

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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

Lorenzo Snow, Trustee-in-Trust.

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 12, 1900.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

Whenever divine truth has been revealed through chosen instruments commissioned from on high, there has been a determined effort to prevent its diffusion among mankind. That power which "rules in the hearts of the children of disobedience" is naturally opposed to the plans and purposes of the Holy Ones.

The "world," moved upon by the spiritual "powers of darkness," resents and resists the influence and the principles of "the kingdom of heaven." It is so from the beginning. It is no different today. The dispensation of the fullness of times meets with the same obstructing and repelling forces that always fought the previous dispensations that were introduced for the salvation of mankind.

There is a marked difference in the methods as well as in the spirit of these opposite influences. That which comes from on high, while vigorous, forcible, and in some respects aggressive, has no disposition to coerce, to crush or to injure. That which comes from beneath endeavors to compel, to bind, to intimidate, to destroy. It seeks to "muzzle or kill." If it cannot silence the objects of its wrath, it will try to accomplish their destruction.

The history of all the Prophets and of their missions, whether upon the eastern or western hemisphere, shows the workings of the two opposing principles and the character of their weapons. They are similar in all ages and dispensations. They come from the same sources though they are manifested through different individuals. The authority that is from God acts by light and truth and love, by argument, persuasion and testimony. The antagonism to it from the Adversary works by sophistry, cunning and deceit, by anger, violence, oppression and bloodshed.

The Bible, giving accounts of these conflicts on the eastern continent, and the Book of Mormon, relating them as to the continent on which we live, tell a similar story in these respects.

"Which of the Prophets have not your fathers slain?" asked the Great Teacher, of the pious pretenders in Palestine. The same question might have been asked of their compatriots among the former inhabitants of this land, when He afterwards appeared to the Nephites.

If the lips of the servants of God could not be sealed and their tongues silenced in other ways, the tongue of the sword were the means employed to prevent their accomplishment of the work entrusted to them. Always they were made to appear offenders against the law, or offenders of the honored customs of the period. This was the plausible excuse of their persecutors. They must either be "muzzled or killed." Even the guiltless Nazarene was denounced as a malefactor and accused of treason against Imperial Rome.

Today the same opposing forces are in operation. The results, however, will be different. Some of the valiant and faithful who could not be "muzzled" by the latter-day Pharisees and their aiders and abettors, have been killed, sealing their testimony with their blood. Others may suffer the same fate. But this last dispensation will not and cannot be overcome. The truth that has been revealed will prevail. The authority restored will remain. The spirit within that gives it life will abide. The "Kingdom" will not be destroyed nor given to another people. It will stand forever.

"Muzzling" and "killing" will not avail in the last dispensation. Misrepresentation, abuse, calumny, ridicule, mobocracy, imprisonment and assassination will fail to destroy the system which is planted here to stay. The fate that may overtake individuals will not suppress the work which they leave to others. It will go on. As the sun dispenses the shades and fogs and mists of the departing night, and rises till the earth is flooded by its midday light and glory, so that which the world and the devil fight as "Mormonism" will conquer all foes and illuminate and exalt mankind.

The would-be muzzlers and slayers may have temporary and apparent triumphs. But the victory will not be theirs. He whose right it is to rule and reign has set His hand to consummate the work in which each of His servants in past dispensations performed his part, and there is no power beneath the stern beacons that can turn aside His purpose.

There is a duty resting upon every one who has enlisted in the campaign under the Cross of Salvation. It ought not to be shirked. The antagonism it causes in the world is natural. Let none be afraid of opposition. Let all be ready to meet the consequences. He who introduced it and stands at its head has said, "Lo, I come; my reward is with me; my work is before me." Now is the time to labor, and they who continue unto the end will overcome and wear the conqueror's crown.

THEIR WORK SPIRITUAL.

