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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 24, 1966.

NOTICE.

The Seventieth Annual Conference of
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints will convene in the Taber-
nacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on
Friday, April 6th, 1966.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

IS CHRISTIANITY DECLINING?

The question "Is Christianity declin-
ing?" has been discussed of late both in
the churches and among people who are
not connected with religious denomina-
tions, but are interested in the progress
of religious and philosophical thought.
A recent article in the New York Her-
ald offers some opinions on this subject
which reflect the views of many per-
sons of both classes. The conclusion
reached therein is, that the religion of
Christ is advancing, while "the church-
es are being emptied because people do
not believe what is taught there." That
faith in its larger sense is on the in-
crease, while belief in religious dogmas
is rapidly decreasing.

It is evident that the writer of the
article in the Herald and the many per-
sons whose views he represents, take
the position that what they call "Chris-
tian ideals" are to them the sum of
Christianity. They say "real Christian-
ity is a life rather than a belief." They
appear to forget the fact that Jesus
Christ not only enunciated principles for
the acceptance of His followers, but or-
ganized a Church, in which they were
to become members and to be governed
and directed by its rules and instruc-
ted by its divinely authorized ministers.

The Herald writer says "Dogma is
not Christianity, but an insignificant in-
cident in connection with it." This is
getting to be a common notion among
thoughtful people, but it is a very
grave mistake. The Christianity of
Jesus of Nazareth is founded on dogma.
That does not consist of mere opinions
or speculative theories. It is doctrine
direct from Deity. The great Teacher
declared "My doctrine is not mine, but
His that sent me; if any man shall do
His will he shall know of the doctrine,
whether it be of God or whether I speak
of Myself." He sent His authorized and
ordained Apostles into all the world to
preach those doctrines which He re-
ceived from God, declaring that the sal-
vation of mankind depended upon their
reception of those principles. "He that
believeth and is baptized," said He,
"shall be saved, and he that believeth
not shall be damned."

Real Christianity is something more
than mere ideals. The writer of the
Herald article admits that the reli-
gion that is wanted is "the religion
of Christ, not as you find it in the
creeds, but as you find it in the New
Testament." Taking that work as a
guide, the notion set forth in the article
under consideration is an utter fallacy.
The New Testament gives the history
of the establishment of the visible
Church of Christ; an organized body
with Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists,
Elders, Bishops, Teachers, Deacons,
etc., "for the work of the ministry, the
perfecting of the Saints and the edify-
ing of the body of Christ" until all
should come to "the unity of the faith
and the knowledge of the Son of God."
What they preached was dogmatic.
Like the Master, they taught with au-
thority. John, the beloved disciple, de-
clared, "Whosoever transgresseth and
abideth not in the doctrine of Christ
hath not God."

The Christianity of the New Testa-
ment is a practical religion, directing
members of the Christian Church in all
the duties of life, and bringing them in-
to communion with the Head of the
Church by the spirit of truth which is
an emanation from God to lead man-
kind into the Divine Presence. Its
members were "all baptized by one
spirit into the one body." They obeyed
His ordinances and conformed to His
rules, and were associated together
under His discipline. It was not com-
posed of factional sects but was one
body. All its branches, wherever lo-
cated, were parts of its essential unity.
Those who departed from the faith
were severed from the body and had
no part or lot in the Master.

Modern so-called "Christianity" is al-
together unlike the system established
by Christ. It is made up of societies,
discordant in character, which have
been established on the opinions and
notions of men. Its primitive form is
gone. Its authority derived from God
has departed. The spirit that ani-
mated it of old is withdrawn. There
is in it no living standard to settle con-
troversy. The Herald article says:

"Official Christianity—that is, the-
ological or dogmatic Christian-
ity—has suffered greatly during
the last generation. A kind of chaos
prevails, but out of this chaos will ul-
timately issue a new and higher order
of thought."

