

DESERET EVENING NEWS
Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Lorenzo Snow, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(EXCEPT SUNDAYS)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
One Year, in advance, \$2.00
Six Months, " " 1.00
Three Months, " " .50
One Month, " " .15
One Week, " " .05
Sundays only, per year, 2.00
Sent Weekly.

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building.
CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.
Craig & Woodward, 87 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 29, 1899.

HOW TO STUDY "MORMONISM."

"I have been making a study of the Mormon question," "Rev. So and So" in Utah studying Mormonism on the spot. "We have sent a special correspondent to Salt Lake City to investigate Mormonism." These are some of the statements we find in different newspapers published in the East and in the South. This would be both interesting and encouraging to the "Mormon" people, if the pretended investigations were conducted with any degree of fairness, and a desire to obtain facts and correct information as to the doctrines, spirit and intent of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the "Mormon Church."

It depends a great deal upon the state of mind and the purpose in the heart of an individual who makes a study of any religious, social or political question. If he begins with a settled conviction that the system he is about to pry into is wrong, and his object is to discover, if possible, evidences of its falsity, he will no doubt find many things which will fit into his design and confirm him in his original position. Nearly everybody who comes to Utah for the nominal purpose of "investigating Mormonism," takes it for granted that the whole concern is either a fraud or a delusion, and he does not look for anything but what will establish one or the other of those propositions.

In nearly every instance, too, the pretended inquirer goes to sources from which flow only misrepresentation, abuse, burlesque and caricature. These fall in with the desire of the querist and he adopts them at once. In making out his communications to the journal or magazine which he represents, he sets forth these distortions as "Mormonism." If he quotes from "Mormon" literature he does not take the trouble to go to the standards of faith of the Church, but accepts from his enemies garbled quotations from works that are not recognized as authoritative, or isolated sentences from old sermons without giving the explanatory context. In relating "Mormon" history, he cites anti-"Mormon" stories as though they were authenticated facts, and in depicting "Mormon" society he repeats absurd and monstrous tales told by reproaches who revel in everything salacious and who delight in scandal.

That is how "Mormonism" is usually studied by newspaper representatives and clergymen who pay a brief visit to this city, and have the sublime egotism to assume either that they knew all about it before they came, or have imbibed a complete understanding of the many questions involved in its theology, its remarkable organization and the practical questions involved in the system, by a forty-eight hours' or week's sojourn among its most vigorous and subtle opponents. It is rare indeed that any of them go to the fountain head for information. If they do mingle with people who can give them light, it is merely that they may be able to say that they had interviews with prominent "Mormons."

How often one may read in magazines and eastern newspapers about what is in the Book of Mormon, and find that the alleged quotations are either not in the book at all, or so changed as to be the opposite of what the book conveys! That work is frequently denounced from the pulpit as "a religious romance," or condemned as a blasphemous and ridiculous counterfeit of the Bible. Ask the Rev. preachers if they have ever read the book, and when pressed into a corner for a direct reply, they have to acknowledge that they have never seen anything but alleged extracts from it. The most extravagant and nonsensical notions that could be invented and called religious opinions, are commonly presented to the public as "Mormonism."

Some of the very worst of the defamers of the "Mormon" people and their doctrines, are among the ministers of the different "Christian" denominations. They are deserving of all the denunciations heaped upon the pharisees and scribes and doctors and lawyers by the Savior of the world, when He ministered among men. They are engaged in a similar occupation. They will be entitled to the same reward. Men of their class were the chief cause of the persecutions and bloodshed that came upon the Latter-day Saints in the early days of the Church. They are following in the same course, but with other weapons, today. They will fill up the full measure of the cups of their iniquity and then go to their own place.

We warn our contemporaries at a distance, that it is useless to send clerical or journalistic representatives to Utah to gather up anti-"Mormon" palubum to dish out to their readers. It is a waste of time and money. They can glean all the kind of stuff they want from anti-"Mormon" literature. If they desire "Mormon" works, they can get them from "Mormon" sources. They can also be visited by missionaries who are out among them for the purpose of diffusing correct information.

