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

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Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 27, 1902.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday, April 4, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. The general authorities of the Church, presidents of stakes and also all engaged in the ministry, who can make it convenient to attend, are cordially invited to be present.

JOSEPH F. SMITH
JOHN R. WINDER
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

A conference of the Sunday schools of the Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 6th, at 7 o'clock. Stake and ward officers and teachers are requested to attend and an invitation to be present is cordially extended to the public.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.
GEO. D. PYPER,
Secretary.

CHANGE OF PAST DAY.

To the Presidents of Stakes:
As our General Conference will be held on the first Sunday in April, the general past day, the Presidents of Stakes are hereby authorized to appoint the first day on the last Sunday of this month, where such a change will accommodate conference visitors.

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

A MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

A most important question now confronts the city authorities. It is that in relation to the coming summer's water supply. The decision upon it will affect this city as well as a large part of the county outside of the city. Nearly all the canal companies that draw their water supply from Utah Lake through the Jordan river, are united in support of the pumping project which has been explained in the Deseret News. They desire the co-operation of the city in this undertaking.

Opponents of the measure seem to be under the impression that the canal companies are asking aid from the city funds for their special benefit. Arguments against the union of the city with these canal companies are based on that supposition, and it is fearfully suggested that this municipality cannot afford to practice the golden rule, when it will receive no benefit in return. It is also stated that the pumping plant would be an uncertain enterprise because the lake is low, and streams which feed it are being more and more utilized for irrigation purposes, and therefore the plant itself might possibly be left high and dry.

Answering the last objection first, we will say that it is evidently put forth by some one unacquainted with the situation and the proposition. On inquiry it will be found that there is not the slightest danger of there being any lack of water in Utah Lake, available for pumping purposes at the point selected for the plant. Even if the surface of the lake should be much lower than at present, there is not any reason to suppose that it would go down to such a level as would leave the pumping plant in the condition imagined. The promoters of the enterprise are not such ninny as to enter upon a scheme liable to such a catastrophe.

In reply to the notion that the city would gain no benefit from joining in the plan to secure water by the pumping process, we will say that the offer of the canal companies is to give the city its due proportion of the water that will be thus secured. They do not ask something for nothing. They do not rest their case on the magnanimity of the city authorities. It is true that they have appealed to this sentiment, citing the case of one canal company, which, by its failure to agree many years ago, thwarted a plan proposed by the city. Increased water supply, and they have urged the city authorities not to follow that bad example, but to unite with the other parties in interest, and consider the good of the whole county as well as that of the city alone.

In view of the expense to which the city has been put in lowering the channel so as to obtain a greater flow from the lake, the canal companies have offered to bear their proportion of that outlay, to apply on the amount of the city's proportion of the cost of the pumping plant. This again shows that they are not pleading with the city to put up money simply that something may be done for the benefit of others. It is not charity that these companies

ask, for, it is co-operation for mutual advantage, which the city is to share on equal terms with all the beneficiaries.

Some of the very arguments put forth why the city should not join in this undertaking, are strong reasons in favor of the proposition. If, as is asserted, Utah lake is falling and is likely to do in order to obtain its supply from that source, unless some expedient is resorted to like that now advocated? The First, Second and Third precincts of this city have to depend on water from the Jordan for the irrigation of their lots and gardens, and if they are deprived of this through the failure of the city to secure it, there will be a protest go up which will be heard, and if not heeded will have an effect upon the conduct of municipal affairs that may cause a great and unexpected overturning. We know what we are talking about, and simply utter a word of warning.

As to the merits of the plan favored by the canal companies, the Deseret News does not offer any opinion. A decision on that point must be made by the representatives of both the city and the county at large. It should be determined by experts and practical men thoroughly acquainted with everything pertaining to the matter. Considering the interests involved and the experience of the gentlemen who are moving in this plan, we have no fear that anything will be done but that which will be likely to prove successful and in every way satisfactory.

The question is asked, why do not the canal companies, which are financially able to put in the pumping plant, go ahead without waiting for the city's assistance? The reply to that is, they will certainly do so, if the municipal authorities do not open their eyes to the advantages which the city would reap from uniting with those companies. But this would probably lead to litigation which is desirable to avoid. If the canal companies put in the plant alone, they will take care to utilize the water obtained and see that the city does not receive a drop of it. Should the city attempt to join them we are of the opinion that it would have its labor for its pains. There are cogent reasons why their case would be likely to receive a setback in the courts.

