

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 30, 1903.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference

of the Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints will be held

in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake

City, commencing on Saturday,

April 4, 1903. A general attendance

of the officers and members of the Church

is requested.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

JOHN R. WINDER,

ANTHONY H. LUND,

First Presidency.

RELIGION CLASS OFFICERS'

MEETING.

The Presidency of Stakes, Bishops

of wards, Stake and ward superintendents

and members of the Stake Boards

of Religion classes together with the

officers and instructors are cordially

invited to attend a meeting of Religion

class workers to be held at Barratt

Hall on Saturday, April 4, 1903, at 4:30

o'clock p. m.

ANTHONY H. LUND,

RUDGER CLAWSON,

JOSEPH M. TANNER,

General Superintendents.

L. JOHN NUTTALL,

General Secretary.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL

UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the

Deseret Sunday School Union will be

held Sunday, April 5, 1903, at 7:30 p. m.,

in the Tabernacle. The attendance

of stake and ward officers and teachers is

urgently requested and all the Saints

are invited. A preliminary meeting of

stake superintendents and assistants

will be held in the assembly room of

the Salt Lake Business college, Tem-

pleton building, at 5 o'clock p. m., Sun-

day, April 5. A full attendance is de-

sired.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

GEORGE REYNOLDS,

JOSEPH M. TANNER,

General Superintendents.

HARPER'S AND THE "MORMONS."

The leading article in Harper's

Monthly Magazine for April is entitled

"Economic Aspects of Mormonism,"

and is written in a spirit that is truly

commendable for, notwithstanding

some few errors of fact and sentiment,

it is in the main correct and the au-

thor evidently intended to be accurate

and fair. This is so different from most

of the contributions of non-"Mormons"

to newspapers and magazines, as to be

notable and pleasing, and to form an il-

lustration of the announcement recently

in Leslie's Weekly that "the time has

come to tell the truth about the Mor-

mons."

The article is from the pen of Dr.

Richard T. Ely, who is Professor of

Political Economy, University of Wis-

consin, and who has studied his theme

on the spot which he describes, and con-

templated it from a standpoint not

altogether religious. It is therefore

free from those misconceptions which

render the usual dissertations from

Index to the "stewardship" idea as part of that system, which might have occasioned some questioning in his own mind as to its possible existence in "pure communism." The kind of "equality" which is essential to "having all things in common" in the extreme socialistic sense is not contemplated in the United Order, wherein each person receives his stewardship over that which he can profitably use, the increment to accrue to the whole Order instead of the individual only. The diversity of talents, capabilities and necessities of different persons is recognized in that system, and the "share and share alike" impossibility does not enter into the plan. We mention this in passing, to correct a very frequent mistake as to the Divine principle of social economy kept in view among the "Mormons."

The industry and thrift of the majority of the "Mormons" are acknowledged, but some unfavorable comparisons are made between the poorest farmed, outer districts of Utah, with the specially high-cultured and best irrigated lands in Colorado, California and Wyoming, and particularly with the land around Greeley, Colorado. The contrast is doubtless correct, but is not altogether a just comparison. The best farmed in each should have been taken for consideration.

The educational progress of the "Mormons," their Church organizations for the improvement of both sexes, the cultivation of music, the training of missionaries, the recreations permitted and provided, and the anticipations for the future which enter into "Mormon" life, are well described; and then the writer touches, of course, on the question of polygamy in the past and in the present. He handles it, on the whole, with fair endeavor and shows a disposition to present it without exaggeration and free from intentional misrepresentations.

Once more the critic here deviates into popular misconception as to the nature of the "Mormon" religion. He does so, however, with the doubt that perhaps he is mistaken; he speaks of "the striking absence of spirituality" as an element of the faith of the "Mormons." Yet he shows that he does so because he does not understand. He says: "This juxtaposition of faith and a sort of hard materialism is to me a puzzling phenomenon." Ah, then, there is some "spirituality" in "juxtaposition" with a "sort of hard materialism." "Mormonism" is really in the highest degree spiritual; and yet it deals directly with that which is called material or temporal. It regards human beings as they are now; as spiritual emanations from Deity, with bodies fashioned from the dust. A union of the heavenly with the earthly. It ministers to the spirit of man as a son of God, a brother of Him who is the Christ, and to his body as the tabernacle of that spirit, to be raised from the dead and become its eternal incorporation.

The very beginning of "Mormonism" in the soul is spiritual. Faith is its first principle. It enters into the whole nature of the convert and prompts his entire course on earth. He must be baptized with the Holy Spirit as well as in water. It brings him into spiritual communion with his Maker. But he is still human, and a religion that does not guide his humanity and deal with material things, is but a one-sided, incomplete and incompetent thing for this material globe.