This is correct as to fact, but specu-
lative as to what will be. It seems
strange that it never dawned upon the
minds of thinkers who perceive the de-

cadence of modern Christianity, and
long for the revivification of real Chris-
tianity, that the only power by which
order can be brought out of the chaos
existing, is that which brought light
out of darkness and the cosmos out of
chaos in the beginning of creation. The
Christianity of the New Testament was
God-given. It took divine revelation
to bring it into the world. No human
power can re-establish it. No "order
of thought" proceeding from the mind
of man can place Christianity on its
feet again, reconstituted in its proper
form and imbued with its former spirit.
That is the work of Deity.

We are rejoiced to know that the
Christianity of the New Testament has
been actually restored. God has spoken
again from the heavens. Jesus Christ
has once more ministered on earth. His
Church, with all its former perfections
of organization, ordinances, authority,
inspired ministry, divine spirit, unity,
power, gifts, blessings and vital force,
is a living entity, come to stay and to
draw into its fold all true believers in
the Christianity of Christ. It is de-
spised by orthodox as "Mormonism."
It embodies all the truths revealed of
old, and is blessed with continuous
revelations of truths adapted to the
present age.

It is both a belief and a life. Its
theology is dogmatic because it is di-
vine. It is the work of God and not
merely of man. It has withstood the
attacks of the professors and ministers
of the age, and survived the assaults
made upon its adherents with carnal
weapons. It is the religion of the
future. It will revolutionize modern
thought. It will win its way in the
midst of the darkness of this world and
fill the earth with its light. It is real
Christianity, and stands out in bold
relief and contrast to the counterfeit
Christianity which so many thoughtful
minds perceive is rapidly declining.

PRESS LIBERTY AND LIMITS.

The freedom of the press is dear to
every lover of liberty. It is protected
by the Constitution of our country.
Without it the most flagrant abuses in
official life and power would go un-
rebuked and unexposed. It is enjoyed
in the United States in a greater de-
gree perhaps than in any nation upon
the earth.

Sometimes that freedom extends into
license. It intrudes into private af-
fairs. It invades the home circle. It
presumes to have the right of prying
into the personal doings and opinions
of prominent men and women. It
parades before the public many things
that ought not to be disclosed. It then
becomes somewhat of a nuisance and
needs a salutary check.

Notwithstanding these occasional ex-
cesses, the American press is a mighty
power for good. There is nothing to
be compared with it as a disseminator
of general information. It is the great
engine on the modern road of progress
and intelligence. A little restraint,
however, should be put upon it in some
directions, but this should come from
a legitimate source. The guiding hands
and brains of this mighty force should
exercise such discretion as will suppress
any tendency to evil. "Laws are neces-
sary in this direction, but great care
must be exercised so that legislation
shall not cripple the energies which are
so active for the benefit of mankind."

The press reporter of the present time
is, of necessity, an almost irresistible
and ubiquitous person. He is an ex-
aggerated interrogation mark. Much
allowance should be made for him in
his apparent forwardness, not to say
impertinence. It is his business to find
out things. It is not his business to
invent when facts cannot be had; he is
supposed to chronicle the truth. It is
poor policy to attempt to hide from him
particulars that may properly be printed.
He is bound to get as near to the
bottom of public affairs as possible.
Heads of departments of all kinds
should aid him rather than block his
way, so that he may not be compelled
to resort to guess-work for items.

On the other hand, reporters should
not forget that sometimes reliance on
the part of public officials, in reference
to matters that ought to be held back
from the public, at least for a season,
is not only excusable but commendable.
For instance, the detection of crime
and the apprehension of criminals may
depend entirely upon temporary se-
crecy. If everything relating to it and
them is disclosed in the public prints,
the ends of justice may be defeated.
There are rules, also, by which public
officials are expected to be governed,
and the enforcement thereof ought not
to be counted a fault or ridiculed as an
assumption.

