

tude of their loss, coupled with the desire that a comforting and supporting influence from above may the better enable them to endure it.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The growth of the Sunday schools of the Saints to numbers and efficiency is one of the most marked features of the present epoch of the Church's history. Not only are the Sunday schools rapidly increasing in the Intermountain region inhabited by the Latter-day Saints, but still more rapidly in the foreign missions of the Church; and the establishment of Sunday schools is being found to be one of the most effective methods of preaching the Gospel. The Deseret Sunday School Union is one of the busiest and most zealous bodies of workers in our midst. To its councils are confided the consideration of the details which bring union of effort and uniformity of method, and consequent progress and success in the Sunday school work.

The Union has in preparation two sets of pictorial charts. The one based on Bible incidents will be ready for distribution in a few days. The other, which illustrates events recorded in the Book of Mormon, will not be cut of the printer's hands until the coming fall. The International Sunday School Union, through its agents, has courteously given the Deseret Board permission to select from its Bible picture charts such pictures as are in accord with the belief and doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These are being selected and bound in sets of twelve, and as a result that which is objectionable is left out, and that which remains is consistent with the truths the teachers desire to impress upon the minds of the children. We have examined, with much pleasure, the chart now about to be submitted to the schools, and find therein illustrated a large number of the prominent doctrines accepted by the Latter-day Saints as divine, while the pictures themselves are free from many of the objectionable features (such as angels with the wings of birds) that in years gone by disfigured so many would-be illustrations of sacred things and confused the minds of the children. In these pictures the local coloring is preserved and the illustrations are as true to nature as study and research can make them.

THE EUROPEAN CONCERT.

The European concert is the subject of lengthy articles in leading magazines. A contributor to the Contemporary Review expresses the opinion that the political combination now is such that the smaller states no longer can count on undisturbed enjoyment of their rights. Bjornstjerne Bjornson and others have tried to start an agitation for the neutrality of the small countries of Europe, but the tendency is simply to ignore them to the council of nations, and to take notice only of those that can support their propositions by a million bayonets. Accordingly,

Holland, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries and Greece can depend on no alliance with any of the greater powers any further than the advantage of these may demand.

The European concert now means, it is pointed out, that "right" rests only on the foundation of "might" and that the weaker states are to be treated as children—beaten when their aspirations are considered too high. They are more helpless than they ever have been, owing to the enormous cost of a war, and this means virtually that they have no rights that anybody needs to recognize. The concert of the six powers is characterized as a return to the dominion of brutal force. In questions of blockade, neutrality, or similar matters, the concert only consults the interests of the strong.

It is certain that the European concert is at present a much stronger power in the world than any ever wielded by the conquering despots of history. Unfortunately, however, the tendency is apparent among the united powers not only to dominate the rest of Europe but also to play for advantages over one another. The real rulers are at present seemingly Russia and Germany. France and England are no longer the factors they used to be in the councils of nations. It seems but a question of time when autocracy shall triumph in the old world over democratic principles, unless indeed an upheaval is near at hand that may change the situation.

Unfortunately, too, the burdens of the military system needed for the maintenance of the coveted supremacy are felt most oppressive in the countries where the will of the people is hard to some extent. England and France can hardly be expected to increase these burdens in the same proportion as Russia and Germany. The probability therefore is that finally to those two powers, or to one of them, practically the entire management of Europe's politics will be left.

The question of the European concert is of interest in view of the Turkish entanglement which still awaits some solution and which, according to the latest advice, yet may lead to serious conflicts.

DEMISE OF THEODORE MCKEAN.

The NEWS performed the sad duty, in its issue of yesterday, July 9, of chronicling the death of a highly respected citizen of this State, Theodore McKean, who was in the sixty-eighth year of his age. For some years past the deceased has not been in good health, and particularly the last ten months his physical condition has been such as suggested that the weary body was about to lie down in the rest of death. But notwithstanding physical infirmities, Elder McKean was the same cheerful, quiet, patient, faithful man whose career in that regard gained for him the respect and love of the community, who will truly say of him that with his demise a good man has passed beyond the veil.

Theodore McKean was one of the early settlers in Utah, having come to this city in 1853, from New Jersey, his native state. He held positions of

marked prominence in official life, civil, religious and military, and his constancy in these for long periods attest his capacity and fidelity. He was closely associated with President Brigham Young and other leading men in Utah for many years. In an ecclesiastical capacity he held, up to the time of his death, the position of a member of the Salt Lake Stake High Council, to which he was first appointed in 1868. He also acted for several years as Bishop's counselor in the Sixteenth ward, as Sunday school superintendent, and in other positions, and filled two missions to the United States.

He was a member of the City Council of Salt Lake for sixteen years, held the positions of Territorial road commissioner, Territorial marshal, collector of internal revenue for Utah, surveyor for Salt Lake county, treasurer and sheriff. He was superintendent of city waterworks when the system was begun; also was one of the discoverers of coal at Grass Creek, and was a colonel in the Territorial militia. He has been director and vice president of Z. C. M. I., and has been engaged in many operations for the promotion of the industrial interests of Utah.

In all these positions he was in intimate association with the people, and gained their confidence and respect. He was a man of gentle, unassuming manners, rigid in maintaining personal virtue, and exemplary in his teachings to his fellow man. May his family and relatives be comforted by the Holy Spirit in their bereavement through the departure of one who was so worthy of their love and esteem as Brother McKean.

CALIFORNIA AND THE HOLY LAND.

The state of California is wonderfully attractive in the way of climate, natural resources, magnificent scenery, and many other features that could be named. The San Francisco Chronicle now proceeds to claim as a point in its favor its similarity to the land of Palestine. Utah has been commonly agreed to have a strong resemblance to the Holy Land in having its fresh and salt sea connected by the river Jordan, near which stands the State's chief city with its magnificent Temple devoted to the most sacred uses which to even synagogues or places of general worship are applied to; its mountainous character and its desert border; and its occupancy and building up by a peculiar religious people such as the Hebrews were in the ancient world. But our California contemporary draws the following graphic picture of the parallel between the Golden State and Palestine, some of it being fanciful, and much of it real:

The Christian Endeavorer will not fail to note strong physical likenesses in California to the Holy Land. The contour of the country is the same, as are many of its trees, products, animals, birds, ancient dwellings and native customs. Here the shepherds watch their flocks at night under the mild December skies and in the very latitude of Judea. The mustard, the cactus, the cedar and the date abide. The patient burro, identical with the ass of Palestine, bears burdens, and New World