

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 28, 1904.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, Monday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 6, commencing each day at 10 a. m. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested and expected.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday evening, April 4, at 7 o'clock.

A special Priesthood meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall, Tuesday, April 5, at 10 o'clock a. m.

A religion class convention will be held in the Barratt hall on Tuesday, April 5, at 2 o'clock p. m.

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

The general conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 3, at 7 o'clock, and the attendance of all officers and teachers is desired. A general invitation is extended to all Sunday school workers and Saints to be present.

A special meeting of Sunday school stake officers will be held in Barratt Hall, Tuesday afternoon, April 5, at 4:30 o'clock and a full attendance is desired.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

COLLIERS' BAD BREAK.

We have received a copy of a weekly publication in which the press of the country are asked "to exercise the same care in determining the authenticity and news value of articles reflecting upon Christian Scientists, that they use in passing upon other matters coming to them through channels apart from their own recognized and carefully selected avenues of news-gathering." That is very good advice and a reasonable request. We have endeavored to do this without the admonition. But why should not the same care be exercised in the case of articles reflecting upon the "Mormons," as they are commonly called, and in regard to the stories told about them and their doctrines?

We are led to the application of the appeal cited above, to the course pursued against our faith and its adherents by the very surprising treatment both have recently received from Collier's Weekly, a magazine which hitherto has had a favorable reception among our people and good notices from the Deseret News. But for the sake of pandering to a sudden abnormal appetite for anti-"Mormon" publicity, incited by the bigotry and misrepresentations of sectarian preachers and organizations, that without respectable, conservative and attractive illustrated paper has prostituted its pages, both literary and artistic, to as shameful, libelous and villainous distortions of "Mormon" affairs and beliefs as could be put into public print.

An article from the pen of Alfred Henry Lewis with some illustrations occupying two pages is given place, entitled "The Great Mormon Conspiracy." It consists principally of old, decayed and mouldy stories, dug up from dead and interred anti-"Mormon" fiction, long since relegated to the sinkholes in which blood-and-thunder dime novelettes have been put out of sight. These are mingled with a few current facts, highly colored with the same hues in which the ancient tales are painted, and all served up under the name and authority of the compiler, who confesses that he obtained his information(?) from Utah people in Washington. If he believes that which he has written, he is among the most credulous persons of the age. In the language of the fabricators of that kind of material, he has been meretriciously "stuffed" and "played for a sucker." If he has maliciously gathered and put into type the miserable falsehoods thus revived, there are no epithets in any language too forcible and contemptible to apply to his conduct.

We do not purpose, just now, to take up in detail the numerous falsehoods he has foisted upon Collier's Weekly, and show their absurdity and untruth. There is not one of them that has not been exploded by the force of fact and unimpeachable testimony. The standard works of our Church and the consistent, honorable lives of the great masses of its members, are the most convincing proofs of the base untruth

of the charges grouped by Alfred Henry Lewis. He could have learned the facts if he had wanted them; he could have obtained correct information if he had desired it; he chose to formulate a batch of infamous stories poured into his willing ears, for the delectation of prurient and eager lovers of the marvellous, stirred up for their reception by the malevolence of our enemies and abetted by the comments of the prejudiced and ignorant.

Of the same nature is the cartoon drawn—O, lovers of art!—by the renowned Charles Dana Gibson, and called "Portrait of a Latter-day Saint." It was as absolutely necessary for the artist to tell what he meant by his imaginative picture, as it was for the primitive painter to place under his indistinguishable effort, "This is a Cow." Mr. Gibson, in that inexcusable libel upon as upright, intelligent and intellectual a body of religious worshippers as can be found under the sun, has placed a huge blot on the productions from his stylus which have attracted so many beholders and elicited so much admiration. It seems pitiable that he should have descended so low, in following the drift of a rabid and senseless rush of popular fury without reason or discretion, as to bedaub a devout society by a caricature that bears no resemblance however faint to any being entitled to the name of "Latter-day Saint." That a draughtsman of his ability has thus exhibited a streak of vulgarity, venom and unbecomingly, so different from his usual productions, is as unexpected as it is deplorable.

Just as astonishing as either of the efforts we have here slightly touched upon, is their publication in so esteemed a magazine as Collier's. It is one more proof of the proneness of the press to follow instead of lead the public mind. It is the old, old story. Take the opinions of the people, from the highest to the lowest, in Imperial Rome as to the beliefs and doings of the early Christians, and how much truth or sense was there in those established notions? Nothing more vile or false was said against the former-day Saints than is now repeated about the Latter-day Saints. Whatever means were available to circulate those terrible tales were brought to bear then, and it is the same now. Time has demonstrated the folly, wickedness and monstrosity of those commonly accepted rumors, and time will expose the wrongs committed now of a similar character and tendency. All we ask is that urged by the Christian Science paper already mentioned, and we think our request is reasonable. Before attacking an unpopular people or creed, find out the facts, as you would other matters of importance, or you will be liable to aid in efforts that are vile and vindictive and for personal or party ends, and that are so unjust and cruel that they are utterly inexcusable. Hear both sides of a matter before you utter judgment!