We notice that the chief of police in
this city has been held up to public
scorn and derision, because of the
stand he has taken in regard to the in-
discriminate issuance of information
for the papers, by every person con-
nected with his office. This we regard
as unjust criticism. A rule of the po-
lice department has been established
since 1890 as follows:

"Rule 41—No member of the force
shall communicate to anyone outside
of the force, any information pertaining
to the business of the department, or
the procedure for the protection of any
person wanted, without specific permis-
sion from the chief."

All the papers of this city desire and
expect to obtain and publish proper
information concerning the doings of
the police force and court, and they
look for assistance from the chief in
accomplishing this proper object. But
they should also cheerfully give
due regard to the duties incumbent
upon him in the position he is called
upon to fill, under the regulations per-
taining to his department. Let the
liberty of the press be maintained, and
the responsibility of public officials at
the same time be recognized.

A QUESTION OF THEOLOGY.

A contributor to the Saints' Herald
writing on the subject of the Godhead,
argues against the theology that takes
its position on the written inspired
word. He endeavors to reduce to absurd-
ity the philosophy which holds that life
springs only from life, and that every
design must have a designer.

His argument runs in this vein: Space
and matter had no progenitors. The in-
finite is also revealed in energy. Ener-
gy is not the product of so-called crea-

tion. There is an undesigned design
in shapeless matter. Only the infinite
One knows of the possibilities wrapped
up in a cloud of clay. God is no more a
product of law than is space. Only one
God because the infinite is not divisible.
Only one infinite space, one infinite uni-
verse, one infinite God, without the pos-
sibility of beginning or end, creation or
extermination.

On these rather incoherent prem-
ises, the writer in the Herald seems to
conclude that God is synonymous with
intelligence. He quotes: "Intelligence,
or the light of truth, was not created
or made, neither indeed can be," and
concludes: "Why not a personal God,
with a body of an undesigned design,
with a mind that is the uncaused cause
of the designed designs that environ
us?" Undesigned design and uncaused
cause! How much more intelligence do
those terms convey to the human mind
than the more familiar, "Three and
yet one;" "everywhere and nowhere;"
"without body, parts, and passions,"
yet having hands, eyes feet, etc., and
being capable of love, hatred, jealousy?
How much more intelligible is the ex-
pression "undesigned design," than
"square circle?"

The failure of the writer to convey
any light upon the subject reminds us
of the fact that all efforts at explaining
philosophically the mysteries of the
Godhead have failed. Philosophy has
not been able to penetrate except
through imagination beyond a very lim-
ited space of the tangible universe.
Every attempt at explaining the origin
of God, the mystery of His Being, His
qualities and attributes, by human rea-
son has finally resulted in some absurd-
ity. Were salvation dependent upon a
philosophical understanding of the God-
head, the greatest of sages would have
but little chance—in fact no more than
the most ignorant.

It is natural that it should be so. A
little child, though fully capable of en-
joying happiness, would not be able to
comprehend the origin of its parents,
their labors and aspirations. A little
child would at an early age admire the
architectural drawings of his father,
but it would be futile to make him com-
prehend the meaning of each line, the
process of construction, the cost of la-
bor and the ultimate object in view.
But man, frail, finite man, presumes in
this stage of knowledge to discuss the
nature, the attributes, the essence and
even the origin of God, as if all these
questions were no more than a com-
plicated problem in geometry, or algebra.

Locke, in his essay on Human Un-
derstanding, long ago pointed out that
the finite mind is necessarily incapable
of measuring the depths of
some subjects. That, in other words,
there are objects beyond the reach of
the human understanding, just as there
are objects beyond the reach of our
seeing, hearing and other natural fac-
ulties. He thought it would save much
idle discussion, if it were commonly
agreed that such is the case, but man-
kind has not profited to any consid-
erable degree by the hint of the English
philosopher. Discussions continue ev-
ery day about subjects which are much
farther beyond the ken of philosophy,
than are the actual conditions at the
South Pole.

