

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-fifth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, October 5th, 1894.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS:

Thursday, October 4th—Relief Society conference, Assembly Hall, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Friday, 5th—German meeting, Assembly Hall, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 5th—General Priesthood meeting, Tabernacle, 7 p.m.

Saturday, 6th—Tabernacle Choir concert, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 7th—Scandinavian meeting, Assembly Hall, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday, 7th—Sunday School Union, Tabernacle, 7 p.m.

COREA AND COREANS.

Concerning Korea, the country which has but recently emerged from obscurity—as far as the average newspaper reader is concerned—much has been written lately, and its distinct features commence to assume discernible outlines in the haze of mystery in which it is shrouded.

The natives call their country Chosen and refer to their own race as Gori. This name is derived from Gao-li, it is said, an abbreviation of Gow-gow-li, the term used about two thousand years ago. From Gori the western geographers named the country Corea, which, by the way, justifies the spelling with a C instead of a K, because that letter, the third in all alphabets derived from the Roman, corresponds with the Greek Gamma, and had originally the sound of G in gun.

The ancient Gori or Coreans were a terrible power in eastern Asia. Their armies repeatedly devastated adjacent countries and ruled over a great portion of China and Siberia. But, like other great nations, they have seen their power decaying and been forced

to yield to younger generations. Mongols, Tartars, Manchu, Chinese and Japanese have all made it roads upon their territory and at present they are confined to a peninsula resembling somewhat in outline Italy. The country's greatest length is given as about 1,400 miles and its extreme width is about 600 miles. It is mountainous as Switzerland and surrounded by hundreds of islands. The population is variously estimated at from seven and a half to twelve millions and some place it as high as twenty millions.

The customs of the country are regarded as the most antique of any nation, the exclusive policy of the people having prevented any material progress for thousands of years. The religion is chiefly that of Buddha, and it seems that the teachings of the great Indian reformer have been preserved in greater purity in this country than in China or Japan. The priests are numerous and hold all sorts of lucrative positions, from cabinet ministers and generals to judges and jailors. These priests are by oath bound to piety, charity, sobriety, chastity and vegetarianism.

The origin of the Coreans, as of the peoples akin to them in northern Asia, is a question concerning which the world is in the dark. A writer in the *Millennial Star* of January 17, 1887, advanced the startling supposition that they are largely descendants of Israel. He had spent many years in China as a missionary, representing an American society, when the great famine of 1879 occurred. He saw thousands of people slowly dying by starvation, and his experience during this period greatly affected him. During this time, he had dreams and visions, he says, and he became impressed with the fact that the views of Providence and feelings of humanity exhibited by the Manchu officials particularly were essentially Christian, and the conviction gradually forced itself upon him that the people from which the reigning dynasty of China came—a mere handful of a foreign tribe who conquered and took the throne centuries ago—were literal descendants of the ten tribes. It follows, the author says, that the Japanese, Coreans, Mongols, Tibetans, Afghanists and others also have the same noble origin.

Later investigations but served to strengthen this view. In Peking the author heard wonderful traditions pointing to an exodus from a far distant land, southwest of China, and the expectation to return there. They call this land Jargar and say it was there that Borhan—The Most Illustrious One—lived. There he taught, wrought miracles, suffered and died, and there he will again rule upon his return from heaven. Truth and traditions naturally are mixed in the religions of these Asiatics, but some of the main features of the Jewish faith remain.

The author adds that the undercurrent of feeling and talk all over China is that the Manchu dynasty

must soon close, and that some important changes in Asia will then necessarily occur.

COMING WEST.

The Russian thistle is spreading westward, and there is considerable excitement over it in eastern Colorado. This is the weed which has caused so much trouble to the Dakotas, whose people asked Congress to make an appropriation for its extermination. It flourishes on light soil, with very little moisture, and spreads with great rapidity. This latter feature can be easily comprehended when it is stated that a computation shows that in the numerous reddish pods which ornament its branches an ordinary plant yields about 2,000,000 seeds, all of strong vitality. The thistle which was examined for this result was about five feet in diameter, the main stalk being about a foot in height. The plant has an attractive appearance in its abundance of branches and coloring. Its roots possess great strength and send up new shoots as readily as the dandelion. Its danger is that it supplants even the wheat crop, and in the injury its spines inflict on stock. Its habit and vigor render it exceedingly difficult to destroy. In Colorado it has found lodgment along a number of creeks, and the state agricultural college is making an investigation with a view to waging a war of extermination. It is said that the first seed was brought to the state in a shipment of Nebraska wheat.

The thistle is a long way from Utah yet, but is not half so far distant as it was three years ago; so there is a bare possibility that it may be transported hither and gain a foothold if it is not promptly destroyed at its first appearance. From the experience with it in the Northwest, there is no doubt that it would prove a great affliction here if permitted to get a start. But as to be forewarned is to be forearmed, the Utah farmer should be proof against its advance; and it might be well to keep an eye on the progress of the destructive weed, to prevent any introduction of it here.

MORE "ENGLISH MEDDLING."

The following extract, which is from the *Liverpool Journal*, perhaps will be regarded with something of the indignation that the *New York World* was recently busy in working up against the "presumption" and "effrontery" of the English committee that wanted to investigate lynchings in America. "Meddling," of the most pronounced kind, it certainly is; and yet the *News* is glad to reproduce and commend it, as a preparatory antidote for the sloppy and nauseating mess which the society departments of "great" morning newspapers are already concocting for next Sunday's perusal. "American journalism up to date," the *Liverpool* writer calls it; and here are his observations upon it:

The doings of small folk fill pages in some of the American papers, but could anything be more contemptible and bumptious in its personal details than the