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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 23, 1905.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence on Friday, October 6th, 1905, at 10 a. m., in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City. All the officers and members of the Church are invited and urged to be present during the sessions of the Conference.

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

THE "ADVOCATE" AGAIN.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate keeps up its ding-dong-bell for the exclusion of Senator Reed Smoot from the body to which he was elected by the votes of his party. This time that paper takes advantage of Senator Cullom's article in the North American Review, to which we devoted some attention in a recent issue of the Deseret News. The Advocate reiterates its special pleading about "the practice of polygamy," "the defiance of the laws of the State of Utah," "hierarchy," etc. It winds up by declaring that "the conditions are such that the Senate should exclude from that body Mr. Reed Smoot, who is one of the rulers of the Church and connives at the violation of law by his ecclesiastical associates."

The logic of the Advocate on this matter is on a par with its general reasoning on "Mormon" affairs. A monogamist should be excluded from a seat in the United States Senate, because there are some persons belonging to the Church of which he is a member who continue in plural family relations contracted many years ago. The force of such an argument may be sensed by the editor of the Advocate, but it will not strike the ordinary reader as having much strength.

When different parts of the Advocate's article are brought together, they do not appear to have that harmony and unity which might be expected from a religious paper of that character. Polygamy, according to the Advocate, is a menace to the country, and yet it asserts:

"The Mormon people, as a whole, were never in large numbers guilty of polygamy. The proportion of polygamists was very small, but its practice was, and is today, by those who dominate the church and control its influence in all its affairs, both civil and ecclesiastical. The Mormon people are, as a class, an industrious, law-abiding, worshipful people. Their loyalty to their church and its doctrines is an evidence of their sincerity."

Now, according to the Advocate, which merely repeats what it has heard from other and unreliable sources, Reed Smoot was elected a United States Senator by the "Mormon" people. That is not true, except to the extent that some of the "Mormon" voters favored his election in common with their non-"Mormon" political associates. Others however were opposed to him. But, granting for argument's sake, that Senator Smoot was the choice of the people of his Church, who with the exception of a few individuals whose number is gradually but rapidly growing less, are and always have been monogamists, including the Senator himself, where is the "menace" that they offer to this nation or its institutions? And why should they be deprived of their constitutional right of representation in national affairs, through the illogical urgings of sectarian opponents? Every effort to connect Senator Smoot with "the menace of polygamy" has utterly failed. The charges echoed by the Christian Advocate are not only baseless, but they are silly as well as wicked.

The very admissions made by such writers as those of the Advocate and other religious periodicals, serve to show the weakness of their pleas. According to their showing, here are people honest, industrious, law-abiding, worshipful, sincere, who "were never in large numbers guilty of polygamy, the proportion of polygamists among them being very small," even when that practice was advocated and promoted, and they are to be denied the rights of American citizens as to the choice of their representatives in Congress, simply because a few persons among them are said to be still practising something forbidden by law!

And the man whose life has been demonstrated to have been free from the objectionable practice that so horrifies believers in the Bible, which holds up to the esteem and admiration of mankind such friends of God and proclaimers of His word as Abraham, Moses, Gideon, David, et al. is to be cast out from association with gentlemen elected from other States where corruption and licentiousness prevail to a widespread extent, because a few persons in the commonwealth which sent him to the Senate do not live in conformity with the rules of ordinary society. Comment on such "reasoning" may be regarded as superfluous.

The Advocate further reaches the conclusion that, on the grounds already set forth, the United States Senate should "submit to the people an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting polygamy and polygamous cohabitation." That is to say, the extinction of a practice involving a mere handful of people in a remote part of the country and which is daily diminishing, needs the passage of an amendment to the national Constitution, which would require not only action by Congress, but that of every State in the Union, covering a period at the close of which in all human probability scarcely a vestige of the object to be attained would be in existence! The wonderful wisdom, reasoning and political acumen displayed by these sectarian would-be dictators of national legislation, must be patent to all thinking people. The justice, consistency and Christian character of the Northwestern Advocate shine out brightly in such a galaxy.

THE BOOK OF MORMON.

On the 22nd day of September this year, it was 82 years since the Prophet Joseph first beheld the sacred records known as the Book of Mormon, resting in the receptacle prepared for them centuries ago in the hill Cumorah. On the evening of the 21st of September, 1823, the youthful prophet, to whom the Lord had already spoken, was engaged in earnest prayer, and, like Daniel of old, was visited by a glorified personage who told him of these records. This was Moroni. On the following day, Joseph went to the place shown to him by the heavenly messenger, and found the sacred treasures about which that messenger had spoken. It was an important day in the life of Joseph, that upon which the mysteries of the past were unveiled to him. It was an equally important day in the history of mankind.