A contributor to Gunton's Magazine undertakes to enlighten the readers of that periodical upon the question of "Mormonism." He claims to have authority for the statement that the members of the Church now number in all 250,000, of which 225,000 live in Utah; 20,000 in Idaho; 10,000 in Arizona; 5,000 in Colorado; 3,000 in Wyoming; 2,000 in New Mexico; 2,000 in Nevada; 1,000 in California; 1,000 in Montana; 2,500 in the eastern and southern States, and others in foreign countries.

After having given these statistics, the writer in Gunton's says the Saints think it will only be a short time before they will "prevail" over the United States, and that in the "fulness of time" they will dominate the world.

"The Saints," he goes on to say, "firmly believe that they will ultimately rule the United States, not only spiritually but politically also; that all other creeds in the world will be swept away and that the 'Mormon' religion, . . . will finally be accepted by universal mankind. The 'Mormon' creed teaches union of Church and State."

We notice that the author of the article, from which this is a brief extract, fails to give any reference whatever to the article of the creed, or the Church standards of faith, that would substantiate this allegation. He simply makes an assertion and expects an intelligent public to accept his word as authority. But if that be the rule, any religious body can be represented as believing whatever absurdity may enter the imagination of its traducers.

It is somewhat of a mystery that fairness is so conspicuous for its absence in the dealings of most people with "Mormonism." The Church has its standards of faith—the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price—"but the faith is seldom judged by the contents of these books, but by something else, and chiefly by the representations of enemies. The writer in Gunton's is no exception to the rule."

The statement that the Saints expect to "prevail" over the United States and finally control the world is made in order to create prejudice against them in the minds of those ignorant of the Scriptures. It is on a par with the old falsehoods that the first Christians were traitors to the Roman rulers.

The Saints believe with nearly all Bible students that their Lord and Savior will finally control not only the United States but the entire world. They believe that to Him has been given all power in heaven and on earth, and that it is only a question of time until all His enemies shall be reduced to subjugation. They believe that finally "all nations shall come and worship before the Lord," and that the glorious work in which they are engaged will help to bring about this triumph of the Lamb. But their work is a spiritual one. Its aim is the "salvation" of both living and dead.

In this respect the Saints do not differ from other believers in the Scriptures, who expect the final triumph of truth, and the coming of the Son of God to reign in Millennial peace upon this earth. Through the Church, it is true, the belief in this doctrine has been revived in this century, and the light of revelation has been shed upon it as never before, not even in the first Apostolic age, but it is no treason to a state to hold that it finally will be governed by the Son of God, and in accordance with His laws. If that were treason, the Bible itself would be the most dangerous book in existence.

THAT CANAL.

The New York World gives some figures regarding the Nicaragua canal which, if correct, illustrate the comparatively speaking small value of that proposed waterway to any but the countries of the American continent. The figures are: Distance from London to Manila via Suez canal, 9,600 miles; from London to Manila via Nicaragua canal, 14,880 miles, or 5,280 miles more than through the Suez canal.

The distance from New York to Manila via the Suez canal is given as 11,565 miles, while the distance between the two ports via the Nicaragua canal would be 11,746 miles, or 181 miles more than via Suez.

The canal would therefore have much less commercial and strategic importance to the rest of the world than to the United States. And this is an argument in favor of the contention that if the waterway is built at all, it should be controlled by this country.

The canal bills pending in both houses of Congress authorize the President to acquire from the states of Costa Rica and Nicaragua the control of whatever territory may be necessary for the construction and defense of the canal. It is to be of sufficient depth to admit ships of the greatest tonnage and draft. The proposed route of the canal is from a point near Greytown, on the Caribbean sea, via Lake Nicaragua, to Brito, on the Pacific ocean. The construction of the canal is to be under the direction of the war department, and the sum of \$140,000,000 is to be appropriated for the completion of the project.

All seem to admit the need of a canal. There is difference of opinion, though, as to whether it ought to cut across Nicaragua or the Panama isthmus. Opinions are divided as to whether it ought to be built by the government, or a private syndicate. But these questions Congress will settle. The project itself seems to be assured.