We notice in the Chattanooga, Tenn., News, that an invitation was recently extended from the President of the Southern States mission to ministers

and others, to meet with the Elders and learn what they have to offer to the public. That paper gives a fair report of a conference held in Chattanooga, and after stating what was preached by Elder Ben E. Rich, adds the following:

"He closed his remarks by extending to the ministers of the city a cordial invitation to visit the mission home and converse freely with the young men of the 'Mormon' Church who are here engaged in missionary work."

"He said: 'Let us not hate one another, but let us reason together; if you have a truth that we have not, we will gladly accept it, and if we have an error that you can point out, we will gladly abandon it and be thankful for your aid in showing it to us. Many of our Elders have suffered from the hand of violence and many times these mobs have been headed by those professing to be ministers of the Gospel; a palm leaf of peace looks better than the shotgun in the hands of one who claims to be a minister of Christ, so come and let us reason together.'"

That is the spirit in which all who want to know "Mormonism" as it is, should make their investigations. We are not ashamed of the Gospel we believe nor of any principles of our faith. We hold them all as divine. It is our mission to proclaim them to the world. They are not to be hidden in a corner or shut up in the closets of our souls, nor are they to be expounded by those who take pleasure in ridiculing and distorting them. Let those who want light refrain from plunging into darkness to find it. Let all who desire information about "Mormonism" come or go to its authorized representatives. "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find!"

FLAG LAW.

Among the bills introduced in the House is one for the protection of the United States flag. It provides that "the national flag, or any representation thereof, shall not be attached to or imprinted or represented upon any goods, wares or merchandise or any advertisement of the same."

The measure is directed against various practices, regarded as gross abuses of the national emblem. Porkpackers, for instance, it is said, are sending to Germany hams wrapped in imitations of the Stars and Stripes. Pugilists engage in their debasing work under the shadow of the flag. Liquor sellers adorn their advertisements with it, and politicians bring it into contempt by using it on campaign posters.

All these and numerous other alleged abuses, it is the intention of the bill to correct. The friends of the movement in favor of protection for the flag, evidently consider that there in this country is, as a rule, too little genuine reverence for the national emblem and the institutions it represents. They aim to throw around it a consecrated circle, not to be crossed by the profane. As once Israel in the wilderness were permitted to view from a distance the majestic mountain that hid its glory-crowned head in the clouds, but not to come near it, lest they die, so these zealots for Old Glory would place the people at a distance, to view its folds from afar and to cherish the sacred memories connected with them, but no more.

It will not be denied that decency should be kept in view in the manner of displaying the American flag, but laws for the restriction of the demands of a patriotic sentiment are difficult to frame, and may easily become injurious instead of beneficial. It is better to be too familiar with the national colors than to be a stranger to them. It is better to see the flag where it ought not to be, perhaps, than not to find it where it ought to lend inspiration to the occasion. Proper education in this regard, both in the home and the school, is a better safeguard for the sacredness of the flag than the laws that can be drawn around it, like a fence around an object of popular curiosity.

THE MINISTER IN THE CASE.

The case of Senator William A. Clark, of Montana, is interesting because of the connection of a clergyman, Rev. B. H. Warren, with it, as well as on account of other circumstances.

This Mr. Warren was one of two witnesses who were relied upon to make a case against the Senator, but now it turns out that the gentleman has all he can do to defend his own character. Charges have been preferred against him of tippling, immorality, and retention of funds collected for the church. The gentleman, however, scorns to defend himself against so vulgar charges. He prefers to enter a general denial and to decline to stand trial.

The other witness, it is alleged, has confessed to perjury. He declared that his family at that particular time happened to be starving, and that the promise of \$400 was, on that account, too tempting to resist. So he gave false testimony. Rev. Warren has as far as is known made no confession as to perjury. He preferred to resign the ministry to submitting to the indignities of a trial.

