

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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THE DESERET NEWS
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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 15, 1902.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, in this city, Friday, April 12, 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.

THE YOUNG MEMORIAL HALL.

The transfer and conveyance of the grounds in the Eighteenth ward, from the heirs of the Brigham Young estate through the Young University trustees to the Latter-day Saints University, is a transaction highly commendable, and that will be of vast benefit to the institution which now owns the land. It is a valuable piece of property, and whether disposed of in bulk or sold in parcels, will net a considerable sum for the uses to which it will be applied.

President Brigham Young designed the erection of an educational establishment in this city, which should be a center of learning for the benefit not only of the people residing here, but for the training of teachers for academies and colleges in other parts of the region. It was thought for some time that the square in the Eighteenth ward would be occupied by a building or buildings for this purpose. But the trend of events has led up to the change involved in the present transfer. The L. D. S. College has advanced so rapidly in recent years toward the mark held in view by President Young, that the advisability of making it fully what he desired in such an institution, has been perceived so clearly by all parties interested in carrying out his wishes and in the advancement of the cause of education, that this property has been conveyed, and the institution has adopted the title of the Latter-day Saints University in order to obtain the benefits of the grant.

The building that will be erected in connection with the structures already completed, will bear the name of the illustrious Pioneer who figured so prominently in the founding of this State. It will be a memorial hall and form a handsome wing to the University building. It is gratifying to see the realization in some degree of the hopes and plans of the great man, whose genius is seen in the progress and development of the State which has been reared upon the foundations that he laid.

President Brigham Young was one of the foremost and best friends of education that Utah has been blessed with. At the very time when he was maligned as a foe to learning, he was devoting means and property which he had acquired to the very purposes which he was accused of opposing. The B. Y. Academy at Provo with its branch establishments, the Brigham Young College at Logan, and the Young Memorial Hall of the L. D. S. University, will stand not only as monuments to his great name, but as striking and abiding vindications of his character as a promoter of secular as well as religious training, for the advancement of art, science and the diffusion of general knowledge and intelligence.

We congratulate the L. D. S. University on the acquisition of the Eighteenth ward square, and the trustees of the Young University and the heirs to the estate on the settlement of the matter connected with this conveyance, in such a satisfactory and beneficial manner. The cause of education in the Church and in the State will be greatly enhanced thereby, and it is very pleasing to look upon the present situation and the future prospects of the great cause, to which the life and labors and wonderful energies of our departed President were devoted.

MOCK MARRIAGES.

The scathing rebuke administered from the bench, by Judge Johnson, to the persons implicated in the mock marriage at Price, which has brought

upon them so much trouble, and is likely to involve one or more of them in the meshes of the criminal law, will be heartily endorsed by the thinking and respectable citizens of Utah. His remarks were very severe, but they were none too strong to meet the situation.

Marriage is too serious a matter for burlesque and bogus ceremonies. Young people should know better than to make it a subject for farcical and sacrilegious performances. It is a dangerous proceeding to tamper with. A ceremony performed in fun may turn out, as in this case, a serious complication. It is still a matter of doubt, to be settled by the court, whether the parties to this "josh" marriage are not actually man and wife. It seems that neither of them now desires the relationship.

If it is reprehensible for young and thoughtless people to engage in such diversions, what can be thought of an Elder in the Church, or other minister, who assists in so shameful a desecration of a sacred ordinance? Conduct like that shows unworthiness to hold the Priesthood, or the authority vested by the State in a minister of the Gospel. No language is fully adequate to express the animadversion which such conduct deserves.

We hope this occurrence will serve as a warning to thoughtless individuals who, in the height of hilarity and an overwhelming desire for variety in amusements are tempted to indulge in mock marriages and similar unseemly antics. They should be frowned down by all sensible people, and the sacred ordinance and estate of matrimony should be regarded with the solemnity which its importance demands.

THE UTAH-POSTER.

The latest issue of Utah-Poster contains an address, signed by the First Presidency of the Church, giving their cordial support to that paper as a Swedish publication worthy of the support of the members and friends of the Church, and recommending them to be careful as to the literature they patronize, and hoping they will appreciate the Utah-Poster as a paper "published in their own language and in full accord with the Church and the principles of the Gospel."

The Deseret News takes pleasure in echoing the sentiments of the Church leaders. We believe that the Poster will receive a new impetus from recent movements, which will place it in the category of publications under the auspices and approbation of the Church authorities, and ensure its continuance and success. It is an excellent public journal, worthy of universal circulation among the Swedish people everywhere. It should receive their hearty support, which it well deserves. Its neat typographical appearance commends it to its contents. It is placed within the reach of the people who are not wealthy, and to those who are not conversant with any other language but the Swedish it is invaluable.