The Deseret News has no object in view, in the discussion of this very important subject, but the general welfare. The people of this city are interested with the people in other parts of Salt Lake county in securing an adequate water supply. The need is imperative. The question now to be considered is pressing. It cannot wait for the solution of other problems which can be considered separate and apart from that which now demands a decision. It should be examined in the spirit suggested, that is of "the greatest good to the greatest number," and this includes the citizens of Salt Lake City as well as the agriculturists of Salt Lake county.

NEW IMMIGRATION LAW.

The immigration bill submitted to the House contains important additions to and modifications of existing regulations. It increases the head tax on alien immigrants from \$1.00 to \$1.50, and provides for the examination of cabin passengers as well as for those traveling in the steerage. This is as it should be, for if the object is the exclusion of criminals, the most dangerous are often found in the cabins.

Among the new classes of aliens that are to be excluded are epileptics and persons who have been insane within five years previous to coming here, also those who have had one or more attacks of insanity, previous to coming here. The regulations as to contract labor are made more stringent.

An important feature of the bill is that it provides for the deportation of undesirable immigrants who become criminals, paupers, or public charges within five years after their landing. In order to make this provision effective, reformatories, insane asylums, and charitable institutions will be inspected from time to time, and all who are found to have become public charges within the time specified by the law, will be returned to the country whence they came.

There are some drastic provisions in this bill, but they are deemed necessary on account of the change that has taken place in the tide of immigration. It is a question whether they can be carried out to the letter, but they will at all events have the effect of making the immigration companies more careful in their acceptance of emigrants, so as not to be put to the expense of returning too many of them.

The country needs good, desirable immigrants. It has room for a few more millions of the right kind, but it should not be made a dumping ground for physically and mentally weak persons, or for criminals and criminals. The restrictive measures so far adopted have not diminished the inflowing tide of humanity, and it is not supposed that the new regulations, if adopted, will diminish the number to any considerable degree. The honest, industrious laborer will go where his work commands fair remuneration, no matter if he has to submit to close scrutiny as a condition of admittance. The law is aimed specially at a large number of low-class immigrants who lately have sought the American shores. Its purpose is to exclude these, while at the same time welcoming the class that comes for the purpose of building up the country and to take an intelligent part in the government.

SACRILEGE OR NONSENSE.

At last a protest has been registered against the "christening" of yachts. A Brooklyn pastor, writing to the New York Times very properly asks, why a sacred name is applied to a wholly secular performance. The ceremony, he says, is simple and harmless, but the naming of a ship is not to make it a "Christian." "When Miss Alice Roosevelt solemnly and reverently said, 'In the name of the German emperor I christen the yacht Meteor,' did she really mean to say what she actually did say? Did she make a Christian of the Meteor?"

The wonder is that in a country

where the people are supposed to have reverence for sacred things, this subject has not long ago become the object of criticism. There was a time when everything, from infants to church bells and ships, was considered subject to the influence or domination of evil spirits, and ceremonies were invented to break the evil spell. Human blood was sprinkled on boats, in order that the spirit of an innocent sacrifice might take possession and counteract the influence of the evil spirits of the deep. Such superstitions have long ago been discarded, but the ceremony of naming remains, very properly. But to call this "christening" is nonsense. No inanimate object can be christianized. It is almost sacrilege to speak of a battleship as "christened." Not even a human being can become a "Christian," by any outward ceremony alone. If it is better, for all purposes, to call a yacht a spade, it is time to do away with a term that certainly is both misleading, and disrespectful to the Deity.

A NEW HERESY.

A Methodist minister in Kansas is in trouble. He is accused of heresy, and has been notified that he must be tried on that charge, on the 30th of this month. Heresy charges do, of course, not mean now what they did at a time when orthodoxy had the power of silencing arguments by dungeons and flames, but they are still annoying. They very often are prompted by the spirit of persecution.

The peculiar heresy of this minister turns mainly upon the Moslem account of the fall of man. He does not believe that the serpent was a talking reptile, but a man, one who had not "come into consciousness of God," and therefore was classed with the beasts.

This theory presupposes human beings on the earth, others than Adam and Eve, at the time of the fall—beings from whom those two were chosen and made the special objects of divine care, as the children of the Almighty. The preacher takes this view, and finds corroboration for it in some of the passages in Genesis. "If not," he asks, "how did Cain find his wife in the land of Nod, where none of Adam's children except Cain had gone?"

It is pertinent to remark here, that the gentleman cannot be a very close reader of the Scriptures, since he falls into a very common error regarding Cain and the land of Nod. The historian does not say that the erring son of Adam found his wife in the new country. He merely states that "Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden." From what follows, it is as logical to conclude that he took his wife with him to the new locality, as to suppose that he found a wife when arriving there.

