DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

[illegible] - - - May 1, 1895.

The Deseret Evening News is published every evening except Sundays, at the Deseret News Building, 10 East Broadway, Salt Lake City.

The Deseret News Weekly, which is issued on Thursday, is a family paper, devoted to the interests of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The Deseret Weekly is designed more especially for circulation among our friends in the mining districts and elsewhere.

Terms of Subscription:

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Weekly (1 Year in Advance) 5.00

Remittances should be made by check, postal or express money order, payable to the order of the Deseret News Publishing Company.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

Salt Lake City, Utah.

AGAINST EXCESSIVE TAXATION.

The general sentiment of the people of Salt Lake will be that the City Council did a very proper thing at its last session in repealing the ordinance requiring a special tax for lighting the streets. It shows an inclination to avoid unnecessary disputes and trouble which would have the effect of arraying the taxpayers against the city administration and would prevent harmonious working in other matters. The action of the Council is in the interest of municipal harmony, and as such is to be commended, albeit the councilmen were somewhat slow in recognizing public feeling on this matter. As to the question of the validity of the ordinance, there is the expression that it is still believed by many people, however, will be now confirmed in the opposite view. But outside of the discussion as to validity, this whole business of proceeding in the line of special assessments in such matters is dangerous and should be given the summary check which it now seems to have received in the Council's action. The taxpayers have declared in unmistakable ways, and as emphatically as they could, that it is distasteful to them. It is time for officials in every department of local government to recognize the fact and conform to the general desire.

In its recommendation for a repeal, the committee states it has discovered "that this special assessment seems to be very unpopular and very unsatisfactory to the citizens at large, whose servants the members of the City Council are;" that "the views of the people, coming up on every side against this special taxation, cannot be ignored by the City Council;" and that the City Council has "no right to fly in the face of the views of the people, or act contrary to the wishes of a great majority so plainly expressed." As the majority of the Council also took the view that they are the servants of the people in an official capacity, the repeal was effected.

Here is just where the matter should stand. Officers are elected to represent the people, in doing their will within the legally prescribed limits. They have not the right to arrogate to themselves the power of masters and override the people, as has been done in several instances here and elsewhere, till the public has been compelled to administer a stinging rebuke. It may be unfortunate that the Council went to the expense incurred in this special tax business, and failed to regard the wishes of the majority of the people until that majority became so "great" as to amount to a popular uprising. But if the lesson is learned by the future there will be some compensation. The fact is that the taxpayers are becoming incensed at excessive taxation, and want the extravagant policy of non-taxpayers with taxpayers' money abandoned, at least by those who have to meet the bill are relieved of the burdensome load attending the financial depression. Not only are the people averse to special taxation at present, but also in an increase of taxes, preferring to retrench in public affairs, as they have to do in private expenditures. The City Council has done a good thing in abandoning a policy that the committee says was "very unpopular and very onerous necessary to the citizens at large," and will receive public approval therefor. At the same time it will be well for officials, outside of the municipality as well as within it, to generally understand in future by the expression that they have "no right to fly in the face of the views of the people." Then we will have greater harmony and no dissatisfaction than the one now complained of. Let the wishes of the people be respected without having explained more.

HOME THAT PAYS.

If it be true, as stated in a dispatch from Tacoma, Washington, that the office of a solicitor attached to the town is to be put to the purpose for which it was intended, for prostitution, and that three legal firms are to occupy the premises, there can be but one opinion among people whose sense of morality has not been totally shattered—that all concerned in the disgraceful business should be prosecuted, if there is a statute under which legal proceedings can be instituted, or else notified to leave by without trouble. We were [illegible] of lazy scoundrels and sin-sodden souls' skins as soon the same be enough to anyone who is not initiated into the mysteries of fashion, but, surely, the line must be drawn somewhere, and when it comes to encouraging murderers by transferring part of their crime into accomplices, thus giving an opportunity of recounting again and again the details of their brutal exploits and that to the hearing, no doubt, of innocent children in whose souls these stories will fall as crime-producing seeds with the probability of a rich crop harvest, it is time to protest and to stop, if possible, the infamous practice.

