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SALT LAKE CITY, - AUGUST 29, 1903.

WRESTLING WITH "HEBREWS."

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat."-Heb. v, 12.

We are reminded of the foregoing passage in the Epistle to the Hebrews, by the struggle which has been going on during the past week over that apostolic letter, in the Teachers' assoclation of the Presbytery of Utah, particulars of which have been given in the "News." Differences of opinion and lack of definite knowledge as to the meaning of a number of important texts in that epistle, with the entire absence of any authoritative guidance to final conclusions, were strikingly conspicuous in their deliberations.

One slight mark of improvement in that body is worthy of notice: The usual attacks on "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" were much modified, and the epithets used were not so virulent and abusive as usual. The Book of Doctrine and Covenants was said to be "weak and flabby" on the question of Priesthood, and the incorrect assertion was made that the "Mormons" have had no revelations since 1814, "unless the one of Brigham Young before leaving Missouri was one and the Woodruff manifesto was another." The first declaration is a matter of opinion and taste: the latter is a positive untruth. Both exhibit as great a lack of understanding concerning the points mentioned, as of comprehension of the meaning of the texts in Hebrews that formed the chief topics of discussion by the association.

If we were disposed to retort, we might apply the Reverend critic's description of "weak and flabby" to all his dissertations on the passages cited from the Hebrews, but the most we would need to do in this connection, would be to compare the direct revelations, on Priesthood, in the Doctrine and Covenants, with the guesswork, vain imag-

in this age with the appearance of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith when not fifteen years of age. The two personages; clothed in light, were alike in appearance, and in response to the boy's fervent prayer for Divine guidance, one pointing to the other said, "This is my beloved Son, hear him!" The truth is revealed that the Father is a personal Heing with a spiritual body of flesh and bones, and the Son is exactly like Him, while men and women are His children in His image and likeness. That is something that can be understood, and is strictly in accord with former scripture revelations concerning Deity. And that is why mysticand divided Presbyterianism is opposed to "Mormonism."

"WHAT ARE THE ANGELS?"

Another perplexity of the Presbyterian Teachers association was about the nature of angels, whether they are "human spirits disembodied," or what. The question was referred to a promlnent preacher who replied that he didn't know. This showed a frankness and a confession of ignorance on the part of that gentleman that are surprising if not satisfactory. The expounder of the Hebrews then gave the teachers the jucid explanation that they are a "higher order of beings." Seeing that the epistle under consideration, quoting from a former passage of Scripture says that man is made "a little lower than the angels," the preceptor's explanation is not strikingly explanatory. The Doctrine and Covenants states, by revelation through Joseph Smith.

that angels who minister on this earth are men who belong or have belonged to it. That they are chiefly resurrected beings; but when they are disembodied spirits they appear in glory and are not perceptible to human touch. The angel Moroni, who revealed the place where the plates containing the Book of Mormon were deposited, and other angels who ministered to Joseph and conferred authority upon him, were persons who had lived on earth in former times.

This is no "weak and flabby"declara. tion, but a direct statement, and is corroborated by Bible testimony, notably in the words of the angel to John the Apostle in Rev. xxii, 8, 9. The pictures of so-called angels, with wings and a form half woman, half bird, are the result of untutored imagination, and lead to false ideas concerning the "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." There are angels of light and angels

of darkness. The latter are under the power of Satan. The Teachers association tried to decide whether the Adversary was a "personal devil" or not, but left the conclusion in a mist like other subjects debated. Here the Doctrine and Covenants speaks again with no uncertain sound, and so does the Book of Mormon; (see II Nephi, ix: 9). In the Vision described in D. and C., Section 76 we find the following:

'And thus we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebeiled against the Only Begotten Son, whom the Father loved, and who was in the bosom of the Father-was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son; and was called Perdition for the fore none of them can be "called of God heavens wept over him-he was Lucifer a son of the morning."-Verse 25. In section 29 of the same book it is evealed: "Behold, the devil was before Adam, for he rebelled against me, saying 'Give me thine honor,' which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of and also a third part of the hosts of heaven he turned away from me be-cause of their agency, and they were thrust down and thus became the devil and his angels. And behold, there is a place prepared for them from the be-ginning, which place is heil."--Verse 35, This harmonizes with the Epistle of

similarly authorized ordained Elders in every church and city where there were bodies of Saints. Acts, xfv, 23; Titus i, 5. The Teachers were also in a fog

about the Melchisedek priesthood, and were puzzled over the brief history of the priest of that names in Hebrews vil. Verse three reads thus: "Without father, without mother,

without descent, having neither begin-ning of days nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God abideth a priest continually." Having no other guide but the dead

letter of writings many centuries old, the Teachers were in a quandary about this. So they went off in a tangent about the "Mormons," affirming that "they have no more standing on Melchisedek than on Aaron"-as though that explained the mystery or added anything to support their own assumption of authority, in direct violation of

the injunction that they must not assume it unless "called of God as was Aaron.' The Doctrine and Covenants, which they characterized as "weak and flabby

on this point," also the Book of Mormon, make it clear that the sayings in Hebrews about Melchisedek, referred to the priesthood he held and not merely to the man, who was "King of Salem and priest of the Most High God." It was distinguished from the priesthood of Aaron in the respects mentioned, because the latter was continued by descent and was for time, while the former is not conferred because of parentage and is eternal.

