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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 30, 1900.

SINGULAR COINCIDENCES.

The decease within a few days of each other, of three prominent Elders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is the more remarkable because they were all former missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands, and the jubilee celebration of the opening of that mission is about to be commemorated. It has been already announced that President George Q. Cannon and others have started on their way to Honolulu, to attend the semi-centennial anniversary gathering there on December 32, and that he was one of ten missionaries who opened the Hawaiian mission fifty years ago.

Elder Henry W. Bigler, who died on Saturday, Nov. 24, was also one of those ten missionaries to the islands. He was a faithful and active laborer in the field and was true to the last. As one of the "Mormon" battalions his name is recorded in history, and in every position he subsequently filled his integrity was fully manifested, and his faith in the Latter-day Gospel was shown by his works.

Elder F. A. Hammond, whose death on Nov. 27, having been from a wagon, has been published in the "News," was also one of the early missionaries to those islands, having followed, a few months later, the ten already mentioned. It was he who purchased for the Church the late plantation of 4,500 acres which has since been the headquarters of the mission and a gathering place for the native Saints. He was a valuable missionary then, and in subsequent labors on the islands, his second mission being in 1855. As Bishop of Huntville, Weber county, and as President of the San Juan Stake of Zion, he exhibited the same fidelity to the truth and practical ability as a leader, that characterized his early services at home and abroad. He was a kind, hospitable, genial soul and was universally loved and esteemed.

Elder Simpson M. Molen, who departed this life on Nov. 29th, from heart trouble, as announced in this issue of the "News," went on a mission to the Hawaiian Islands in 1854, in company with President Joseph F. Smith, Elder Wm. W. Cluff and others. Elder Molen filled another mission to Hawaii and was accompanied by his wife. He was an energetic and honorable citizen of Cache county, was Bishop of Hyrum and afterwards first counselor to President Orson Smith of Cache State of Zion, and was devoted to his duty in every office to which he was called.

The coincidences of these deaths are peculiar, because of the early associations of the faithful servants of the Lord who have gone to the spirit world so recently, and at the time when their labors are about to be commemorated. They will each be missed greatly by hosts of friends as well as by their bereaved relatives, with whom we sincerely sympathize.

There have been so many singular providences in the departure of leading spirits in the Church, that the idea is forcibly suggested that they are "wanted" on the other side, and that a work is ready for them there for which they are peculiarly adapted. The immensity and variety of labor required in that sphere may, to a very small degree, be sensed, when we think of the thousands of millions of the departed, who have gone from the different places and conditions on this earth, and who need instruction in the one Gospel of salvation.

Of that sphere we know but little. Only through the revelations of God can we learn anything reliable concerning the myriad hosts behind the veil. But that all shall hear the truth and have an opportunity of receiving and obeying it, so that they may be saved, we have the most positive assurance. It is altogether probable that special missionaries are required for special work there as in the mission fields of the earth; and it is certain that the power and authority of the Holy Priesthood reaches within the veil, and is there exercised for the benefit and advancement of those who sit in darkness.

The faithful Elders who have recently been called hence will be sure to continue their efforts in the great cause of redemption to which their lives in mortality were so earnestly devoted, and the thought that they still live though their bodies sleep and may be dissolved, and that they will wield a more potent influence than ever for the advancement and triumph of The Truth, cannot but cheer and comfort all who believe in immortality and eternal progress in the "life to come."

NEW YORK'S CRUSADE.

The proposition to form a vigilance committee, 25,000 strong, to fight vice in the City of New York proves that the promoters of that crusade are in earnest; also that the situation is considered beyond the reach of common legal methods. No doubt, in that vast

city can be found the required number of earnest men and women to enlist in a sort of guerrilla warfare against the strongholds of sin, but will their efforts bring permanent results? Or will they not in all probability end as the crusade against saloons that some years ago was waged. In the larger cities of this country, with the crusaders losing their enthusiasm after a while, and the nests of vice still open? It must be remembered that on one side is the powerful influence of material gain, while on the other there is sacrifice of both time and money.