His course is a wise one. Undoubtedly he is committed to the mighty agitation for a pure American home. A trial that would disclose some of the private doings, behind the scenes, of actors and actresses prominent upon the stage in the great burlesque which has recently entertained the public, might spoil the effect entirely. Ministers are great actors, and as such claim the privilege of being judged by their words and not by their deeds.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE YEAR.

We are now at the time of the year when light and darkness, heat and cold are struggling for supremacy. It is the time of the year which gave birth to so many of the curious, but grandly poetical myths of our remote ancestors, who clothed their philosophy in stories of the adventures of gods and demigods, frost-giants and evil powers.

Light is already returning, and in its trail will come all the beauties of spring, summer and autumn. The afternoons are already commencing to lengthen perceptibly, and before many days the morning daylight will appear perceptibly earlier.

There is an old saying that cold begins to strengthen, as the days commence to lengthen, and this generally holds true in this country, where the month of

January as a rule is the coldest of the year. It is the month in which particular care should be taken to guard against "catching cold," by all who value life. Numerous diseases are traceable to a "slight cold" neglected until too late to cure. Every individual has in the northern latitudes his own battles to fight against the mighty frost-giants. Great skill, experience and care are needed, so as to avoid a premature fall before their icy shafts.

WHERE HE STANDS.

We have received the following letter from Thatcher, Arizona. It was written to Elder Andrew Kimball by Hon. J. F. Wilson, Delegate in Congress from Arizona. The views he expresses are those of the most prominent men of the country. It is unfortunate, of course, that they are not in harmony with those of the organ of the anti-"Mormon" crusade in this city, but then, even great minds sometimes differ on important subjects. The people of Arizona will, doubtless, be pleased to know where their delegate stands on a weighty constitutional question.

"House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.,
December 7th, 1899.

Rev. Andrew Kimball, Thatcher, Arizona.
"My Dear Sir—Yours of November 30th replying to my inquiry of the 26th ult. in the Roberts matter, came to hand yesterday."

"In reply I desire to say to you, that I had made up my mind to stand by the constitutional provision, which I think regulates the subject in hand, and, if carried out would have admitted Mr. Roberts to the floor as a member."

"After looking into the matter, I became thoroughly convinced that if Roberts was not admitted to be sworn in, the Constitution would be walked over, and a precedent made that would be freighted with dangers to such degree that we will never be out of its reach."

"I did what I could to prevent what I deem an outrage upon constitutional regulation, that is, to stop if I could in any way the crusade, or the effect of the crusade, in preventing Roberts from being sworn as a member, but it was of no avail."

"They will not permit him to be sworn in, and therefore will not permit the sovereign State of Utah to be represented upon the floor until they have tried the case, so to speak, or at least tried the question of fact involved in the allegations by Taylor of Ohio."

"My life-long friend Dismore of Arkansas and an old member here took my view of it. He advocated it upon the floor. Richardson of Tennessee, the leader of the Democrats in the House, made an able defense of the position, but it was all like pouring water on a duck's back. It was unheeded. Members on our side voted against the swearing of Roberts through fear of their constituency. Petitions, seven million strong, signed in, and fanaticism has prevailed."

"I look upon the result with the deepest of solicitude and grave alarm. I feel that the rights of the sovereign State of Utah have been trampled under foot by the flaming, fanatical passion of the hour."

"I say now, as I have said to members in as strong language as I could control, that before I would surrender my own convictions upon the legal questions involved, and as it follows the Constitution and the law, and to the sovereign rights of a State, I would surrender my commission, resign my position, and go home tomorrow. And this is putting it mild when compared to the feelings I bear on the subject just passed over."

"What is to come and be reported as a finding of fact by the committee appointed for investigation, can hardly be foretold, but if the crusade that is now on, has anything like the influence on that proceeding that it has had upon the proceedings just passed, it will be well imagined. To this, I protest always and everywhere. It is all I may be able to do. I fear it is all I shall be able to do, but it shall be done with all the earnestness I can command."

"Wishing for the best, and fearing the worst, I am,
Your Obedient Servant,
J. F. WILSON."

ALWAYS TRICKY.