Parents have always been the object of pity. Travelers have told of their habits of admiring snaps as trophies; of making drinking horns of human skulls and ornaments of the teeth and bones of their slain victims, and this has properly been looked upon as evidence of a moral development but little higher than that of brutes. Yet, it is known that even the lowest savages generally keep such things as evidences of valor to battle against enemies. Their trophies are marks of honor to serve as a shield to their security in the defense of home and family, intended, perhaps, to inspire others to deeds of bravery in a similar cause. But the spectacle of some people carrying about pieces of a murdered mother in, if we are not mistaken, without a parallel. If it be not a symptom of insanity, it is a mark of retrogression in civilization which, if allowed to go on, would lead to a point below that of the inhabitants of the darkest continent.

NOT ART BUT RELIGION.

In the notorious case of Oscar Wilde, now on trial in London, a lesson is offered that should not be lost on the present generation. This is an age in which it is often maintained that man by his own strength is fully prepared to rise to maximum heights of moral excellence and that the aid of religious influences, consequently, is superfluous. The case referred to is a direct contradiction of this assumption, and as it comes with the force of a fact it cannot be set aside by any amount of theoretical reasoning.

Ever since Oscar Wilde appeared on the horizon of society he startled the world by idiosyncrasies and amused it by his freaks based upon an "idea." He is now a man thirty-nine years of age, possessed of much talent. He is described as a hard worker, notwithstanding that he poses as an idler; he is said to be unusually honest towards his creditors and a kind husband and father; as the world goes. His genius secured him admittance to the most exclusive social circles where he was accounted an interesting conversationalist. Of his accomplishments may be judged from the fact that he has written a tragedy in French, which Sarah Bernhardt pronounced truly great. If the question is asked, how such a clever, interesting, apparently good and gifted man can be found in the horrible quicksand of scandal from which he is now endeavoring to extricate himself, the reply is that all these qualities if not strengthened by the gift of the Divine Spirit are powerless to keep men and women from falling. The principle announced by the greatest of men, that without regeneration and reception of the Holy Ghost, no man is fit for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven is well exemplified in the case of such mortals.

The trouble with Oscar Wilde, as with many others, was that he prostituted himself before the altar of art and beauty without any other object, apparently, than the adoration and glorification of those deities for their own sake. In his cult there was no room for an earnest effort to find and to know the Creator through His adorable works. It was nothing more than a species of idolatry, none the less pernicious because designated as the worship of "art for art's sake." It was a veiled effort at the revival of that spirit which prevailed in ancient Greece and Rome when the religious sentiment was nearly extinguished in the wonderful arts and sciences that were cultivated. The results were similar, for on reliable authority we know that those nations at the very height of their culture were morally rotten to the core. Overloading themselves to be wise, they became fools. This was Wilde's fate. Deep "aesthetic intellect," it is contended by the house of the Canons, could be danger of the setting the rule for all that refinedness and unique morals and personality. Something more than these is need in the struggle for purity of the soul—something to be found only in that which our age refuses to the outlook—in an acknowledged and personally acquired acquaintance of God.

SAN LEANDRO NEWS, BUT NOT ALL.

The Rev. Dr. Momerie, one of the King's College, London, professors in theology, is in San Francisco, and was busy giving lectures on alleged scientific and religious subjects. Dr. Momerie speaks a clever tongue and a lofty and pleasant style, so that he has reason for acquiring a great deal of information that, as it is to be derived in college experience, and in some respects has made good use of his opportunities. At the same time he gives such an exalted value to human abilities and qualifications that many people feel constrained to look upon him as conceited. This tendency on his to be very free in all criticisms and assaults on those who differ with him in their views, and in the pseudo warfare he has not been over careful in such language as he uses, has caused it also to be considered by the minds of those who have the effect of his attacks.

About a week ago he delivered a discourse on "Christ and science with a reference to modern geography," in which he made a rather vicious attack on the Catholic church. In doing so, by his boldness of affirmation, unsupported or extreme if not unreasonable character, he laid himself open to a certain thing, which was administered with great force on Sunday night, by Rev. S. D. Connolly, the Catholic priest of St. Paul's church. The result of the meeting was that "the prisoner was sentenced without leaves of the priest," and that goes to show that the sentiling was of a decidedly militant character. It was generally felt that Mr. Momerie had "bitter bile to the organ of the biliary tissue, whose conflict of Science and Religion is one in of the well-known of all the longest-lived of serious consciousness," and that shown largely therefore for his opponent here, which the great reviewer from the standpoint of liberty and light, will make a decidedly good showing for, as the great reviewer the conclusion, "nothing could be gained from the truth."