With regard to the Godhead, all a
man on this earth can know for certain
is that which is written in the Word of
God, or that which is revealed by God
from time to time. The only question
in this connection is: "What is re-
vealed on that subject?" There is am-
ple room for discussion as to the gen-
uineness of the written word, its correct
interpretation and the harmony of one
set of passages with another, but when
the correct meaning of the word has
been ascertained, that ends discussion.
The question then is: "How do you
read? What has been revealed?" Is
the God of the Bible the being without
parts, without passions, without com-
passion, pictured by modern orthodoxy?
We think not. We believe every stu-
dent of the Bible who will read with-
out prearranged ideas will at once
discard that fictitious being.

There may be to be discrepancies in
the written revelations, but it is safe to
conclude that these are but apparent
and depending on our imperfect knowl-
edge. The time will come when our
knowledge shall become more perfect,
and then we will understand, and know
as we are known. In the meantime our
greatest wisdom is to believe God's
word.

Abraham became the friend of God
and a pattern to God's children in all
ages, because he had faith in the Al-
mighty. Through faith he lived as a
child under his father's care, and
through faith he was perfected until he
became fully accepted of the Almighty.
It is the philosophy of faith the world
today stands in need of, more than
speculation beyond the boundaries of
the world in which we live.

SOCIALISM.

The nomination at Indianapolis by
the Social Democratic party of Eugene
V. Debs for the Presidency of the United
States has called attention to that
party and its principles.

It is generally understood that So-
cialism aims at the complete recon-
struction of society, by a more equal
distribution of the products of labor
through the public ownership of land
and capital, and the collective manage-
ment of industries. But it is not com-
monly understood that the supposition
that Socialism would do away with
private property, is an error. Recent
writers on this subject seem to be an-
xious to correct the impression. They say
that under the new system all prop-
erty for the production of more wealth
would be common, while all non-pro-
ductive property would remain private.
True, it would be impossible for any one
to accumulate vast sums at the rate
now existing. There would be no mil-
lionaires, but there would be no pov-
erty either, the Socialists say. Each
worker would retain the right of keep-
ing and enjoying the full value of his
labor. That would be his private prop-
erty, and he would have plenty of it to
enjoy.

It need hardly be said that Eugene V.
Debs has not the slightest chance of
general recognition at the polls. Yet,
it is true that many of the ideas ad-
vocated by Socialists are penetrating
modern society, particularly in the old
countries, where the struggle for ex-
istence is more keenly felt than here.

by the laboring masses. Germany seems
to have Socialism as a necessary an-
tidote to militarism. In France, Bel-
gium, Switzerland, Denmark, the party
is strong and active. Its power is the
result of existing conditions.

The idea that Socialism would be the
panacea for all human ills must be dis-
missed. In Germany it seems to have a
tendency to loose morals, which in the
end will prove fatal to any social struc-
ture. Mr. E. H. Steiner in a recent
number of the Outlook illustrates this.
He tells of an interview with Dr.
Kunert, at the headquarters of the
Socialists in Berlin. Mr. Steiner ex-
pressed his astonishment at the fact
that so many young people lived to-
gether without being married, to which
Dr. Kunert replied:

"You must live somewhere in the
backwoods to be astonished at that; we
are beginning to be astonished if they
get married. No, I can't give you any
figures how many couples live that way,
but nearly everybody has a mistress.
They find it more convenient; they can
both keep at work; the responsibilities
are less, and when they get tired of
each other they separate."

During the course of conversation he
further explained that religion with
them was a "nebenache"—a matter of
second consideration only. "Some of
our people," he said, especially women,
go to church, but most of them do not
attend church, and in the census are
described as without creed.

Such is European Socialism. In Amer-
ica the party has a religious tendency,
at least partly so, and for this reason it
is safe to predict that whatever role
that party is to take for the develop-
ment of human society, must be as-
signed to the American branch of it.
Reform not based upon morality will
accomplish no permanent good in the
world.

Chicago proposes to take another step
toward placing it abreast of New York.
It is to have a horse show.

The report comes from Northern
Mexico that the Yaqui Indians there
are holding their own. They also ap-
pear to be holding a big body of Mexi-
cans at present.