It is common for the Tribune to avoid a square issue, to evade a straight question and to make an open question. Now it takes another and still meaner tack. It says of the Deseret News:

"But last evening in its special news it decided that Congress intended to violate the Constitution by excluding B. H. Roberts."

First, the Tribune attributes to the Deseret News an alleged opinion conveyed from Washington in a special dispatch. That is to say, a newspaper is to be charged, or credited, with the views of others that come by telegraph. That would be a very unfortunate rule for the paper that puts it forth. There is no need to expatiate on its folly and its dishonesty.

Second, the dispatch does not decide anything, and it does not mention Congress. It simply announces that "the committee, which is without doubt prejudiced against Roberts, will not allow him the privilege of taking the oath of office." It also expresses the views of members of all parties that this is his right, and therefore the policy pursued is "without doubt a violation of the Constitution."

Our contemporary falsifies the dispatch and then attributes to the "News" its own distorted version of what a correspondent sends by telegraph. There is no need to apply to the Tribune its own explosives. The public will see the point without either argument or retort.

Could you make or desire better winter weather than Utah is enjoying?

It is well not to be too sure about there being no more money crises in this country, considering the way European affairs are going.

The failure of Stahl & Straub, in Philadelphia looks very much more like a steal on the part of one of the firm than a result of unfortunate business.

Every legislative body may "protect itself" by law and by established regulation. But it must proceed by law and adopted rule, or it acts in a lawless and unconstitutional manner. See?

Sheriff Abbot, of Davis county, deserves great credit for his perseverance and unflinching energy, in tracing out and running down the man charged with the mysterious murder at Layton.

It now seems that the seizure by the British of that cargo of flour and provisions consigned to Delagoa bay was not much amiss after all. One of the shippers admitted that much of the cargo was intended for the Boers.

The United States government does right in not being hasty regarding the

reported seizure of American flour en route to Delagoa Bay. The matter can be investigated regularly, and if any loss has been entailed, the British government will make it good.

Imparcial, a newspaper published in the City of Mexico, accused the United States of having entered an agreement with England, France, Germany and Russia to do a great deal of embezzling. Evidently Imparcial has put some strange fellows to bed together.

Will our dust-raising and contentious morning contemporary show the right or authority of Congress to demand of a member, a qualification not required either by the Constitution of the United States or any law or established rule? That is the gist of the current congressional question. Don't dodge, but answer.

The news of the accidental shooting of Oscar Ellason is sad indeed, but it is a relief, not only to his relatives but to the public who feared he had been murdered or lost his life in one of his apparently risky performances. He will be remembered with sorrow for his sudden taking off and as a bright and talented son of the Bee Hive State.

The disclosure of the means employed in the plot to unseat Senator Clark, of Montana, should make good people cautious about believing the words of persons pretending to have been bribed or offered bribes by a political opponent. Senator Clark appears to have been terribly maligned. But an investigation is in progress and the end is not yet.

That reported scheme of Great Britain and Germany for a partition of Africa between them is a mighty big thing to believe at first. But it is not impossible in the main; and should it occur, Africa would be a splendid place for young men. It is a rich country and would, under the condition named, yield great opportunity to individual enterprise.

Recently the United States cruiser Montgomery has taken a stealthy trip to the shores of Liberia, Africa, with the reported mission of a search for a favorable coaling station site. Liberia wants our protection and if the report of the object of the Montgomery's visit to Africa be true, then we must go slowly in our denunciation of Great Britain and Germany.

Britain's forces in the Transvaal are daily increasing and her guns there are becoming more numerous; those pieces of ordnance which are being added are of more powerful and farther-reaching qualities; the Boers are continuously strengthening themselves in their almost impregnable positions. This presages a big fight in which the Boer must certainly be crushed by his growing enemy.

The announcement that Senator Kyle of South Dakota is now a Republican should fall of creating any surprise among those who have watched his course in the past three years. His disaffection from Populism, which gave him a senatorship, has been apparent in his every public act; and the friends of bimetalism know how to take Mr. Kyle's protestations in favor of that principle. We do not notice his name alongside of those who daily support the double standard cause.