THE TEMPLE STORY AGAIN.

The Deseret News is always as ready to correct any mistake it may make, as to defend truth and expose error. We therefore refer, once more, to the story told about the "vandalism" of non-"Mormons" who were admitted to the Temple previous to its dedication. We have already denied the truth of the accusation that our "Gentile" friends may be relieved from the odium thus unjustly cast upon them. But we also denied that any usher at the Tabernacle or person engaged about the building told the tale that was repeated by "The Man About Town" in the Tribune. Now, while we have not yet been able to find the person who is alleged to have made the charge, we have become convinced that such a story has been told to visitors, and therefore we apologize to "The Man About Town" of the Tribune for asserting that he was the manufacturer of the story. Testimony that we would not attempt to impeach has been given to us, that someone around the Tabernacle has stated that a reason why non-"Mormons" are not admitted to the Temple, is because of the acts referred to. That exonerates "The Man About Town" on this matter. But it reflects unpleasantly on the individual who relates that incorrect story. We cannot learn of any reason for it, as the non-"Mormon" visitors on that occasion behaved with the utmost decorum and respect, and as we have explained, they are not excluded from the building now, for any other reason than that the Temple is dedicated for ordinance work in which none can engage except Latter-day Saints who are certified to by a Bishop's recommendation endorsed by the Stake President. Enough said.

ANOTHER TESTIMONY.

The following letter contains one more bit of evidence that the Prophet Joseph Smith did publicly preach the doctrine of plural marriage in Nauvoo in July, 1843, as testified by N. T. Sillcock and corroborated by Elizabeth Benson:

Orangeville, Utah, March 24, 1904.

To the Editor:
I, Noah T. Guymon, Sen., was at the meeting in Nauvoo, in 1843, and heard the Prophet deliver a discourse on polygamy, as referred to in the "News" of March 17.

I was at that time 24 years old, and had a family, and at the meeting referred to I was in the choir, and I do know and remember well that the Prophet delivered the discourse on polygamy referred to by N. T. Sillcock. The statement is correct.

Yours respectfully,
NOAH T. GUYMON, SR.

Reported by F. W. Young, Correspondent.

AT THE SOUTH POLE.

Recent explorations in the Antarctic regions have proved the existence there of a large continent covered with ice. Only the coast has, so far, been explored, but the conclusions drawn from the observations made are that this continent, containing about four million square miles, is almost entirely covered with ice. It is in the condition in which Europe and the northern part of North America were during the glacial period. Only along the coast can

animal life be sustained, and there are the breeding-places of the penguins. There is also some vegetation, and in the water is found an abundance of animals, from star-fishes to seals and other mammals. The continent itself is inhospitable. But it appears that it would be less difficult to explore than are the Arctic regions in the highest latitudes. The known part of Antarctica can be used as a starting-point for journeys to its unknown parts, and although not lavishly provided for by nature, still, if all other sources are exhausted, there are penguins and seals in sufficient quantities to support human life indefinitely. No matter how cold and isolated it may seem to the little handful of explorers in Antarctica they need not feel that they are doomed to die. The travel over terra firma, even if covered with ice and snow, is less dangerous than the "dash" to the North Pole over floating ice.

Can Mr. Sully say that all is lost save honor?

Who knows? We may yet have navel sugar boots.

East from State street South Temple is not even paved with good intentions.

Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and take the rest cure.

One result of the merger decision is that the beef trust has advanced the price of meat.

Professor Langley may not succeed in making the alrship fly, but he makes the money fly.

To judge from his talk, Mr. Daniel J. Sully, like Richelleu, thinks there is no such word as fail.

Japan has designs on Port Arthur, but her real ambition in the matter is to have ensigns on it.

A little child in Paterson, N. J., ate some dynamite and now the parents handle it more tenderly than ever.

Admiral Dewey objects to the army trying to make the navy merely an auxiliary to itself. So does the country.

The Maryland legislature, in the matter of legislation on the negro question, is getting to be a school for scandal.

In the matter of statehood, Arizona thinks she is big enough and strong enough to go it alone. And she thinks right.

"I am a stranger here. I have been badly treated," said Young Corbett. According to all accounts of the "mill" he was very badly treated.

If Japan wants to bottle up the Russian fleet, she might apply to some of our local bottling works. They have had great success.

Members of the Priesthood residing in the northeastern section of this city, should not forget the meeting in the Assembly Hall at 7:30 THIS EVENING.

"Lawlessness in Colorado must be stamped out," says the Pueblo Chieftain. Then why not get a set of the new Louisiana Purchase exposition stamps and do it?

How useless for the President to lecture the Sioux warriors and tell them to become civilized so long as there is such literature in the land as Roosevelt's "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman."