PEACE AND INTERVENTION.

The ratification by the United States Senate of the Hague peace convention took place the other day with so little flourish, and so much unanimity of sentiment as to almost entirely escape the attention of the country. And yet it was a brilliant triumph for peace, at a time when the world seems to be on the verge of a most gigantic conflict.

The question will now be raised as to whether it is not the duty of this country to offer its good offices as mediator between Great Britain and the South African republics. Voices have been heard already in favor of such a course, and naturally they will now become still more urgent.

The arbitration treaty provides that

the neutral signatory powers in case of a grave conflict between two countries may of their own initiative, so far as the circumstances lend themselves to it, offer their good offices or their mediation to the disputing states. Such mediation may be offered even during the course of hostilities, and the exercise of the right thus vested in the signatory powers shall not be considered by either of the disputing parties as an unfriendly act.

According to this agreement the United States would be perfectly "correct" in offering to mediate between Great Britain and the Orange Free State, the independence of the latter country not being a matter of controversy. How the good offices of this country could be exercised in favor of the Transvaal, except indirectly, does not appear, as long as the contention is made that the Transvaal Boers are British subjects.

But although our government under the Hague convention, has a recognized right, if not duty, to offer its good offices for the termination of the African conflict, it is evident that it cannot be done until it has been ascertained with a reasonable degree of certainty that the friendly offers would not be rejected by either of the combatants. Neither the United States nor any other power can interfere at this stage of the conflict, or as long as the prevailing sentiment is that the sword must decide the dispute. It is expressly stated in the convention that the part of the mediator consists in the reconciliation of contrary pretensions and in the allaying of the resentments which may be caused between the disputing states, but when it is announced, whether by one of the disputing parties, or by the mediator himself, that the compromise or basis of a friendly understanding proposed by him have not been accepted, his duties as a mediator cease. In this case, the announcement that no compromise is possible has been made virtually by both contending parties, and the case is therefore carried beyond mediation.

Still, the signatory powers are supposed all through the conflict to embrace any opportunity that may offer itself for the re-establishment of peace, and under this provision our government would not be true to the Hague agreement, unless it would watch closely the South African events and grasp the first opportunity suggesting peace.

To friends of Great Britain as well as sympathizers with the Boers, cessation of hostilities should be most welcome. It is clear enough that the Boers are determined to stay their country and their lives dearly. Even a final victory will be bought at a tremendous sacrifice of life and loss of property. Undoubtedly our government will interfere in behalf of peace as soon as this can be done with some reasonable hope of success, but no sooner. The government, not those outside the diplomatic circle, must judge of the opportune moment, and how to use it to gain the end in view.

SAMOA PEACEFUL.

Elder W. L. Worsenroft, of Payson, Utah, who, who has just returned from a mission to the Samoan Islands, says normal conditions are again returning among the people after the war. The natives, he thinks, prefer American rule to any other, but they are satisfied with the cessation of the tripartite arrangement, which has brought them so much trouble.

The missionaries and the Saints generally have gained much favor among both the natives and the foreigners, because of their attitude during the war. They refrained from taking sides with either of the contending parties. They proved that their mission is not of a political but of a spiritual nature, and they gained in favor as a consequence.

Elder Worsenroft says that the work on the wharf in the Pago-Pago harbor has been temporarily abandoned, because soft bottom instead of coral reef was struck. The construction will have to be commenced elsewhere, and the cost will be much more than at first estimated. It is generally believed that the new arrangement of government will prove satisfactory to the natives, and that there will be no further trouble. The native Samoans are easy to rule, as long as they are treated with kindness and in accordance with the dictates of justice.

APPRECIATIVE.