The effective way to fight vice is through the properly appointed authorities and was legal enactments. Were city governments taken out of politics, and only the right kind of men appointed to offices, saloons and dives would have no "pull," as long as the majority of citizens are opposed to the state of affairs of which New York complains. How victory can be secured in any other way is difficult to perceive.

In this fight it is well to remember that the influences for immorality are by no means confined to the lower strata of the communities. It is not an evil of the surface which can be cured by local applications. It is a disease of the vital organs of the body politic, calling for radical treatment. If the aim is to effect a cure, there should be no shrinking from the application of any reform that may be necessary, not even the dethronement of political bosses, and the breaking up of their machine, and the exercise of power by the people, to the full extent warranted by the Constitution and the laws of the State.

ANCIENT IRRIGATION.

Judge W. T. Orr, of Waco, Texas, furnishes a contribution to the discussion on the irrigation question, which is of interest because the judge contends that artificial watering of the land was common thousands of years ago. He also believes that the early irrigation works in this country were constructed by people familiar with the ways of the ancient Egyptians and Assyrians.

The judge is quoted in the El Paso Herald as follows:

"The eminent men now discussing irrigation will no doubt succeed in inducing the present generation to re-establish irrigation, which existed 4,000 years ago, not only in the western hemisphere, but in the world. My theory is that the ancient reservoirs and canals of the western world, out of use and partly obliterated, except in the republics south of the Rio Grande, were constructed by engineers who learned their art from masters of the profession, who had been driven into exile and found asylum from eastern persecutors in this hemisphere, which from earliest ages has been the refuge of the oppressed."

Germans, Russians and French are restoring in Assyria the canals and aqueducts built 2,500 years before the coming of Christ, which, in those days, turned the surplus water of the Euphrates and the Tigris on the plains and caused deserts to yield figs, pomegranates, oranges, lemons and all manner of grain, as well as cotton. In Egypt the British engineers are rebuilding on the Nile the vast system for the storage and delivery of water for purposes of irrigation, which, when completed, will be a mere restoration of conditions which existed before the pyramids were built.

"In Texas every pint of surplus water can be retained, provided the controlling works are constructed on a plan adequate to the immensity of the project. If it would cost billions it would create billions. Every tributary, however small, should have its storage tanks, every river its dozen or two reservoirs, and the entire State should be intersected with canals. This would flood drainage cease, drought lose its sting and smiling plenty bless each succeeding year. Instead of 500-acre farms, a tiller of the soil would find five acres yielding plenty for his purpose."

"In re-sensence on the problem of general irrigation, fish and water fowl should not be overlooked. Everybody could eat trout, and everybody could have ducks and geese. Let taxation for purposes of war cease. Let each nation preserve its water, its game, its forests, its birds and devote the public revenues to those purposes only, and poverty will disappear from the entire world. Texas is well situated for irrigation, and I say let the good work begin as soon as possible."

Apart from the excellent suggestions here made on irrigation in general, it is worthy of notice, that the judge unhesitatingly declares his opinion to be that the ancient civilizations of this continent are traceable to Egypt and Assyria. When the Prophet Joseph first offered this explanation of a great mystery, he was ridiculed and opposed. But the more light is shed upon the past of this continent the more probable it appears that the Prophet was right. It is no longer a mark of ignorance to believe in the eastern origin of much of ancient America's civilization. The Book of Mormon is being vindicated as one of the most valuable historical documents in existence.

LEONIANA.

Pope Leo is again reported in feeble health, and it is expected that his demise may occur at no distant day. He has been called the last grand old man of the century, and the news of his condition will cause regret among both Protestants and Catholics. The pope was born in 1810. The century was in its first decade, when he first saw the light of day in the palace of the Popes, and he has had his full share of life in this sphere. For years he has apparently been walking in the shadows of eternity, ready to pass out of view at any moment.