A fight is being made against the confirmation of Captain Mills, superintendent of the West Point Military academy, to be a brigadier-general. The Mills of the gods grind exceeding slow but they grind exceeding fine.

The management of the St. Louis fair on January 31 had spent \$14,473.36; and, if the balance due on contracts already made had been included, the total disbursements would have been, on that date, \$16,683.529. The latter sum is a million and a half more than Jefferson paid Napoleon for Louisiana Territory.

A Grand Rapids, Mich., dispatch says that "because of the flood that has swept Grand Rapids, the banquet planned by the Democratic club, which was to have been attended by guests of national prominence, has been abandoned, and will not be held tomorrow evening." Too much water will always kill a banquet of that kind.

Here is Harper's Weekly sued for \$10,000 damages by a contributor to its columns, who alleges that his story was cut down from 19,000 to 4,000 words without his knowledge or consent, and to the great injury of his feelings and reputation. This is, practically, demanding two dollars a word for what was not printed. Had the story been returned as "unavailable," this contributor would most likely have brought suit for \$20,000 damages.

It is with genuine regret that the "News" notices the report of the failure of the Pettigill Advertising agency, of New York and Boston. This concern has for more than a generation occupied a leading place among the great agencies of the country, and its name has always been a synonym for fair dealing, enterprise, and liberality. It has placed millions of dollars of business with the newspapers of the United States, and its advertising clients have always been of a high class. It is to be hoped that its affairs will not be found too much involved to admit of a favorable adjustment and a resumption of business.

ABOUT THE SMOOT CASE.

Alberta Star.
In what way, we would ask, does the actions of President Smith affect the constitutionality of Reed Smoot's attitude? If President Smith has violated the laws of the State of Utah, he is amenable to the state and not to the federal power. If Reed Smoot has violated no statute, he is free and at the liberty to discharge his duties. The effort to connect Mr. Smoot with the actions of Mr. Smith and make him equally culpable for the transgression of the laws violated, is altogether unjust and unfair. It is the work of re-

ligious bigots and not able legislators. Let the United States senate put Apostle Smoot on trial and if adjudged guilty of any offence which constitutionally bars him from the senate, let him be dismissed.

Idaho Statesman.
On being asked for his opinion as to whether Reed Smoot, senator-elect from Utah, would be seated, Ex-Senator George L. Shoup replied:

"It is my belief that Mr. Smoot will be given the seat to which he has been elected by the people of Utah. He has not violated any law of the country and it has not been proved that he is either a polygamist or a bigamist. Hence the senate cannot rightfully deprive him of the seat. As long as the Mormons obey the laws of the United States they are entitled to hold any of the offices in the government service and are also fully qualified to vote."

Louisville Herald.
If Smoot be expelled from the senate on religious grounds, so might any of the notizens of various religious denominations who refuse to consider valid the absolute divorce of parties once validly married permitted by the laws of states in which they live. There is, in truth, grave danger to individual right and to liberty of conscience in expelling Smoot for any reason save personal unfitness. No evidence so far produced attaches that stigma to him.

The investigation has led, also, to a study of deplorable moral conditions outside "Mormonism." These are hinted at by the official organ of the "Mormon" Church and unfortunately well known to all others:
Of course the state of society outside of "Mormonism" will not be entered into in this investigation, but it would not be amiss for people who are holding up their hands in holy horror at men who have plural wives and will not cast them off in any particular, to take note of common relations in the Christian cities of this country that are not only unlawful, but frequently involve the desertion and repudiation of women and children, and conduct that is both heartless and animal.

If we are to have a National moral cleaning let it not be restricted to Utah. The whole nation should have the benefit of it.

Raymond (Can.), Chronicle.

The common complaint against the "Mormons," as found today in the American press and echoed in our own newspapers, is that the heads of the Church use their ecclesiastical positions to give them a political prominence, and that the "Mormon" vote is swung as the leaders dictate, the growing vote proving a menace to the western states. But the very presence of thousands of voters in Canada, who have come here on the recommendation of some of the Church leaders, ought to go a long way in disproving this contention that the ambition of the Church is to assume political control in their own land. These people did not have to come to Canada and thus lose to the Church their votes if the latter were of such importance as has been claimed. They came here because it was deemed that their temporal welfare would be advanced.

Nor do the influential men of the west show any fear lest the "Mormon" vote capture the states in which they are interested. If men like J. J. Hill thought there were danger of such an event, would he be today holding out inducements to these people to settle in northern Montana in preference to southern Alberta? Or would the legislatures of Washington and Idaho be putting themselves to the trouble they are to stop the "Mormon" exodus to Canada and promote the establishing of colonies of these people in their own states?

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS

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The hair-cloth stiffened fronts, The swagger hang both front and back, Which gives to the Coats that grace of elegance which every artistic eye admires. The Pants and Vests are built on equally artistic lines. Then the fabrics are all rich toned, of this season's fashionable sort. In price these high-class suits range from \$15 to \$35. If you want cheaper ones, we have them as low as \$5.

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