over again for many years, a number of people had contracted such marriages and their covenants were for time and eternity. In most instances they would not repudiate their sacred obligations, no matter who or what earthly authority demanded it.

This has been no secret to the people of Utah. His declaration is nothing new in principle. There need be no sensation or excitement about it. There is not, in the minds of well-informed people, any "Mormons" or "Gentiles."

But they attempt, by juggling with language and downright falsehood, to make it appear that the Deseret News has denied the truth of their charges in this particular. This paper has never disputed either of the propositions or declarations presented by President Joseph F. Smith. It has denied the charge that plural marriages have been solemnized by the "Mormon" Church since they were prohibited by manifesto.

The trouble with anti-"Mormon" papers and preachers is, that they will not abstain from falsehood. They know very well when they proclaim that "Mormon" leaders are practicing polygamy that they are deceiving the general public.

of prominent "Mormons" who married plural wives before the Manifesto, it has argued repeatedly as to their position generally and their duties in the relations they had formed.

"Mormonism" is being held up before the nation in a way that could not otherwise be obtained for it. Prominent men and earnest women will learn enough about it to be anxious for further light.

Of course the state of society outside of Mormonism will not be entered into in this investigation, but it would not be amiss for people who are holding up their hands in holy horror at men who have plural wives and will not cast them off in any particular, to take note of common relations in the Christian cities of this country, that are not only unlawful but frequently involve the desertion and repudiation of women and children, and conduct that is both heartless and animal.

The "lifting up of the curtain" that hides these practices would, disclose an array of "skeletons" that would be both startling and hideous and, mark it, one need not go very far from this city to find cases in point.

Mind this! We make no comparison between the evils that abound in this "Christian" land that are winked at and condoned, and the system of wedlock revealed through the "Mormon" prophet, God forbid! We simply give a hint to some of the corrupt and depraved gentlemen (?) who attack the Saints and are soaked themselves in debauchery or spattered with vice, that they are not "living within the law," and it ill becomes them to shout and point the finger at men who would rather forfeit their lives than descend to the level of their revilers.

THE CASE OF SENATOR SMOOT.

In the investigation before the Senate committee concerning the "Mormon" Church, the case of the right of Senator Smoot of Utah to retain his seat in the United States Senate is almost lost sight of. The tenets, discipline and ceremonies of the Church, and the family relations of its President, have formed subjects of such great interest to the Senators on the committee and others, that the question referred to the Committee on privileges and elections seems to have been relegated to the rear, for the time being.

Renewal of the official investigation of the right of Mr. Smoot of Utah to a seat in the United States senate is made in Washington today. Witnesses have been summoned from Utah to testify as to Smoot's connection with the Mormon Church, which is fully admitted by Smoot, and regarding the requirements of the faith of the Mormons, which is nobody's business so far as Smoot's right to a seat in the senate is concerned.

Religious prejudice is at the bottom of the business, with political ambitions supplying the structural material of the opposition to Smoot. Utah is entitled to the representation in the senate. There is no dispute of the proposition that Smoot was regularly and lawfully elected. His alleged lack of right to his seat hinges wholly upon the assertion that his Church connection and obligations disqualify him to perform the duties of his position.

It is easy to understand why a Gentleman in Utah might be opposed to the influence of the Mormon Church in politics. It is not difficult to comprehend why politicians in Washington who owe their prominence more frequently to prejudice than to patriotism are willing to respect long tedious remonstrances from their constituents. It is incomprehensible why citizens who are not interested in Utah politics and who believe in religious as well as a political freedom, should encourage a lot of well meaning women to concentrate their opposition to polygamy in a political attack upon a man who never practiced polygamy, simply because he is an influential member of a church organization which is being divorced from polygamous influences as rapidly as common decency and humanity will permit, with regard to long established conditions.

LAW BREAKERS OF HISTORY.

The mere charge that a person is a law-breaker, does not count against him in the enlightened public opinion. It all depends on circumstances. There are law-breakers and law-breakers. Some are justly visited with the penalties of divine and human laws. Others are not only exonerated by history, but honored as benefactors of the human race.

Wycliffe, the English reformer, was a "law-breaker," when he gave to the people the Word of God in the vernacular, and thus laid the foundation for the glorious English literature, that has been a beacon light to the world, ever since. At least, his dead body was dug up and burned to ashes, in 1418, by the authorities that had persecuted him during his life-time.

Most law-breakers deserve the chastisement of the law, but history has some "law-breakers," to whom it points with pride as the vanguard in the battle of civilization against the forces of evil, ignorance and prejudices. The true martyrs of Christianity are among these law-breakers.

Murderer Rose surely has a thorny path.

Fast day tomorrow. No meeting in Tabernacle.

There is no doubt about this being the month of March.