On the complicated subject of politics Dr. Ely descends briefly, and merely mentions the usual story told by anti-"Mormons" to the effect that, through the "closely knitted and compacted Priesthood," "word can be passed down from the highest authority in the Church to the individual voters, between sundown of the day preceding election and the time for casting the ballot, and the whole population vote as directed." He refrains from stating that this is actually done, and thus saves himself from becoming involved in a positive untruth. He might have added to this repetition of a groundless suspicion, the direct denials of the "Mormons" themselves and their testimony as to their perfect political freedom.

The article closes with a resume of the economic services rendered to the country and humanity by the "Mormons," refers to their veneration for the flag of this country, their love of home, their belief in their Abrahamic origin, and the good that is in their faith, which he thinks ought to be recognized. He hints at the possible danger of their attempting, some time in the future, "to drive out the rest of the inhabitants of the country, and to enter into their inheritance." This shows again that he has not gone far beyond the surface in his investigations of some sides of "Mormonism," or he would have learned that in its very essence it requires the maintenance of every person's rights, and is indeed the genius of liberty embodied. Altogether, however, the article in Harper's Monthly is in excellent vein, is finely written, well illustrated, and likely to do great good among the vast multitude of readers of that popular magazine.

NEW CHINESE MINISTER.

The arrival in this country of the new Chinese minister, Mr. Liang Chen Tung, is somewhat of an event owing to the popularity of his predecessor, Mr. Wu. Mr. Liang arrived a few days ago in San Francisco, on board the new ship Korea, and, according to the papers of the coast, he is as amiable as was his predecessor, and well qualified for the position.

The new minister speaks English excellently. He is a graduate of Phillips Academy, Andover, and he has brought his children with him to be educated in this country. He has been an attaché of the legation at Washington, and he therefore feels at home on American soil.

prefer American cloths, because they are much better wearing, although more expensive. I greatly hope to see American manufacturers deal directly with Chinese merchants. One of the evils of the present system of trading is the brokerage phase of business. The brokers are responsible for the higher prices of American goods in many instances. If American manufacturers dealt with our merchants direct, prices could be lowered to our people."

Lately rumors have come from China to the effect that the Boxers are about to cause another disturbance, but Sir Liang denies the truth of such rumors. He says: "We are having no trouble with the Boxers in the northern part of the empire to speak of, and I do not expect any. You know our military operations in the whole northern part of our country are under the control of Governor-General Yuan Shi-Kai, who is the successor to Li Hung Chang. He is a very powerful man, is eminently fitted for this position and can be depended upon to keep the situation well in hand. He is one of the most liberally educated officials and is a charming man personally."

"No trouble to speak of" is a diplomatic way of putting it. We hope the mission of the new minister to this country may be pleasant in every respect, and that it may result in mutual benefit to this country and the country he represents. China will do well in cultivating the friendship of this country. The most rapid advancement cannot be made except in close company with the nations that stand foremost in the ranks of civilization.

A MYSTERY OF NATURE.

Prof. George F. Barker of the university of Pennsylvania, is quoted as authority for the statement that the newly discovered substance, radium, throws new light upon the constitution and properties of matter. He declares, for instance, that a pound of it in a room would kill every person present. Fortunately the cost of manufacturing a pound would be a million dollars, so no ordinary crank would use it for purposes of destruction, even if the problem of storing and handling it had been solved.

Radium, the professor says, seems to create energy. It seems to be in perpetual motion. It seems to emit light and heat indefinitely without molecular change. If this becomes an established fact, it should be possible at some time in the future, to put some radium under the boiler of a locomotive and make it do the business of the coal.

What radium is, is not known. In order to convey some idea of it, it is said that "an X-ray tube is operated upon by an electric current, but radium does vastly more work without any apparent cause. Its behavior tends to confirm the new theories of J. J. Thompson, Larmor and other physicists concerning electrons, bodies so small that from 1,000 to 10,000 are needed to equal an atom in volume. It strengthens faith in the notion that atoms are composed of those minute objects, and that electricity is nothing more or less than a stream of such little objects."

Ten thousand to form an atom! What is an atom, and how large is it?

Though it rained yet was it a dry Sunday.

One of the harbingers of spring is the scavenger.

Just and severe criticism is the true literary club.

The press portraits of Mrs. Maybrick are as varied as her experiences.

The anti-cigarette law is defective in that it does not prohibit the smoke nuisance.

Lettuce may not cure smallpox but with a good salad dressing it makes life seem brighter.

The Buffalo police are now trying to find out Pennell's sins having failed to find Burdick's murderer.

The seal of public prominence is set upon no man until he has been denounced by Dr. Parkhurst.