The present pontiff has wielded greater influence than any pope since the middle ages. During the last twenty years he has brought the Catholic church in touch with modern progress. His transformation of the Vatican from a crumbling medieval ruin to a modern palace is typical of his work in the church of which he is the head. That vast building, containing 11,000 rooms, is now brilliant with electric lights, and telephones connect its various offices with the halls of state. Everything is modern. Even so the Roman church has become modernized, and perhaps nowhere is this fact more apparent than in the United States, where she flourishes in true democratic soil.

One of the traits of character of the pope is his tolerance. This was well illustrated in the manner in which he received the news of the death of the famous rationalist Renan. He was told that the deceased had died "impen-

itent," and yet he did not despair of his salvation. Pressed for an explanation, he replied: "Because Renan has proved that his doubt was sincere, and therefore he will be judged by his sincerity, which, if it is thorough, may absolve him." The principle here expressed is one which might be thoughtfully considered by many Protestants, who are ready with anathemas upon the heads of those who differ with them in faith and practices.

Ex-President Kruger is one of the sincere admirers of the pope. On this point a story is worth while recalling at this time. Some years ago the Sultan of Turkey presented the pope with a ruby and diamond ring of great value. It was considered a marvel of beauty. When the story reached the ears of the Transvaal president, he formed a resolution and then, with the patience which characterizes him, he waited. When the most phenomenally large diamond which has yet been discovered in South Africa was recently dug out of the loaming soil of the Transvaal, Paul Kruger immediately declared it was to be forwarded as his present to Leo XIII.

"The noble pontiff," he remarked, "deserves it. And, besides," he added, with a touch of his gruff humor, "it will help us to hear no more of Abdul Hamid's famous ring."

From a Boer point of view it is a pity that the pope should be so feeble at this time. Paul Kruger might, under different circumstances, have found a friend in him, whose influence would have been of inestimable value, though, theoretically, his holiness has no political power in the affairs of the world.

GIGGLING IN CHURCH.

A singular story is recounted in eastern papers. It is to the effect that down in West Virginia, a short time ago, two girls and their escorts were giggling in a church during the services, and for this they were arrested and taken before a justice of the peace. The case was carefully investigated, with the result that the learned judge found out that the masculine offenders "had been enticed into giggling" by their fair companions. This important fact established, they were promptly released, while the girls were sentenced to pay the "costs of court."

It seems that the gay damsels were habitually "giggling in church," and the ministers had on former occasions been greatly annoyed by them. He became so nervous, the record says, that he could not, finally, prepare a good sermon, nor deliver properly such stuff as his nervousness would permit him to compose, from which it is evident that the conduct of these two offenders had far reaching consequences. Not only was the minister upset by their "giggling," when with solemn bearing he stood in the pulpit, but the vision haunted him, when in his secluded study he was engaged in the delicate and trying labor of making extracts from ponderous volumes of sermons, and endeavoring to find a text to fit the selections made.

It was time that this should be stopped. The minister may possibly regret that he did not live in the age of Calvin, when the laws prescribed penalties for non-attendance at church and for ill behavior during the services. He got his revenge, however, and in all probability the two offenders will never again disturb him with their presence at his church.

We can have nothing but words of censure for the habit of disturbing religious services, or other public gatherings, but as a rule we believe a "Christian" minister should privately re-monstrate with offenders of the class referred to, rather than have them punished in the courts. In very few cases would a private talk in the right spirit fail to bring the desired effect.

There are no better signs of good times than sleigh bells, deep snow and fine crisp weather.

The High School football team scored a great victory yesterday, one of which they may well be proud.

The more stamp taxes that Congress stamps out the more it will receive the stamp of approval from the people.

In all the discussion of new theories of education it should never for a moment be forgotten that "there is no excellence without labor."

It is rumored that France has promised Kruger to press arbitration on England. But then promises, like pie-crusts, are made to be broken.

Many papers are still devoting their time to analyzing the presidential vote. The proper method would be to get a solution first and then make the analysis.