But without dwelling on this point, it is worthy of notice that the gentleman evidently has found it impossible to accept the interpretation of the brief Moslem history of the creation of man, which holds that our first ancestors were moulded out of "dust" and endowed with life by the touch of the divine breath. He believes that God always proceeds from lower to higher forms, and that this process will continue forever. And therefore he looks upon the introduction of Adam and Eve into this sphere of action, as the first elevation of man from a condition of ignorance of his origin to one of a higher knowledge and, consequently, higher moral responsibility. In his view, the fall becomes a partial relapse to the former state, necessitating the redemption.

The view is certainly not well supported in the Bible, but it is so fundamentally wrong that one who holds it merits the harsh name of "heretic." The fact is that concerning the creation and fall of man there have always been widely divergent opinions. The allegorical interpretation has found advocates among the most celebrated church fathers and among modern theologians. The Anglican church does not demand, if we are correctly informed, the literal interpretation of the first chapters of Genesis as a matter of faith, but permits a wide latitude in this respect; and it seems to us that wisdom would dictate to other denominations to be as liberal, in this age. The true meaning can be ascertained only through the spirit of revelation, and those who reject that spirit should not hastily assume to judge one another.

IRVING FOR SHAKESPEARE.

Sir Henry Irving has contributed his part—and it must be considered an important one—to the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy. Those that advocate the Baconian authorship of Shakespeare's works generally claim that the latter, as far as known, was an ignorant peasant, who made money as a theater manager and a real estate speculator, but who had no literary ability. The author of the plays was, on the other hand, was a learned lawyer, an aristocrat, a classic scholar, a linguist, and a man of the world, familiar with the manners of proboscidea and the usages of courts. William Shakespeare appears in the records as a very different man from what the author of those works must have been.

Henry Irving now asserts that Bacon could not have written the plays in controversy. He says he defies any man to give him a coherent account of the conceivable circumstances in which Bacon acquired that mastery of the stage without which the Shakespearean drama could not have been written. One of Shakespeare's most striking qualities, he contends, is consummate stagecraft. "What did Bacon know about the stage? You may be the mightiest genius that ever breathed, but if you have not studied the art of writing for the stage, you will never write a good acting play."

He points out that the author of the plays made mistakes about things with which he was not familiar, but in stage technicalities he is always accurate. In legal terms he is often wrong. He gives Bohemia "a coast," and he starts a ship from "the gates of Milan."

He does not admit that Shakespeare was the illiterate, ignorant man he is said to have been. On the contrary, he asserts: "Shakespeare was the greatest of poets, and Bacon could not write a decent verse. Shakespeare was the supreme creator of dramatic character, and Bacon has given us no more reason to suppose that he could create a character than that he could construct a play."

And then he accounts for the strange controversy as follows: "I fear that the desire to drag down Shakespeare from the pedestal, and to treat the testimony of his personal friends as that of lying tongues, is due to that antipathy to the actor's calling which has its eccentric manifestations even to this day. I make no complaint of this singular frame of mind, for I have too much respect for Shakespeare, for the stage to which he gave splendid and imperishable renown, and for the calling in which all actors reverently follow his footsteps—to suppose that he needs to be shielded against ignorance or malice."

The opinion of Henry Irving ought to have great weight to those interested in the long drawn-out contest. If Bacon could not have written Shakespeare's plays, who but Shakespeare could?

Literary creations do not "just grow." Even those who are disposed to account for the existence of worlds on the philosophy of Topsy, look for intelligent authors of the masterpieces of literature.

Mr. Charles Schwab is a steel king, a nickel king and a sovereign American.

To say that badly cured fish is the probable cause of leprosy is a somewhat fishy explanation.

Miss Alice Roosevelt is to have a lawn party in Cuba in place of attending the coronation. Such is her fate.

As Achilles was vulnerable so is J. Pierpont Morgan. He asked the court to protect him from the camera flashes.

Thus far Miss Blanche Boise has not carried out her threat to horsewhip Governor Stanley. Can it be that the governor foresaw the danger and hid himself?

President Roosevelt has just announced, to two captains of the G. A. R., that deserters need expect no favors from him. It is a right decision, one in accord with all honorable men's instincts.

General Miles' plan for pacifying the Philippines is to be made public. Let the lieutenant-general of the army beware. If his plan reaches the islands he is sure to be charged with encouraging the insurrectionists.

Once again the chief of the fire department is credited with threatening to resign. The threat is getting to be somewhat "cheesyness." If it is to be done it were well if it were done quickly.

When Mr. Kruger heard of Cecil Rhodes' death his only comment was: "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Which shows the old man to be either very ironical, very humorous or very religious.

Forty-nine deaths from cholera in Manila and forty-nine cases on hand; still there is no alarm over it. So accustomed to alarms have they become in Manila that nothing alarms them. It is a happy state in which to be.