The bewildered teachers claimed that all priesthood ended in Christ. That was intended as a settler to the testlmony of the "Mormons," which is that Joseph Smith received the Aaronic priesthood from John the Baptist, and the Melchisedek priesthood from Peter. James and John, each of those worthies appearing as ministering angels, But is it stated in Hebrews that those priesthoods were ended at that period? Let us see:

"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change al-so of the law." Heb. vii, 12.

A change is one thing, abolition is another and different thing. Christ was "called of God a priest after the order of Melchistdek." He called the Avostles to the same authority that He held, saying, "As my Father sent me, even so send I you," &c .- John xx, 22. Also "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you and ordained you," &c .--Jno., xv, 16. He gave them the "keys" so that they could proceed with the work assigned them as His Apostles and High Priests. The lesser authority was also in the Church, as some of its ministers could baptize, but could not lay on hands to impart the Holy Ohost (See Acts, vill.)

Now, the fact remains that authority to administer in the name of Deity, which belongs to priesthood, and is its essence, is not given to man except in the way stated in Hebrews v, 5, 6. Whether the "Mormons" have it or not will not help the case of the Presbyterian Teachers who attack us. They do not believe in Divine revelation in modern times, but deny it emphatically in their Confession of Faith. There-

While a most grave incident has taken a very happy turn, thus avoiding serious differences with a friendly power, still the fact remains that an attempt was made upon the vice consul's life. That it did not succeed is no fault of the would-be assassin. Had his aim been equal to his intentions the consul would now be a dead man.

It shows a serious state of affairs, and because it is so serious the President will not depart from the plans that have been formed. The European squadron will proceed to Beirut. This is wise, and cannot fail to have a salutary effect on the Porte. It will demonstrate to it that American consuls and altizens also must have every protection afforded them. The Magelssen incident may be a blessing in disguise in averting a great disaster.

Heretofore Beirut has not been considered as within the sphere of insurrectionary disturbance. But it has been proven to be and must be treated accordingly. The fact should be recognized that Turkey is honeycombed with insurrection and revolution, and if it is not, the consequences may be serious.

But what of the legation clerk who made the monumental blunder in transmitting the cipher dispatch? His error already has been very expensive and had it not been discovered early, might have resulted in most serious consequences. As a translator his occupation should be gone and probably will be. The moral of the case seems to be:

To avoid errors in translation have the translation repeated.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS. Editor Deseret News:

"For the benefit of your readers, please inform us if school trustees are compelled, by law, to furnish books free to the children; if so what school fund can be used for supplying the same

Yes, by chapter 60, Laws of Utah. 1903; the cost will come out of the regular school funds of the district.

The Balkan troubles are becoming orld's troubles.

Every railroad reporter is a trained journalist.

Kansas herself raises corn, but her river raises Cain.

The yacht that carries most sail naturally puts on most airs.

Chicago labor poois are more noxious than ever was Chicago river.

Shamrock III was remeasured but still she has been found wanting.

Now that the weather is cooling off municipal politics may warm up.

To intending America's cup challengers: Abandon hope all ye who enter here!

The red man's summer will soon be here, in many respects the loveliest of all the year.

The war maneuvers may be transferred from the coast of Maine to the coast of Syria.

The translator who mistranslated that dispatch from Belrut should himself be translated. An automobile trust is being formed. It is a rash, venturesome man who will trust an automobile.



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inngs and strained constructions in his own speeches on that subject.

After nearly a week's speculations and I-don't-knows of those professing "Teachers in Israel," the mooted questions appear to have been left in as much dark and dubious mystery as at the beginning of the sessions. Truly the text we have quoted from the epistle are directly applicable to those Presbyterian teachers in their prolonged wrestling with the Hebrews.

PRESBYTERIANS AND DEITY.

The first doctrinal difficulty in the discussion of the Epistle to the Hebrews by the Presbyterian Teachers' association, was the third verse of the first chapter. Referring to the Son of God it says:

"Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his per-son, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

This scripture, coming in direct conflict with the Presbyterian doctrine concerning God the Father, whom it decribes as being without form or figure, an immaterial incomprehensibility, naturally caused some debate. But it appears to have been left in the same cloud of mystery in which it was involved at the commencement of the reading. The revised translation was appealed to but it offered no elucidation.