The way in which Greater New York went wild over the recent horse show proves that Holmes was right when he said that life is a great bundle of little things.

The Fourth municipal ward or precinct is to nominate a member of the Board of Education tonight. Every registered voter should take part in the proceedings.

The thrill that went through Great Britain when news of the disaster at Dewetsdorp was announced was probably of the "fantastic terror" kind "never felt before."

The little Republic of Acre seems to have been one of those South American political growths that was "born to bluish unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air."

In his report Secretary Wilson says there is much inquiry regarding better roads and better methods of building them. The road to heaven is a good one and in first class repair.

The patching up of the bicycle ordinance will please a few wheelers but will occasion much disgust among the great majority of our citizens. Why not let the existing regulations alone?

They are driving vice to cover in New York. The harder and longer the drive the better it will be for morals and the public. In too many cities vice is treated as though it were quasi legal. All who have ever given any attention to the subject know that it cannot be eradicated, but they also know that it

can be suppressed to a large extent and reduced to a minimum. The anti-vice movement should be welcomed everywhere.

Candidates for membership on the Board of Education are to be named in some of the precincts tonight. Only citizens who have a deep and abiding interest in school matters should be chosen, and particular care should be taken to see that no little cliques dominate the nominating meeting.

"Mr. Zimmerman of Cincinnati, the unwilling father-in-law of the Duke of Manchester, in complimenting the talents of his daughter's husband, said: 'Some of his newspaper articles were first rate, too.' The emphasis was probably on the 'some,' says an exchange. The emphasis was most probably on the two."

It is said that Lord Roberts' cablegram announcing the surrender of four hundred British soldiers, and two field guns, at Dewetsdorp has filled England with alarm. And well it may for it shows that the Transvaal is anything but pacified, the Boers anything but conquered. To add to England's irritation the French chamber of deputies and the senate have just passed a resolution of sympathy with Kruger. The old man's mission in Europe may result in like resolutions being passed in other national assemblies. His threats made at Marseilles seem likely to be fulfilled.

The catastrophe in San Francisco, whereby fourteen people were killed, was a most horrible affair, and that more of the number on the roof of the frail building were not killed is almost a miracle. They had perched themselves there to witness a game of football, and while the accident is most deplorable the unfortunate victims themselves were alone to blame. On such occasions as this one some people will take advantage of any vantage ground to get a view of a game of ball or race, and it is always very difficult to remove them. And this frightful accident will hardly serve as a warning to others.

OUR TROUBLE WITH TURKEY.

Springfield Republican.

The effort to induce Abdul Hamid to pay for the destruction of American missionary property in Turkey five years ago has had a growing comic aspect. Our minister returned to the United States some months ago in order to show the American government his displeasure. And since then the charge left in control of the legation has periodically visited the sultan to pay his respects and present the bill for indemnity. The sultan has now reached something nearer the war ship stage, for the big battle ship Kentucky has been ordered to Turkish waters. The effect of this should be salutary.

SACRAMENTO BEES.

If Turkey pays the damages demanded by the United States for indemnity American ministers for losses during the American troubles the missionaries over there should not expect any further contributions from this country. For the figures which they swore to as representing the value of their losses in libraries and household furniture, and in the dresses and millinery of their wives, daughters and female relatives generally, prove either that they lived like Solomon and Queen of Sheba, or that they expect to reap a harvest akin to that of the incendiary who fires a worthless and gutted building for the insurance on the property and its contents.

KRUGER IN FRANCE.

Chicago News.

In these circumstances the landing of ex-President Kruger in France and the problem as to how he shall be received and what disposition shall be made of him have become international questions. It is now no secret that the aged but sturdy Transvaal ex-president is invading Europe with the avowed purpose to secure intervention, if possible. Were he twenty years younger he would probably still be at the head of the irregular forces which are now giving extra employment to a British army of nearly 20,000 men. But Kruger, old, defeated, a man without a country, is still a personage of more than ordinary importance. The French also are a brave, impulsive people, not likely to accept a definite hint from London as to how they shall treat this man whom Frenchmen admire. His presence in France, therefore, at the present time may prove to be a match in the international powder mill or Kruger may be diplomatically headed off and an explosion averted. In either event his arrival is an interesting fact at the present stage of international relations.