It is now 75 years since the unsealed part of those records was given to the world in the translation made through the power of God. Popular ideas concerning that book—what it is and what it contains—are still confused. Few, outside the Church, know anything about it. Many believe it is a "substitute" for the Bible. Some have an impression that it is a literary jumble that originated in the disorganized brain of a half-witted clergyman. And yet, the Book of Mormon is one of the most remarkable literary works in existence. It should be widely known.

According to this record, 600 years before Christ, at a time when inspired men were moved upon to leave Jerusalem, there lived in that city a righteous man named Lehi and his four sons, Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi. These were miraculously led out of Palestine, and after a most adventurous journey landed on the west coast of South America. Nephi, the youngest of the sons, was chosen to be the leader, when the father died. Laman and Lemuel, the older brothers, rebelled, and a division arose between the different branches of the family, which was perpetuated for several generations. Two nations arose. They were different in occupations and predilections, and followed different moral standards. The greater part of the Book of Mormon contains the history of these two branches of the descendants of Lehi, their wars and their wanderings and settlements. The Lamanites kept on annoying and persecuting the Nephites, and these were forced farther and further north. Around the hill Cumorah, in the western part of the state of New York, the final struggle was fought, four hundred years after Christ, and the Nephites were almost exterminated.

During all this time records were kept by various scribes. These were handed from one official to another. At the time of the final struggle the Prophet Mormon had the records. He engraved an abridgment of them upon a separate set of plates, and appended the names of the original authors to the respective parts condensed from their books. The work, thus abridged, and classified, was handed by Mormon to his son Moroni, who added a brief history of a people—the Jaredites—who had lived in North America before the Nephites. This is the Book of Mormon. After the battle of Cumorah it was carefully deposited in that hill, by Moroni, and it rested there until the time when a "new witness for God" was needed against the infidelity which has all but destroyed the testimony of the Bible among the children of men.

Concerning the genuineness and authenticity of that book, there should be no doubt. The testimony of the witnesses as to the appearance of the angel and the existence of the records, cannot be impeached. Joseph could not have written it. The Spaulding myth has been exploded, and the theory that Sidney Rigdon suggested it, has no foundation in fact. Science, as far as it has spoken authoritatively on the subject of American archaeology, has very strongly testified to the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. And we doubt not, as science further progresses, more evidence will be brought to light, to confound the scoffers and strengthen the faith of honest believers.

LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE.

We have received a copy of the official report of the Lake Mohonk conference on International Arbitration, held on the last day of May and the first days of June, this year. This annual gathering is held at the residence of Mr. Albert K. Smiley, and the delegates are all his invited guests. This year six sessions were held. Among the speakers were Congressman Littlefield, Hon. Carroll D. Wright, and Prof. John B. Clark. Among the subjects discussed were, the present status of arbitration, the Hague Court, what remains to be done to secure a complete system of arbitration, the education of public opinion, and the creation of a regular congress of the nations. Hon. Andrew D. White addressed a letter to the conference in which he outlined some of the topics a second Hague conference would naturally be called upon to consider. Attention was called by some of the speakers to the fact that public sentiment is steadily growing in favor of international arbitration, and suggestions were made for the further cultivation of this growth in schools, among business men, wage earners, etc.

The Mohonk conference, though rather an exclusive affair, is a great force in the work of reconstruction that must take place before this earth is prepared for the reign of universal peace. The thoughts that find expression at those gatherings are disseminated throughout the country, and like bread cast upon water, they return with abundant increase, even if only after "many days." It is interesting to watch, from year to year the development of the great idea of peace among men, as recorded in the proceedings of this conference, and it is quite evident, from this record, that final victory is in view.

YES, "GIVE US THE PROOFS."

"Can it be true that the Mormon Church is passing sentence of death on any person or persons whomsoever? If so, let us have the proofs at all hazards. If they can be caught with the goods the Mormon question will soon be settled."

That paragraph is from the Los Angeles Times, which has published many columns of anti-"Mormon" stuff, much of it on a par with the rubbish about "sentence of death," "martyrs to Church decrees," "hierarchy," "treason," and similar firebrands plucked from the smouldering embers of anti-"Mormon" falsehood and hate.

The latest lurid tale, told by a lady who had spent three days in Salt Lake City, surrounded by confessed enemies of the "Mormon" Church as may be learned from her own printed admissions, is a subject of ridicule among all classes here, and rational people wonder at the credulity of otherwise sensible people in accepting such baseless and improbable stories and repeating them for publication.