Mrs. Burdick's relations with Pennell appear to have been more numerous than her family relations.

There are seven hundred dialects spoken in Africa. What a land of plenty for the dialect novelist.

England will build seventy new war vessels, Britannia seems determined to continue to rule the waves.

The Kansas City Star is ambitious to be the Mail and Express of the West. It publishes a scriptural text each day at the end of its editorial columns.

"It's a dull day when a Salt Lake railway deal is not 'discovered,'" says the Los Angeles Express. And vice versa.

The young lady who has slept twenty-eight days doesn't live in a neighborhood where boys are learning to blow the bugle.

Senator Tillman says that the race problem is impossible of settlement. There are those who say that the senator is impossible.

Mr. Carnegie has just given to his Pittsburgh library an additional million and a half dollars. "Whoso hath to him shall be given."

A Joplin, Mo., judge has decided that a woman may hold up her skirts to keep them out of the mud. There, surely, is a Daniel come to judgment.

"It's all right and no exception can be taken to what you said about the German navy, but don't do it again," is Mr. Roosevelt's admonition to Admiral Dewey.

Exchange of ratifications of the Cuban reciprocity treaty is to be by cable. It is quite out of the usual, but it may be owing to the great distance of the island from this country.

The day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together is fast approaching. President Roosevelt announces that he will do no hunting on his forthcoming western trip.

When a man swears that his personal property is only worth a hundred and

ninety thousand dollars, but he at the same time declares that he is willing to pay taxes on a quarter of a million assessment, there is something wrong somewhere.

"Senator Morgan's speech on the isthmian canal wasn't so long, after all. It takes up but 96 pages in the Congressional Record. Senator Quay has beaten that. His tariff speech in 1894 covered 124 pages, so that Pennsylvania is ahead, as usual," says the Boston Herald. And there was Senator John P. Jones' great seven-day speech on the silver question.

It is vastly amusing to see the morning paper, which but a short time ago, vehemently opposed extreme measures for closing the saloons on Sunday, and declaring their impossibility, now hurrahing for the new "Chief," and applauding his course in the enforcement of the law, and declaring that it was always easy to be done and there was "no difficulty at any time about this matter save only at police headquarters." All the same we congratulate Mr. Sheets and the police department on their efficient work, and hope they will "keep on a doln' of it."

DEAN FARRAR.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The death of Frederick W. Farrar, dean of Canterbury, will be mourned in widely distant parts of the world. It is doubtful if any other member of the English ecclesiastical system had so many personal friends in other lands. He was great as an author as well as in the pulpit, and he had not, like many Englishmen, lived all his life in a contracted sphere. Like Thackeray he was a native son of England but of India. Born at Bombay in 1831, he was sent "home" to be educated at Harrow and Cambridge. His eloquence early attracted attention.

Portland Oregonian.

He did not compare with Dean Stanley in capacity to think straight and in literary force and power, but he was always sure of his audience; he was the popular preacher, who knows how to entertain, how to be pathetic, when to appeal to sentiment, who strikes of the human heart to sweep, as a minstrel does his harp. This was about the size of Dean Farrar; a man of fine scholarship and of undoubted talent, but his talent was of the superficial sort that never makes a long and deep mark in the book of its own time. As a controversialist he was not distinguished; that was not his province; he was a man of persuasive eloquence rather than of the powerful sort; a pleasing man, a popular preacher, an elegant writer and speaker, but in no sense a great man in his profession.

THE CUBAN TREATY.

New York Times.

If the House of Representatives were in session and favorably disposed to the treaty with Cuba, the amendment accepted in the Senate providing that the treaty shall not take effect until "approved by the Congress" would be of little importance. As a matter of fact, most treaties sooner or later involve expenditure of money, and the House holds the purse-strings; its consent is essential to their going into full effect. But by accepting this amendment to the Cuban treaty, the Senate voluntarily divests itself of the power to ratify.

New York Tribune.

While the recognition of the House in the treaty is all right in itself, the form of the stipulation is unfortunate. The amendment reads: "This treaty shall not take effect until the same shall have been approved by the Congress." That seems to give to Congress as a legislative body a voice in treaty-making. It has none. Long ago the House claimed such a voice, but its right was properly denied. A treaty is not and should not be submitted to the House for its approval. It has nothing to do with approving treaties. The only way a treaty can be rejected is as a fact which must be taken account of legislatively.

Brooklyn Eagle.

The argument that the wording of the amendment gives the House a share in the treaty-making power of the executive and Senate seems to be a stretching of terms not warranted by facts or justified by possibilities. The great danger is the probability that the amendment will afford opportunities for a protracted tariff debate in the House, which may result either in total defeat or in delay that will make the treaty of no immediate value to those whom it is chiefly designed to benefit.

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