While the Desert News is assailed by a few wrathful persons who cannot refute its arguments and testimony, the editor is in frequent receipt of words of approval and encouragement, and also of urgings to continued and increased resistance against the foes of truth. We appreciate them all, but do not publish them for obvious reasons. The following, from a valued correspondent in the north, we do present because it is brief, to the point and expresses some of the views, in a moderate way, of many others who rejoice in the success that is attending this paper:

Mr. Editor: The many readers of the Desert News are well pleased with the noble and manly career of the editor in standing fearless for right and truth and valiantly defending the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the President and officers of the same, and our sentiments are, God bless the editor and all connected with the Desert News. Though a lie will set the whole world ablaze while truth is fighting a match, yet the false blaze will sooner or later fade in darkness, while truth will shine in all its glory, and all those that will stand valiantly for truth to the end will shine in the glory of God for ever.

There may not be a negro rebellion in the French West Indies, but affairs are getting dangerously near that point.

Moniz White says the Boers are ready for peace. No doubt this is true. Evidently they are also ready for the other thing, too.

A measure of Cuba's improvement under American administration may be noted in the ten-fold increase in the number of schools.

The Soudanese mutiny now resolves itself to a comparatively small affair, and little danger to Britain is to be expected from that quarter.

Kentuckians seem to be peaceably inclined now. What a good thing it would have been if they could have taken on that feeling a few weeks ago.

When a little yellow dog barks, bigger but not more formidable foes generally join in the yelping chorus. Sometimes it is amusing, at others annoying, but it is only noise after all.

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Lord Salisbury is secure in his place as British premier. The opposition to the government has shown itself to be so woefully divided as not to be even a successful working minority.

While the plague in Manila is on the decrease, there is enough of it there to make the utmost vigilance to keep it out a necessity still on the part of Pacific coast quarantine officials.

The proposition to lease the arid lands is talked of considerably, but thus far it is entirely out of sight, and probably will be kept there so far as the stockmen's committee to draft a bill is concerned.

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CONVERSION OF A CONGRESSMAN.

New York Mail and Express.

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Boston Transcript.

Congressman Sibley is grateful, anyway. It is recalled that thirty years ago Sibley was beginning his career in Chicago, and Lyman J. Gage, as cashier of the First National bank at the time, helped him out with some money when Sibley was in the security which he offered. That is the way some people explain Mr. Sibley's ardent defense of the secretary of the treasury. The explanation is rather more beautiful than statesmanlike.

PEACE CONVENTION RATIFIED.

New York Mail and Express.

The ratification yesterday of the Hague treaty was the one thing needed to place the United States in line with the other nations represented in that compact. Events have already impaired the world's confidence in the treaty as an operative measure in the interest of international peace, but it serves as an expression of ideals and purposes which mankind heartily approves and which the moral influence of civilization may yet combine to carry to practical realization. In its broadest sense the compact will be generally regarded as a milestone in the tortuous highway to durable peace among the nations.

Chicago Record.

So general is the sentiment in Congress and throughout the nation in favor of international arbitration that the treaty formulated by the czar's peace conference was ratified by the United States Senate on Monday without opposition. Because of the unanimity of sentiment the Senate's action excited little interest, but the outcome is the more significant for that reason. All are willing to concede the principle of arbitration. With an international tribunal always sitting to hear disputes between nations, there should be substantial progress in applying the principle in actual practice.

A FORGOTTEN HERO.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

It is noteworthy that the reputation of our great soldiers was in every case built up of long as well as brilliant service. In no case has it been the result of any single deed, however heroic. In fact, others have performed single deeds of heroism surpassing in brilliancy, perhaps, any single deed of any of these great soldiers. In such cases, as a rule, these heroes are known only to the reader of abstract history. A single instance will serve to illustrate:

Just where the town in Ohio perpetuating the name of the first Republican candidate for the presidency, and the home of a more successful subsequent candidate for that high office, is now situated, was a wrecked stockade called Fort Stephenson. Its armament consisted of one gun and a garrison of 160 men, commanded by Major George Croghan, a young officer of twenty-two. He was born not far from Louisville, Kentucky, in 1791, and came of fighting stock, for his father had been an officer in the Continental army, and his mother was a sister of George Rogers Clark. Graduating from William and Mary College in 1810, he entered the army, was in the battle of Tippecanoe in 1812 and 1813, and so distinguished himself in a sortie from Fort Meigs that he was appointed an aid-de-camp with the rank of major, and assigned to the defense of Fort Stephenson. The army consisted of the Indians who were coming across country from Fort Meigs should make a flank attack, Harrison had authorized Croghan to burn the fort and retreat. This he did not do. "We are determined to maintain this place," he said, "and by heaven we will!" Harrison thereupon dispatched an officer to relieve him. But Croghan went to headquarters, carried his coat, covered that of the enemy, and the commander summoned him to surrender, sent back a stout defiance. The next day the bombardment began, and after an afternoon an assault was ordered. The English soldiers, in three columns of one hundred and twenty men each, were to attack three sides. The Indians, next to the fort, the four, but as they came out of the woods into the open a steady and well-directed fire from the fort drove them back. The British troops, thus left to fight alone, came on bravely to the very gates, made every possible effort to get into the fort for a short time, and then retreated with all of the officers and one-fifth of the men killed, wounded or missing. The wave of enthusiasm which rolled over the country as the result of this victory equalled anything of the kind seen in our day, but who today knows anything of the personality of Major Croghan?

SPICE.

"I don't know that I like the horrid, less-carriage business," observed Wilkins. "First thing we know people will be making a turkey-like Thanksgiving dinner fashionable."—Harper's Bazar.

In time of peace—Hilworth—"I'd like to make a bargain with you." "What's the next day?"—"What?"—"Hilworth—If you won't give your boy a drum on Christmas, I won't give mine a horn."—Philadelphia North American.

Her National Rights—Mamma—"I don't see where you get your red hair; you don't get it from your papa, and you certainly don't get it from me." Little Dorothy—"Well, mamma, can't I start something?"—"Puck."

At the Front—Editor (Podunk Herald)—"I heard anything from the war correspondent we hired at five a week to represent us in the Transvaal?" Foreman—"Yes; here's his dispatch about the last battle—There was a perfect hail of bullets, some of which were as big as hen's eggs."—"Puck."

Two of a kind—First Invalid—"What's the matter with you?" Second Invalid—"Agu. What's your trouble?" First Invalid—"Same thing." Second Invalid—"What? Let's shake for the drinks."—Chicago News.

"Say, old man, I want to take you around some evening and introduce you to a mighty clever girl!" "Excuse me. I have to do brain work all day, and prefer when evening comes to give my faculties a rest."

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Boston Transcript.

Congressman Sibley is grateful, anyway. It is recalled that thirty years ago Sibley was beginning his career in Chicago, and Lyman J. Gage, as cashier of the First National bank at the time, helped him out with some money when Sibley was in the security which he offered. That is the way some people explain Mr. Sibley's ardent defense of the secretary of the treasury. The explanation is rather more beautiful than statesmanlike.

PEACE CONVENTION RATIFIED.

New York Mail and Express.

The ratification yesterday of the Hague treaty was the one thing needed to place the United States in line with the other nations represented in that compact. Events have already impaired the world's confidence in the treaty as an operative measure in the interest of international peace, but it serves as an expression of ideals and purposes which mankind heartily approves and which the moral influence of civilization may yet combine to carry to practical realization. In its broadest sense the compact will be generally regarded as a milestone in the tortuous highway to durable peace among the nations.

Chicago Record.

So general is the sentiment in Congress and throughout the nation in favor of international arbitration that the treaty formulated by the czar's peace conference was ratified by the United States Senate on Monday without opposition. Because of the unanimity of sentiment the Senate's action excited little interest, but the outcome is the more significant for that reason. All are willing to concede the principle of arbitration. With an international tribunal always sitting to hear disputes between nations, there should be substantial progress in applying the principle in actual practice.

A FORGOTTEN HERO.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

It is noteworthy that the reputation of our great soldiers was in every case built up of long as well