The suggestion of the Los Angeles Times is a symptom of returning reason. If that paper had been just the least bit careful as to facts, it would have refrained from giving space to the drivel, much of it drained from the most despicable channels here, that not long ago defaced its pages.

By all means "let us have the proofs at all hazards" of the passing of "sentence of death" upon anyone by the "Mormon" Church. True, it is almost too absurd for public attention, but it is about as sensible as most of the sensational and ribald trash that has been sent forth from this city for some time to "astonish the natives."

ADMIRABLE PRINCIPLES.

Mr. Albion E. Smith, secretary of "The Good Home League," called at this office the other day. He is on a tour around the world, the start being made from his home in Wisconsin. The gentleman says he has undertaken this journey out of philanthropic motives alone, his intention being to "do good" according to the best of his ability and opportunity, wherever he goes. He has printed his declaration of principles. According to these, he believes in the highest standard of manhood, as measured by the "conduct-rule of Christ." He believes in brotherly kindness and friendship, and that he has a special duty toward the young. The children, he very well explains, learn the language of their parents and are influenced by their morals and habits; for that reason it is a crime to corrupt their minds by indulging in vice and bad conduct.

"I owe," he says, "the young people about me the best example and teaching I have a chance to know. In my methods of business or ways of amusement, I cannot measure my conduct simply by its effect on myself; the true test of my life is my influence on these young citizens."

He, further, declares it to be his duty to expose and condemn any fraud or deception practiced on his "brother man" by any person or church or political party. He has, he says, no right to be selfishly idle. Every intelligent person is as much bound to be useful to his country as the owner of property is to pay taxes to support the government, and he considers that he owes his fellowmen the use of all the money he can spare, beyond his own moderate personal and family needs. He has no right to consume in his own indulgence or extravagance what an industrious neighbor needs for himself or his family.

These are all most admirable principles, and one living up to them would come very near perfection. We know nothing of the gentleman beyond what is here stated, but in as far as he is honestly striving to carry out, in practice, such beautiful doctrines, and induce others to do the same, we cannot but wish him success, and hope that his labors may bear abundant fruit.

As a breeder of trouble Venezuela is without a rival.

The "Nylic" seems to be a sort of wheel within a wheel.

If Mr. Lawson is not called to testify he probably will have a frenzy.

A good many continue to take their "pip" although the air is not nipping.

The time is not far distant when we shall have the pumpkin pie in our midst.

Ex-Auditor Sherrick denies Governor Hanley's allegations and defies the allegator.

Counsel Hughes is hewing right up to the line in this life insurance investigation.

In Cologne motor cars are used for sprinkling the streets. Do they use Rhine or Cologne water?

Romaine Dauragnac, brother of the notorious Mme. Therese Humbert, has been deported. Bon voyage.

Perhaps it is the steam from the many boiling political pots that makes the weather so warm just now.

Mr. Cleveland's letter on the purchase of Hyde's stock by Mr. Ryan shows that he is sitting on the lid, and sitting hard.

A woman's dismembered trunk has been found in a dress suit case near Boston. It must have been a large case to hold a trunk.

The managers of both political parties in Indiana hasten to announce that they have not received any campaign contributions from any insurance company.

In the University of Chicago program for a four years' course in railroading no course in wrecks and accidents is provided for. This certainly is a grave oversight, seeing how immense the business in that line is.

If Vartanian is a naturalized American citizen then he should have the protection of the American government. But the sympathy of the American people does not go out very strongly or actively to foreigners who take out naturalization papers, not to become genuine Americans and reside in the land of their adoption but to remain in their native country, not sharing its burdens but rather being a burden to them through the many questions arising as to their status under international law, often embarrassing the country of their birth and of their adoption. If such people really loved free institutions they would seek to live under them. The case of Pericardis was of the kind here referred to. That became notorious because of the spectacular features connected with it. Foreigners who take out naturalization papers should live in the United States, or not take them out.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

NewYork Churchman.

Negative methods will not produce unity. The unity for which Christ prayed and for which the church exists is dependent upon, but is infinitely more than, methods. It is the right relation between persons, between God and man, and between man and man. "I come that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly," expresses at once the principle of unity and the only power that can produce it. The question, therefore, is not what or how much shall be given up, but to what extent will men co-operate with Him who came to fulfill and not to destroy. So long as churches stand aloof and demand one of another that this doctrine or this method shall be acknowledged to be unessential and therefore given up, just so long will they remain apart.

New York Outlook.