The dissenting whom the Unitarian clergyman-preacher got may do him good in making him more careful in his assaults upon others who in this country, at any rate, it should warn him that while the Catholic preachers in his own land may not have dropped to notice him in discussion, he is likely to find a few of them here who are more outspoken and militant than in a country where the prelates church, in the dominant ecclesiastical institution, he may also realize that whatever weakness is on the Catholic side of the question, as a rule their priests who take up Protestant challenges exhibit strong indications of being thoroughly trained debaters on the points at issue between the Roman church and those sects which broke away from it.

Prof. Momerie made some references of local interest also, not for the accuracy of his statements, but because he set forth certain alleged religious ideas which he mentioned as "Mormon." Since these have no connection with Mormonism, there is no reason to discuss them in this relation. Their mention, however, suggests that possibly Mr. Momerie's special assignment to the Mormons might have some connection with an event three or four years ago in England, when humble Elders of their faith had occasion to uphold the Christian doctrine of the resurrection against the gentleman's assaults, and to his discomfiture. As it is probable, however, that he will pay Utah a visit before returning to his native land, it is to be hoped that he will learn sufficient of the Mormons while here so that he will not misrate their religious views. Although he has to admit the attainments would entitle him to be a fellow of Cambridge, it still has a little thing to learn in the way of stating correctly the doctrines of the Saints and the views of his fellowmen in religious matters.

As anti-Sunday legislation in the Sunday liquor-selling controversy has arisen in Massachusetts. Two men were tried in Salem, on Sunday, one of whom ordered and drank liquor and the other paid for it; the hackney was indicted for selling liquor to the latter; the district attorney said he should not seek for a conviction, and by order of the judge the hackney was acquitted. This would seem to imply that the officers prosecution by the ordinance is not Sunday liquor-selling, at all, but rather Sunday liquor-drinking—and then only when the drinker is seen the liquor. It is an absurd construction, and can rarely never have been meant in earnest.

In ROUMANIA war against Mary Magdalena, Russia is reducing that distinguished sinner a greater advertising service than it is had permitted a harlot in civil her disturbance.

Steam Carpet Cleaning Free.

The Woodward Steam Carpet Cleaning Works, No. 140 W. Third South street, is ready for business, and to the first person having an order at our works after 10 o'clock a. m., May 2nd, we will clean 100 yards of carpet absolutely free of charge. To the second, 75 yards, and to the third 50 yards. All others will receive a special discount for a short time on the best work in the city. Try us and be convinced that we are the people.

Yo. S. WHITCOMB, Manager.

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Notice.

Salt Lake City, April 29th, 1895.

The lumber and other which guard lately having been left on the stage, from our showing twice, and as there is no reason to a second theatre, parties who have an interest in the lumber will please deliver same at once, or we will take it unless claimed in a reasonable time.

HOYT, THOMAS, SHOCKENSEY CO.

Go to S. F. BALL,

TEMPLE CAFE, 15 MAIN STREET,

For Coffee, Coffee, Bread, etc. Tourists' Lunches and Sandwiches. Meal Cards at $3.50.

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Last Performance.

Engagement of the Distinguished Comedienne.

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WONDERLAND THEATER.

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Made to order are cheaper than any Eastern Goods. The cloth is Provo and Deseret Woolen Mills make, and our tailors make them up, so that if you buy a pair all the money is kept at home.

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WANTED—GOOD GIRL FOR GENERAL HOUSEWORK. [illegible]

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT [illegible]

LADIES FOR THE OLADIES TELL YOU [illegible]

WANTED—LADY OR GENTLEMAN TO [illegible]

HIGH TOUR [illegible]

THE UTAH JUNK HOUSE.

WILL PAY CASH FOR RAGS, BONES, [illegible]

FOUND.

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1895, A CHEQUE [illegible]

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ON MERCHANDISE, VERY APPLY TO [illegible]

LOAN ON IT ON MONEY, REPAIR [illegible]

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