The gentlemen whose names appear as the publishers of the paper are well known and substantial citizens, respected in this community, and the manager is a man of ability and integrity whose talents are being devoted to a good and worthy purpose. These citizens no doubt feel greatly encouraged in the prospects that now open up for their journal, and we wish them all the success they can reasonably anticipate. We advise all the Swedes to subscribe for, and our business men to advertise in, this worthy and progressive Swedish newspaper.

A QUESTION OF PASSPORTS.

Some generous-hearted American citizens have contributed funds for the relief of the Boers in the South African concentration camps, just as they did for Cuban reconcentrados in Weyler's camps. But it seems to be connected with considerable difficulties, to send the money to its destination.

Some time ago a committee organized by Gov. Yates, of Illinois, gathered means for the purpose mentioned, and selected Mr. and Mrs. Hiram W. Thomas to go to Africa and superintend the distribution. But when the secretary of state was requested to apply to the British ambassador for passports, he refused to do so, on the ground that President Roosevelt would object. A second request, in the form of a demand, it is now stated, has been sent to Secretary Hay, and if he still adheres to his original decision, the case will be appealed to the President, and then, if need be, the application will be sent to Lord Pauncefote directly.

There can be no reasonable objection to the distribution of American money among non-combatants. On the contrary, the laudable effort should be accepted as a token of good will and a desire to ameliorate sufferings of fellow-men. Spaniards objected to American philanthropy in Cuba, because their policy, as generally understood at the time, was to starve the people into submission, or death. But the circumstances are different in South Africa. Any effort to ameliorate the conditions of the non-combatants should be welcome in the name of humanity and civilization. It is claimed that there are sums of money in many cities, both in this country and Europe, gathered for the benefit of women, children and aged men in the various camps. Great Britain can afford to facilitate their distribution, as long as the means thus gathered are not used for the maintenance of the belligerents. The British ambassador can hardly refuse the passports, if application is made. To do so would be to vindicate the Spanish policy in Cuba, which at the time provoked indignation in all civilized countries.

MOHAMMEDAN INVASION.

The Vienna Tageblatt is credited with the statement, that a discovery has been made of preparations for the Mohammedan world for the invasion of Europe from various points simultaneously. The invading armies are to come from the Ottoman empire, northern Africa, Southern Arabia, Persia, India and Afghanistan. It is said that the article in the Vienna paper has created quite a sensation in Europe, and that it, perhaps, its sole object. All the yellow journalism of the

world is not found on this side of the ocean.

The spirit of conquest is not lacking in the Mohammedan world. The faithful followers of the Arabian prophet still believe that Islam will become the universal religion, and they are actively engaged in propaganda both in Africa and Asia, and with success, too. But as for an armed invasion of Europe in the interest of that religion in the near future, the idea is absurd.

The followers of Mohammed are numerous enough, being estimated at in the neighborhood of 300,000,000 souls, but they are not equipped for modern warfare. They have no leaders that could create armies and navies, as by magic, and undertake a crusade of that character. Nominally, the Sultan of Turkey is their ecclesiastical head and the leader of such an enterprise, but he is too well informed on European affairs to make such a venture. He is no Gustavus Adolphus, nor even a Napoleon. He has too much wholesome fear of a French squadron, to entertain for a moment the idea of seceding one in the Dardanelles. He knows there is a sentiment in Europe against him, and that the first serious hostile movement on his part would cause an avalanche before which his power would be swept away. That time the Mohammedan world will some time be awakened from its lethargy, and take a hand in the closing scenes of this dispensation is extremely probable, but there is no evidence that its time has come just yet.

In the meantime it may not be without interest to notice that in the so-called Christian world there has been a great change of opinion regarding Islam as a religious system. It has been discovered that the Koran is more closely related to the Bible than to the sacred books of the eastern nations. Its teachings have been termed "rationalistic Christianity." It is found to be superior to heathenism and Buddhism, inasmuch as it recognizes Jesus of Nazareth as the "spirit" or "soul" of God.

A peaceful propaganda of Islam in Europe, intelligently conducted, might be more of danger than an armed invasion, for it is quite certain that modern Christianity is as poorly equipped for an intellectual contest with old religions of the world, as are the Moslems for an armed conflict. Its precepts, its ethics are good and sublime, but it is judged not so much according to the intrinsic value of these, as according to the moral results that can be seen. And in this respect the so-called Christian world has little to boast of in comparison with the followers of other codes.

THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

Prof. Herbert Giles of Cambridge University, England, recently gave a lecture at Columbia University on the Chinese language. He told some interesting points not generally known. One was that the spoken language is entirely different from the written. The former, he said, is easy, while the latter is extremely difficult. The spoken language can be mastered by an industrious and intelligent scholar in a few months. It has 420 sounds representing 42,000 words, distinguished from one another by means of subtle modulations of tone. It has no declensions, no conjugations, no irregular verbs. To master the written language is the work of a lifetime. It is today practically as it was 2,500 years ago.