The declarations of the New Testament, taken without the vain philosophy and speculative theories of uninspired theologians, are to the effect that the Father is a personal Being, in the same form and likeness as the Son, the latter being so completely a duplication of the Father that he is declared to be "the express image of His person." The discussion, it is reported, "turned on the question as to whether God had taken on human form." How there could be any room for a difference of opinion on that point, among persons who are not only bound in creed to be guided by the Bible, but also stand as teachers of it, too, is certainly remarkable.

The Epistic to the Hebrews, particularly the first and second chapters, coupled with the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, establish the affirmative of the question beyond dispute to every real believer, and the whole tenor of the New Testament is to the effect that Christ was God and that he took on human form. And he declared himself that

The Son can do nothing of himself t what he seeth the Father do; for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."

The significance of that statement ought to be clear even to the teachers who are tled to a creed that is utterly discordant with it. The mission of the Son was to declare, exhibit, and represent the Eternal Father, from whom he came and to whom he went after his resurrection, and whose works he patterned after in his own earthly experlence. He was "God manifest in the flesh."

Jude, verse 6:

"And the angels which kept not their first estate but left their own habita-tion, he hath reserved in everiasting chains under darkness, unto the judgment of the great day.'

Man is now "a little lower than the angels," but is destined if obedient to the law of the celestial world, to rise far above them in glory and power and light and dominion, into "a far more and eternal and exceeding weight of glory," and to judge those who are to remain as angels in eternity. Spirits, men, angels, rulers over worlds and endless kingdoms are all of the same species 1. different degrees of existence and advancement, as the Presbyterians will find out hereafter, if they are not willing to learn doctrine now from the

THE PRIESTHOUD.

Latter-day Saints.

"And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."-Heb. v, 4.

That text was one more cause of inquiry by the Teachers association. They struggled with it in valn. Five prominent Reverends took different views. One venerable expounder read from Leviticus vili, by way of explanation, to show how Aaron was anointed and prepared for his priesthood, and then the conclusion was reached by the class leader that the Apostles of Christ were "not called as Aaron was." That was tantamonat to a denial of the doc-

trine in the text quoted above. But the disputants did not seem to distinguish the difference between Aaron's call to the priesthood and his anointing and ordination. God told Moses to take Aaron and his sons to minister in the priest's office. (See Exodus xxvili, 1.) They were thus 'called" by divine revelation through Moses, who stood at the head of Israel. The manner of their anointing and style of their clothing were another matter.

Now, how were the Apostles chosen? Christ called them under direction from the Father. He ordained and conferred upon them the same author. ity that He held. They were "called as was Aaron," the Presbyterians to the contrary notwithstanding. (See Matth. x, also xvill, 18. After Christ's resurrection, when Paul was called to the ministry the Holy Ghost revealed to the prophets in the Church at Antioch, that He and Barnabas were to be "separated for the work whereunto the Lord had called them." When these authorities "had fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on them and cent them away."-Acts xill, 1-4. In the "Mormonism," as it is called, began | same manner the Apostics and those !

as was Aaron." They have no oracle like Moses, or

Apostle like Peter, James or John. Such authority as they do claim can be traced right back to the Romish church, which cut off the ecclesiasts on whom they depend in the Presbytery, and who, if they had anything at all, held only that which they received from the church which they denounce as apostate and vile. They are utterly destitute of right to act in the name of the Lord, by their own showing and that of the Scriptures on which they entirely depend for light. We have not space to continue the

matter further, except to cite the words of the Apostle Paul concerning their class: "Ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth." "Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away."--- II 'Fim. iii, 5, 7,

FROM TRAGEDY TO COMEDY.

The denouement in the Magelssen case shows that what might have been a great tragedy is nothing but a comedy. And happy the change. Through an error in translating the cipher dispatch telling of an attempt upon the life of the American vice consul at Beirut it was made to read that he had been assassinated. Had not the error in the translation been discovered so soon it would have been found out in time to avert any serious consequences, for upon the arrival of a squadron at Beirut the fact that Consul would soon have been made known.

Professor Langley's flying machine does not seem to have got much beyond the pin-feather stage.

Sir Thomas has the courage of his convictions and frankly says that Reliance is the better boat

Campers in the mountains are hurrying home. What they seek now is "all the comforts of home," particularly the bright fireside.

"For this relief much thanks," expresses the Sultan's feelings over the joyous news that Consul Magelssen was not assassinated.

Nothing better evidences the size of bleago than the fact that the Barnum and Bailey circus will show in that town for two consecutive weeks. **AN ORPHAN'S PRAYER**

What a splendid advertisement for a lecture tour Vice-Consul Magelssen has got! It beats escapes from burning hotels and diamonds stolen, all to pleces.

The St. Louis police are now looking for a deputy constable who "is known to have a criminal record." He was probably made a deputy on the theory, "set a thief to catch a thief."





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