GEN. WOOD AND CUBA.

Kansas City Star.

It is a curious circumstance that General Leonard Wood, in assuming command at Havana, should have raised himself in Cuban estimation by failing to issue a proclamation. * * * It is possible that this is an opening of the native mind as to what is expected in Cuba of the Americans. It is as if the Cubans should say: "It is the natural style of us Cubans to talk, spout, tear a passion to tatters, proclaim liberty or death, and, meanwhile, accomplish nothing for the material good of ourselves or our country, but we expect something else from the rich, powerful, energetic North Americans. It is their business to preserve silence while saving big quantities of wood; to restore commerce and maintain agriculture; to bring prosperity to Cuba and cause the large, round American dollars to roll along the highways."

Worcester Spy.

The cordial welcome extended Gen. Wood in Cuba is indisputable evidence of the popularity of American rule. Although Brooks has not been a conspicuous success as an administrator, especially of civil affairs during the year that he has been in command, the island has been brought out of chaos to prosperity. If Wood can only maintain the reputation he gained in Santiago, the probable outcome of his rule will be a delegation to Congress asking that the island be formally annexed.

Chicago News.

Seldom has any appointment given such general satisfaction as that of Maj.-Gen. Leonard Wood to the governor-generalship of Cuba. Cuban newspapers unite in the opinion that Gen. Wood is of all supposable civil governors the most acceptable to every class in the island. His appointment is received as a significant indication that the American government thinks the time rapidly approaching when it will be possible to leave the Cubans to work out their own political salvation. Not the least popular act of the new governor on his arrival at Havana to take over the reigns of office was his ignoring the military and other preparations for his reception.

Boston Herald.

As President McKinley pointed out in his message to Congress, it was not our purpose in freeing Cuba to turn the island over to anarchy. We wished to make the condition of the people better, not worse, than it had been, and even Spanish control, with all of its imperfections, was far to be preferred to absolute lawlessness. It is easy, however, to understand that quite a section of the Cuban people is not likely to consider the matter in this light. Those who fought so long against the Spanish believe themselves entirely competent to control their own destinies, and are already complaining that our military occupancy of the island has been unnecessary prolonged.

Chicago Times-Herald.

General Leonard Wood, who is now on his way to Cuba, will assume the duties of the governorship under the most favorable circumstances. Reports from the island indicate that his appointment is a sentimentally satisfactory to the inhabitants. One Havana paper, La Lucha, urges that there should be a complete centralization of authority in his hands, which will prevent friction and insubordination among department commanders and make possible a harmonious general policy. Cuban

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leaders like Gomez and Rodriguez profess a renewed friendship for the United States, and show by their interviews that the temper of the people is all that could be desired. Peace and good order prevail, while there is not a sign of serious discontent anywhere.

Springfield Republican.

In his annual report, date October 1, Gen. Brooke has taken occasion to testify to the change that has come over the island. "Peace reigns. Law and order rule." "The change has been truly marvelous"—and that it is so the country knows from sources confirmatory of Gen. Brooke. In Cuba, then, American policy has been remarkably successful. And it is known to all the world that the keystone of that policy is the pledge of the United States to recognize Cuba's manhood. There can be no denial of the fact that success in the reconstruction of Cuba has rested primarily upon the solemn obligation to concede Cuba's power of self-control and self-government.

Baltimore Sun.

Whatever may be the intentions and plans of the annexationists, however, the fact remains that General Brooke has put them on the defensive. If the statements contained in his proclamation are correct—and there is every reason to believe they are—Cuba is already pacified and ready for national self-government. The municipal and provincial governments of the island are now under the control of the inhabitants and the military control is merely "advisory and supervisory." "Peace reigns and rule and order rule" according to General Brooke, and if this condition prevails, Cuba is ready for national independence. The experiment therefore, should be no longer delayed. The census of the island has been completed, and it will soon be known who are entitled to participate in the formation of the government.



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