From this it would appear that if the Chinese are to take a more prominent role on the world's stage than they have hitherto, they must be given a written language by which their modern vernacular can be represented in writing. Without that, commercial intercourse will always be difficult. The Americans are expected to carry on an extensive trade in the Orient, in the future. For that reason any information concerning the language of the people is of interest.

AN OLD SUBJECT BUT NEW.

An exchange tells the story of a remarkable discovery relating to the ark. It seems that in the course of deciphering some cuneiform inscriptions on tablets in the British museums, an account of the vessel of Noah was found, giving a good idea of its dimensions and form, as well as of the animals that it sheltered.

The dimensions are given in cubits. According to the tablet, the ark was 783 cubits long and 439 cubits at its greatest width. It had on the deck a blockhouse built of rafters of fine wood. This was 600 cubits long, 330 cubits wide, and 150 cubits high. It will be noticed that these dimensions are much larger than those given in Genesis.

An attempt has been made to reduce the measurements of the tablet to modern standards. If the cubit used is the old Egyptian, it is equal to about 20 inches and a half. The length of the ark would accordingly have been 1,555 feet, with a beam of 705.25 feet. The length of the deckhouse was 1,155.25 feet, with a beam of 705.25 feet. The greatest ocean liners of our day would have looked small if placed alongside a ship of such huge dimensions.

The ark, it is asserted, must have drawn no much water that it could not have entered New York harbor, even at high tide. It is pretty clear, therefore, that if the tablet is an authentic record of historical facts, the deluge cannot have been a local inundation of short duration. It must have had a very large extension to make such a vessel necessary.

The translation of the tablet is not yet completed, but among the animals mentioned as taken into the ark are dromedaries, camels, oxen, mules, sheep, goats, antelopes and rabbits. Doves, swallows, and ravens are mentioned among the birds.

A fragment of another Assyrian tablet on the flood was found some years ago, by George Smith. This had no description of the ark, but related particularly the end of its most wonderful voyage.

The importance of such finds is in the fact that they go far to establish the historical character of an event in the early history of the human race, that many would prefer to relegate to the domain of myth. If there are dis-

crepancies between the statements of minor particulars, as given by the Assyrian historians and Moses, it should not be taken as a matter of course that the latter must be wrong. The Hebrew writer, it may be presumed, had as many facilities for independent research in Egypt, the ancient center of learning, as had the recorders of history in Assyria. Perhaps more. If the modern view that Egyptian civilization came to that country from Central America, is correct; and if the cradle of the human race stood on the western continent, there is good ground for the assumption that one who had access to Egyptian records, as Moses had, would be better informed on past history, than the savants of other countries. The modern discoveries in this line are full of fascinating interest.

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE TOMORROW.

The weather bureau man is cutting ice these days.

Three conference meetings in this city on Sunday.

It is easier to set an arbor day than it is to set a tree.

The Commercial Club's secretary will make a good fisher of men.

It is a strange migration of souls that makes Mr. Hogg of Texas a lion in London.

Whatever else Uncle Sam's attitude towards Cuba may be it isn't particularly graceful.

The jingling of sleigh bells in the middle of March sounds like sweet bells out of time.

General Delaney isn't so handsome as General Methuen but he seems to be the better man in a mixup.

This (the 15th of March with the ground covered with several inches of snow) is the winter of our discontent.

It is said that President Roosevelt will write a history of Texas. It will be his Lone Star literary performance.

Stake Conference in the Assembly Hall Sunday at 10 a. m. and in the Tabernacle at 2 p. m. and 7 p. m. Every-body invited.

"Who are the people?" asks an exchange. It is a really interesting question, easily asked but exceedingly difficult to answer.

The theological classes of the Sunday schools in this city are expected to be at the Assembly Hall tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

It is said that President Roosevelt is opposed to having old men in the army. His opposition is doubtless to old fogies in the army.

The man who was shipped as freight in a potato sack must have felt "very small potatoes" on his arrival after a five days' fast on a slow train.

Mrs. Astor says that no man can be a gentleman unless he has a college education. "When Adam delved and Eve span, where was then your gentleman?"

To transmit two and a half million dollars in gold from the New York sub-treasury to the San Francisco sub-treasury, didn't burden the wires any more than an ordinary message.

Alfred has a surprisingly large number of admirers, now. Who was it that said, the man whom all the world de-nounced yesterday is lauded by everybody today, because he died last night?

This fall the women of Wisconsin will for the first time be permitted to cast their votes at school elections. It is not much but it is something. If it fit to vote at school elections why not at all elections?

Secretary Shaw is apt to be known as the Sherlock Holmes of the cabinet. He has suddenly developed a habit of visiting the customs houses incognito and seeing for himself how matters are managed; whether the law is brutally or merely strictly enforced.