The refusal of Denmark to sell the
Danish West Indies to the United
States is a case of where the popular
will far outrides the sovereign's will.
The king does not have all the "say so"
even in Copenhagen.

Samoa does not seem all peace now,
at least in the German possession of
Apia. But the upheaval will not last
long in the presence of the Kaiser's
troops, who have a summary fashion of
dealing with affairs of that kind.

The society scandals reported in Lon-
don from British South Africa would
seem to afford "V. T. Stead another op-
portunity to be sent to jail for telling
some plain but unpalatable truths
about British aristocracy.

A Dutch man-of-war has been sent to
avenge the eating, by cannibals, of
three Dutch officers. It is not to be pre-
sumed that the perpetrators of the
horror will be treated precisely as they
dealt with their Dutch captives.

Bishop Hurst is said to have an-
nounced, in a sermon, that President
McKinley, as soon as he becomes a
private citizen, will occupy the chair
of international law at the American
University at Washington. And now
the question is whether the bishop
spoke by authority or not.

Another week, and then election day.
It is the duty of each citizen to express
at the polls his or her voice in the
policy of government. This time the
issues are mainly national, and no qual-
ified voter should fall through negli-
gence to discharge the obligations that
come to the individual citizen on elec-
tion day. Remember Monday, April
2nd.

German colonization of Brazil is ex-
citing apprehension of German schemes
of aggrandizement. It is not likely that
the plans go farther than commercial
development, and even these can be
offset readily by the United States. The
infusion of German blood into the
Latin-American citizenship will be a
good thing, as shown by results in this
and other countries.

San Francisco also seems to be af-
flicted with a "crank" board of health,
judging by the reported action of the
business men of that city, who assert
that there has been no plague there,
nor any occasion for the scare which
the health officers started, and which
is injuring the business of the city.
Further progress in the controversy
should be both instructive and interest-
ing.

It is said the manufacturers in Chi-
cago are willing now to grant the ma-
chinists' demand as to hours and la-
bor, provided that no labor union's
business agent shall visit their shops
or interfere with their business. A
large amount of the opposition to
unions has arisen from the offensive
action of some of these business agents
who are better named agitators, and
who are really an injury to organized
labor.

There are fears in London court cir-
cles of disaster to Queen Victoria on her
visit to Dublin, and it is said that in go-
ing she takes her life in her hands.
Surely there are no sons of Ireland so
base as to offer violence to the good
queen on her friendly visit. The most
bitter enemy of the Irish cause could
scarce deliver it a more telling blow
than to direct an attempt against the
life of so universally respected a sov-
ereign.

The American soldier in the Philip-
pines is well spoken of, Bishop Pot-
ter, who recently returned from those
islands, says they are well behaved
men, setting an excellent example to
the islanders, steady, intelligent and
brave. Gen. Wheeler said of them:
"Your treatment and bearing toward
the Filipino people have been of a
character which could be well taken as
a model and example by all soldiers
placed under similar conditions."

The great question in religious circles
in Germany is that of union among the
various national churches. Professor
Beysslag, of Halle, has written a pa-
per on the subject, and many are talk-
ing of a "church of the empire." It is
difficult to see how that idea can be
realized. It would mean the elevation

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MONDAY, MARCH 26,

We offer elegant Ladies' 2-Clasp Kid Gloves, in black and all colors, worth regularly \$1.25, special this week for 95c

We also have in our Notions Department a Magnificent Stock of
VENICE ALL-OVER LACES, black and cream, FANCY VESTINGS in
endless variety. DRAPERY NETS, SPANGLED NETS, and a complete
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just arrived. It has been obtained in the best markets by careful
selection, and cash purchase, thus enabling us to sell at the lowest
possible prices. We have DIMITIES, LAWNS, BRAZIL CLOTH, JAP-
ANESE CLOTH, CABLE CORDS, PERSIAN LAWNS, PIQUES, LENO
CORD FANCIES SATIN STRIPED DIMITIES, SHIRRED CARGINET, PEAU
DE SOIE, MOUSSELINE CREPE RAYE, PICOTTE SATIN RAYE, OR-
GANDIES, Etc., in endless variety.