Admirers of Bishop H. C. Potter of New York, propose to raise his \$12,500 salary and in addition provide him with a \$100,000 residence. This is not "Jeffersonian simplicity," whether or not it is "Jacksonian vulgarity."

A Hawaiian judge has been sent to jail for cartooning a judge. Judges in the islands appear to be far more jealous of their dignity than they do on the mainland. How full the jails of the land would be were all who spoke lightly of or cartooned officials imprisoned for contempt!

"Our graduates are received without examination at Leland Stanford, Jr. university, the universities of California, Utah, Nebraska, Colorado, Wisconsin, Chicago and Michigan, the Colorado School of Mines, Cornell university, Mt. Holyoke college, Smith, Oberlin, Wellesley and the Armour institute. Generally speaking, a graduate of the Salt Lake High school is equipped to take up college work anywhere, and colleges generally have recognized the courses here as entirely adequate." Such is the statement of Principal Eason of the High school. It is very gratifying indeed, in fact, flattering. In our own state the University of Utah and other institutions of higher learning should admit no one to university courses proper, whose attainments are in any way less than those required for graduation from the High school. To do so is to lower the standard of university work.

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

Springfield Republican.

There are signs of spring other than the blizzard and the robin. Over in China rebellion has started up in Kwang-shi, Kwang-tung and Yunnan provinces, and that is a sure sign that spring has come.

San Francisco Chronicle.

"The rebellion is within the French 'sphere of influence.' The question arises: Will France attempt to defend the right which she and Russia have jointly reserved 'to take measures to defend these interests?' Or will Great Britain and Japan carry out their self-imposed obligation of preserving the integrity and peace of China by undertaking to police it now independently? The conditions which this obligation assumed would justify their intervention apparently exist in the provinces in rebellion. If they attempt to execute it, will France tolerate their interference in her 'sphere of influence?' If she assumes the right to defend her interests, whether it be against the operations of the rebels or against Anglo-Japanese interference in her commercial sphere, she will undoubtedly be backed by Russia under the terms of the new declaration.

St. Paul Globe.

Which of the powers is it that is now to make a raid on China? Can it be the two good humane nations which have just entered into a treaty to protect China and Korea against the despoiler? Surely it must be some of them, since the new Chinese rebellion is assuming quite able-bodied proportions.

Los Angeles Express.

Now comes the czar and says he is delighted. He was thinking of going into the raising of light-colored pigeons in that section himself, and he is exceedingly glad that his good neighbors have engaged in the enterprise. But he cannot help remarking that he intends to keep his eye on certain unnamed

powers, which, as he states it, are likely to take "inimical" action, which would result in harm to dear old China. The czar is improved to remark that the Franco-Russian alliance is an assured fact, also that it is a vigorous and going concern, and that he is being teased around or showed off the sidewalk into the street. Therefore, the czar concludes his announcement of pleasure at hearing of the English-Japanese combination by remarking that "they (France and Russia) reserve to themselves the right to take measures to defend their interests."

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And All Dress Goods and Novelties.

Ladies', it is worth far more than the time it will take just to pay a visit to our mammoth Dry Goods, Cloak, Staples and Notions Departments, even if you do not intend to buy at present. We know that when you see our goods and note the low prices, for quality, you will purchase of us in preference to any other establishment.

Z. C. M. I. T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

Worcester Gazette.

The statement declares that Russia's aims are those of the other powers and that the Anglo-Japanese agreement does not alter conditions in the least. These statements are more diplomatic platitudes and have no significance. The important part of the declaration is the reminder it conveys that Russia and France stand together and are prepared to defend their rights. If they really come in the far east it will mean war between England and Japan on one side and Russia and France on the other. Perhaps others would take part, but those four nations are certain to be involved in any clash comes. And with only these four taking part it would be a very pretty little quarrel.

SALT LAKE THEATRE.

GEO. D. PYPER, Manager.
Evenings, 8:15. Matinee, 2:15.
Engagement of the Distinguished English Actor,

MR. E. S. WILLARD,

After an absence of ten years, in a repertoire of plays new to this city.

TONIGHT, Only Time,

TOM PINCH.

Friday Evening and Saturday Matinee.

"THE CARDINAL."

By Louis N. Parker.

And Saturday Night,

"THE PROFESSOR'S LOVE STORY."

By J. M. Barrie.

PRICES—Parquette and first two rows of dress circle, \$2.00; four rows dress circle, \$1.50; first two rows first circle, \$1.00; last two rows, 75c; second balcony, 50c; gallery, 25c.

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music than ours. In fact there's

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