At the recent annual meeting of the British Medical association a testimony was given to the therapeutic value of prayer which should be recorded over against the skeptical views of some scientists. Dr. Theodore B. Hyslop, superintendent of Bethlem Royal hospital, has a reputation as a specialist in neurology and in the treatment of mental diseases which adds weight to his words: "As an alienist and one whose whole life has been concerned with the sufferings of the mind, I would state that of all hygienic measures to counteract disturbed sleep, depressed spirits, and all the miserable sequels of a distressed mind, I would undoubtedly give the first place to the simple habit of prayer." . . . Medieval superstition, connecting medical art with magic supposed to be learned from evil spirits, used the proverb, "Ubi duo medici, tres athei." In some quarters this stigma is not yet entirely effaced, and medical men are perhaps not fully free of responsibility for whatever of it lingers. On the background of such a history Dr. Hyslop's testimony before an audience of specialists is highly significant of the trend of scientific thought.

Presbyterian Banner.

There are many important qualities that a sermon should have, but one of the most vital is that it should be interesting. Interest is the quality in a sermon that catches the hearer's attention and holds it to the end. If the sermon does not have this quality all of its other qualities, however fine and strong they may be, are lost. It may be orthodox and Scriptural and splendidly written, and yet, failing to enlist attention, it accomplishes nothing. Interest is a subtle complex quality that cannot be fully analyzed and defined. Perhaps its most prominent feature is freshness. The mind soon tires of old, wornout ways of stating things, and as soon as it begins to hear their monotonous droning it loses interest and wanders off. Life is ever new, and the truth that expresses life should be new also, or at least it should wear new garments.

Christian Intelligence.

Young people must have recreation, and will have it in some form or other. Boys, as a rule, love play more than work, and recess and vacation more than recitations. A baseball or a football, a fishing rod or a gun, a bicycle or a boy's club, have a magnetic attraction for a healthy boy. The home or the church that provides these things as well as Bibles and books, will teach boys at the best time of life to begin influence for good. When boys leave schooldays behind and begin work, the hours after work are critical hours. Fresh air they must have, friends they must and will make, the hours between supper and bedtime are hours of active recreation. These are golden hours for Satan's servants. God's servants must meet young men during these hours with something better in the same line. Social committees are as important as prayer meeting committees. Social entertainments are not secular, they are essentials of endeavor, spiritual forces to supply the need of recreation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the October number of Harper's Bazar, the fashion outlook for 1906 is interestingly discussed and illustrated. Considerable space is also given to the demands of the season that is now at hand, and such subjects as "Autumn Hats," "Coats and Wraps," and "Fashions for Boys and Girls," are considered. Among other features of this publication are the following: "Autumn Days in Paris," Flora McDonald Thompson; "A Lapse from Reason," a story, Lawrence Gilman; "A Serenade," a poem, Theodosia Garrison; "Bayberry Candles," Adelia B. Beard; "Our Girls," Anna Ogden; "Rugs—What to Buy and How," Martha Cutler; "Autumn Preserves," Helen Landon; "Mount Mellick Embroidery," Marie Louise Walter; "Household Plans for the Winter," Jane Calhoun, and "Autumn Dinners and Luncheons," Josephine Grenier.—Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York.

The following is the list of contents of Cassier's Magazine for September: "The Truce Between Capital and Labor," Carroll T. Fugitt; "Ferro Alloys," Auguste J. Rossi; "The Latest American Petroleum Discoveries," Day Allen Willey; "Rail Motor Cars in Great Britain," J. F. Gairns; "Suction Gas Producer Plants," Dr. Oskar Nagel; "Steam Boilers Worked by Waste Heat From Coal-fired Reverberatory Furnaces," the late R. T. Cooke and Percival Cooke; "Modern British High-speed Steam Engines," Leo H. Jackson, and "High-pressure Systems for City Fire Protection," Albert Blauvelt. Under "Current Topics," the following subjects are treated on: "Mechanical Stokers for Locomotives," "Alcohol for Light and Power in South America," "The Physiological Effects of Light Waves and Other Ether Vibrations," "Blue Light as an Anaesthetic in Dentistry," and "Utilizing the Waste Heat of Gas and Oil Engine Exhaust Gases," "The Disease of Carelessness," and "Large Steam Shovels in Iron Mining."—3 West, Twenty-ninth St., New York.

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200 pieces of high grade linens are to be sacrificed to price this week. The real Scotch and Irish Damask; more than one grade, but good quality in each, the former price range was 30c to $3.50 a yard, but while it lasts we sell it at a—
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ANNOUNCEMENT.
The Giles Mercantile Agency and the American Mercantile and Reporting Agency have consolidated and business will herefater be conducted under the name of The Giles-American Mercantile Agency. Sept. 1 the business will be located at 409 to 411 D. F. Walker Bldg. (top floor). 'Phones, 359 for reports, and 212 for collections.