LADIES' WASH WAISTS.

A Beautiful Line, in Percales, Lawns, Gingham, Madras Linen.
A specially fine assortment of WHITE LAWN WAISTS, Plain, Em-
broidered Insertion, Lace and Silk Finish. Best line of Dress Goods
in the City.

Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Superintendent

of one church to the dignity of empire
church, at the cost of two of the three
having positions of equality. The Ro-
man church for one will never consent
to a compromise by which that can be
accomplished.

The San Francisco Chronicle takes
pleasure in announcing that a jury has
been found in that city willing to
award a woman \$2,500 in compensation
for injuries resulting from the over-
crowding of street cars on the Market
street system. The paper adds: "That
it is possible to prevent public con-
veniences from being overcrowded is
proven by the fact that they are so pre-
vented in other countries. It cannot
be denied except upon the hypothesis
that the people of America have less
power or less skill in the art of munici-
pal government than the people of
other countries."

The bill introduced in Congress last
evening by Representative Shafroth of
Colorado, is rather startling in its sug-
gestion, but it would effectually dispose
of questions affecting the Hay-Pauncef-
ote treaty. Mr. Shafroth's plan of set-
tling the Nicaraguan canal dispute is
to admit Nicaragua into the American
Union as a State. The very proposi-
tion will set Europe "by the ears," if
there comes any probability of its
adoption. So far as concerns public
sentiment in this country, the measure
may be a little premature, but strang-
er things have happened than would be
the passage of the Shafroth bill.

As a reply to the question whether
women are tender hearted, the Omaha
World Herald points out that one New
York millinery house has just con-
tracted with Delaware parties for 18,000
birds for decorative purposes this
spring and summer, and also tells a
story about a lady who saw some boys
worrying a cat. "O, please do not in-
jure the innocent pussy!" exclaimed
the woman. "Well, we ain't doin' noth-
in' but tryin' to kill the cat so's it
won't catch de bird on yer hat, ma'am,"
replied one of the boys. The ladies
evidently do not think of the numerous
innocent bird lives extinguished as a
sacrifice to fashion.

Salt Lake Theatre

GEORGE D. PYPER, Manager.

TONIGHT, Last Performance.

Willie Collier

In His Own Farce,

"MR. SMOOTH."

A Great Cast.

An Elaborate Production.

PRICES—Night, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.50.
Matinee, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.
SECURE SEATS NOW.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March
25, 26, 27, and Saturday Matinee,
BELLE ARCHER,
HOYT'S "A CONTENTED WOMAN."
Seats on sale Monday.

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Mon., Tues., Wed., and Wed. Matinee.

PAUL JONES,
Thurs. Night and Sat. Matinee,
BOHEMIAN GIRL,
Friday Night, only time,
THE CONDOLIERS,
Saturday Night,
LA PINCHOLE.
SEATS NOW ON SALE.

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Success Here
"This Season."Nearing Election.
If you are in Politics,
Be sure and See This.

THE SOCIETY EVENT OF THE SEASON.

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Surrounded by a magnificent cast
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A
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SPECIALTIES
AND
PRETTY GIRLS

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ist is coming to Salt Lake
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So Many Little Things

he needs—and tomorrow Sunday—you'll have a chance to
find it out. Shirts, Undershirts, Neckwear or Hosiery, no
matter—we've just what he
needs here. The new Shirts
are the swellest patterns
we ever saw—these all over
fancy kinds, to wear with
white collars, 75c to \$2.00.
Then we've a colored bosom,
white body shirt, cuffs to
match bosom, for 50c, and
it's the greatest lot of shirts
you ever saw for the money.

New nobby Neckwear
just in.
And some swell things in Fancy Hose.

One Price J. P. GARDNER, 136-138 Main