If Russia cannot float her sunk navy she will try to float a loan.

The punny folks continue to poke fun at General Pflug's name.

Listen and you will soon hear something drop around Port Arthur.

According to Herr Bebel, German army administration is maladministration.

That New York hotel that totally collapsed was not built upon the sand, either.

The Car says he wants to go to the front. Considering the distance it is a long felt want.

The question is asked, What is the name of the Hobson of Japan? Jap Hobson, of course.

Peru has been shaken by an earthquake. Better that than to be shaken by a revolution.

Just as soon as the harbor of Vladivostok is clear of ice it will be filled with Japanese warships.

Might doesn't make right, but it often makes success, which many people think is always right.

The billet-doux that King Edward and Czar Nicholas are exchanging are just "too sweet for anything."

After a close study of the evidence adduced we are compelled to ask, "Where does Senator Smoot come in?"

Professor Triggs, late of the University of Chicago, is learning that there is no place for the assertively eccentric.

The Whitney racing stable is to be kept intact. This shows that Harry Payne Whitney is a tractable young man.

The editor of the Royal Oak (Md.) Banner announces "we have hog cholera in our midst." Circo must have touched him.

Dr. Harper of the University of Chicago has been operated on for appendicitis. There are others there who should also be operated on.

The Latter-day Saints will assemble in the various wards in fast meeting to-morrow. They should bear their testimony and avoid other topics.

Mayor McClellan of New York is making his enemies very mad by proving himself an excellent executive who has the interests of the city at heart.

The London Spectator thinks the prospects for a great European war are rather good. It should change its name to the Spectacular.

The current number of Truth shows up in good shape the falsehood of the Tribune in reference to the work of our Senators, attributing to Kearns that which was done by Smoot.

The little pleasantry that passed between President Smith and Senator Hoar about the bishop's wife was one of those touches of nature that make the whole world kin.

Hiam, the Boston man who embezzled over a quarter of a million dollars, was the secretary of a surety company. Here is a case where the saying, "Physician, heal thyself" is applicable.

A Chicago bank has issued an order that henceforth no clerk in its employ shall marry without the bank's permission unless his salary is a thousand dollars or more a year.

The question whether women preachers are desirable is being discussed by a number of religious papers in the east. The fact has been brought out that there are fifty-three women filling pulpits in the United States, with eight-hundred others soon to be ordained.

The criticism of the American Bible society by Rev. Dr. Moxon of Springfield, and other prominent clergymen, has called out a vigorous reply from those at whom it was directed, and the controversy is likely to continue as long as the columns of the public press remain open to the contestants, for each side carries heavy batteries and the guns are not easily silenced.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS. Sacramento Bee. The question whether women preachers are desirable is being discussed by a number of religious papers in the east. The fact has been brought out that there are fifty-three women filling pulpits in the United States, with eight-hundred others soon to be ordained.

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The Bible is replete with poetry. The Hebrew poets rouse, warm, and transport the mind in strains the sweetest and the hardest ever sung. In numbers, the loftiest that imagination ever dictated. No poetry extant equals that which comes to us from the rapacious patriarch of Idumea and the inspired prophets of Salem, from the schools of Bethel and Jericho.

Dowie, the Zionist, whose move upon New York was so pronounced a failure, is having a very uncomfortable time in Australia, where he went expecting to make a host of converts and obtain an abundant supply of money for the rebuilding of Zion City, near Chicago, and his personal enrichment.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

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The Black Cat for March has two prize stories. One is "The Backsliding of Miss Mirelly," by Mrs. Clark Dooley, and the other is "Fragments of State," by Arthur Chamberlain.

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Immense Reductions to Close Out. Men's 50c Egyptian Ribbed Shirts or Drawers 35c. Ladies' \$1.25 Woolen Waists 50c. Men's \$5.00 strictly all wool Pants \$2.50. Ladies' 50c Neckwear 25c. Ladies' 50c Woolen Hose 25c. Youth's \$5.00 long pant School Suits, ages 11 to 15 years \$3.90.

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THE CELEBRATED CARTOONIST, MR. HOMER DAVENPORT, Will Lecture in the Salt Lake Theatre, On Sunday Evening, March 6 at 8:15, on "The Power Of A Cartoon."

FLORENCE ROBERTS' OPINION OF M'DONALD'S ZAZA-BAR. J. G. McDonald, Esq., Salt Lake City, Utah. Dear Sir:- Allow me to thank you for the packages of "Zaza-Bar." It is certainly a confectional creation. I believe Zaza had a sweet tooth by nature. If not, she certainly would have developed one by the taste of such delicious candy. A great play is one that contains something for every taste and appeals alike to gallery and boxes. The Zaza-Bar seems to have been combined on the same universal principle, and I wish it all the wide-spread popularity it so sweetly deserves.