New York Evening Post.

Fifty years ago the representative of a people defeated in the struggle for independence and exiled from his country, was brought to our shores in one of our war-ships, and received a magnificent ovation, not only from our people, but also from our government. Times have changed since Kossuth's day, and our administration journals comment on the enthusiasm of Kruger at Marseilles with marked restraint. We have contracted some "entangling alliances" which would make it highly inexpedient for the administration to extend any courtesies to this fugitive, and his appearance in the halls of Congress would be very embarrassing.

New York Mail and Express.

President Kruger received the demonstrative welcome from the Marseilles populace when he landed from the Gelderland this morning that had been expected, but the speech of response which he delivered was scarcely as expected. It had been thought that the venerable Boer leader would perhaps confine himself to the conventional in his public addresses in France, and reserve his more significant statements until he reached Holland, but his first words upon French soil were provocative of that anti-British sentiment which official France has been making such efforts to restrain. They seemed more like the utterances of an exile who had an overmastering sense of his country's wrongs than of an envoy who was coming to Europe with a program to submit for their vindication.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The enthusiastic reception of President Kruger of the Transvaal republic by the French people at Marseilles may indicate two things—first, a dislike of England, and, secondly, a devotion to liberty and independence. Many will think that the former sentiment is the most dominant. Englishmen look on with a cold indignation, because they think their country is unjustly slandered by the speeches of President Kruger and others. The demonstration is likely to have one serious effect. It is hardening the British mind against any concessions whatever to the Boers, and therefore is injurious to them in their present condition of dependence.

Sacramento Bee.

While some of the popular enthusiasm with which Kruger is being received in France is due to the French hatred of England, there is no doubt that the people feel that Oom Paul represents the desire for liberty and the

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love of human rights which are implanted in the soul of every man worthy the name.

Boston Herald.

Ex-President Kruger of the Boer nation is disposed to brave out his condition, as the phrase is, in his exile. He has not learned to submit to the inevitable, though his disposition in this respect is not likely to create more than temporary embarrassment in the condition of affairs in this country. It is open to question if he is rendering those who have remained in the Transvaal service by exhorting them to continue resistance to the British government. When a man is himself in the field, it may be of advantage to him not to know when he is whipped; but, when he has left it, there may be more of humanity, as well as of magnanimity, in recognizing in words what he has demonstrated in action to be the fact.

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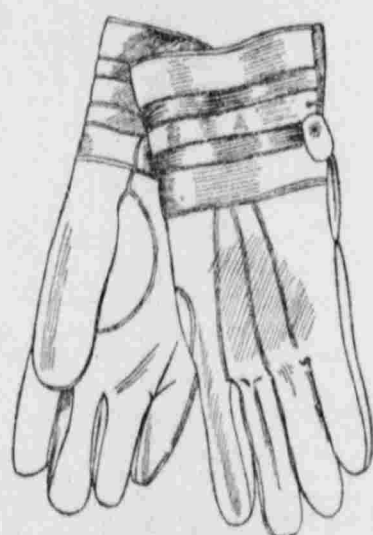
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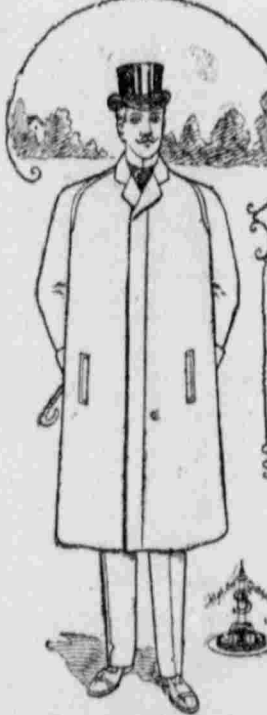


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