Prince Henry, while in this country, is said to have received and warmly greeted Booker T. Washington. The prince sent specially for Mr. Washington and the Hampton singers, and the inference is that he had real interest in learning something about the work of that gentleman among the colored people.

It appears that the dispatch sent from San Francisco, to the effect that Mr. McCormick had signified his willingness to accept a cabinet position, was one of those bogus bits of news which occasionally make a stir in the land. The authors of such canards ought to be prosecuted for their lying and deception of the public. It is time they were punished as they deserve.

We congratulate the Hon. Fisher S. Harris on being selected to fill the very important position of Assistant Secretary of the Commercial Club. It requires a man of general information acquainted with the affairs of this State and competent to keep track of the club's accounts and affairs, and while the appointment may be regarded as a recognition of the gentleman's abilities, the club also is to be congratulated in having been able to find the right man for the right place.

A correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle suggests the word "aerogram" as a substitute for "wireless telegraphy." That is not correct form. "Aerography" would do instead of "wireless telegraphy," and "aerogram" for "wireless telegram," but the word "aerography" has already been adopted and means a treatise on the atmosphere and its phenomena. "Airgraphy" and "aerogram" might be preferable. But does the language really need another foreign word for the new invention? "Telegraphy" and "telegram" seem to cover the ground sufficiently. A "telegraph" is "any one of various apparatus or devices for transmitting messages or signals." So says the dictionary.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Prof. Coe in The Advance. Leaving out of account New Testament usage, we may say that in the very day speech of the people conver-

sion means one or more of three things, namely: first, returning to God after a vicious, rebellious, or deliberately neglected life; second, a personal desire on the part of a child or youth upon reaching religious self-consciousness; third, certain emotional and impulsive experiences which frequently accompany conversion in the first sense, and sometimes in the second. Many persons, apparently, would not give the name conversion to anything short of the third of these meanings, while others would apply it to the first and third, and still others to all three.

L. S. DU BOIS IN THE CHICAGO STANDARD.

It would be perfectly safe to say that outside of Constantinople, Chicago is the most religious city in the world. There are in Chicago upwards of 1,100 places for public worship of the Deity. Of course, we expect to find the largest number among those professing Christianity, but there are none the less congregations of the disciples of Confucius, of Buddha, of Zoroaster, and of Mohammed. In the heart of the city are Hindu temples, Moslem temples, Shinto temples, and Shinto temples, where gather Christians, Buddhists, Babis, Truth-seekers, Spiritualists, and groups the names of which are known only to themselves. Out on Taylor street is a Mohammedan mosque. There are four large church edifices, filled every Sunday, too, with Latter-day Saints, Methodists and Quakers have flourishing congregations within the city limits, and the number is not small to whom ethical thought appeals with religious satisfaction.

NORTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

That was a wise old minister who said he never preached to so-called infidels, because he believed there were no infidels in reality. One who heard his remark said: "No infidels? My dear sir, I am one." "No, my son," said the minister, "you would like to be, but you cannot. The first dark shadow of sorrow that you meet will wrench from your lips and from the depths of your heart a cry to God. Your soul will not be defrauded of its right to succor at the source from which it emanated." In this remark there is revealed not only much wisdom but a suggestion of the value of a great sorrow. In the day of prosperity we are apt to think that there is no need of God. But in the time of sorrow, when there is no help in man, our souls instinctively cry out for God. Thus it happens that trouble becomes a minister of righteousness. It leads us to God.

GREAT THOUGHTS.

Have patience. It is wise to cultivate it largely, both with life and its many changes—with mankind and also with the individual self. Only the patient and forbearing soul will develop a peaceful calm under the lash of irritation, and grow strong and pure on the plain face of deprivation and untoward circumstances. Patience is one of the soul's greatest beautifiers, it is the sandpaper with which character is smoothed and perfected. To possess one's soul in patience is no easy matter—will many it is one of life's hardest achievements—but the lesson once mastered and the habit acquired, it will simplify many a difficult problem and under its influence the rough places of life will be found to smooth themselves out in a wonderful way. When possessed, it will aid all things. It will conquer all. It is faith in disguise. It is hope, seen afar off. It is love, enduring all things.

NEW YORK CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Missionaries were distinctly informed by the Lord Jesus as to their sufferings and their risks, and when they go to foreign lands to preach the Gospel to an unwilling people, they should be so informed by those who send them out. It would be better for the cause of missions and more promotive of the spirit of the cause of Christ to have this understood, than to have it implied that if these were captured they would be ransomed by the payment of large sums. Missionary societies have no accumulated funds. If the moral obligation rested upon the societies to support the missions and also to be ready to raise \$25,000 for each case of capture, it would be almost impossible to sustain the enterprise. No one is fit to be a missionary who does not, when he accepts such a commission, lay his life and liberty on the altar by an act of moral and mental consecration.

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