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## POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN EUROPE—ANOTHER CONFERENCE PROPOSED.

The attitude of European nations towards one another, has, for some years past, been of a highly belligerent character; and various causes have several times, within a recent period, threatened to convulse the entire continent and involve it in a general conflagration of war. The absorbing nature of the events and incidents occurring in our own nation have diverted attention from foreign affairs that, under other circumstances, would have excited a much greater degree of interest than they have received. Our Elders are endeavoring to spread the truth, and are building up churches in the various nations of Europe. This directs our attention to that portion of the eastern hemisphere, with, perhaps, more interest than, under other circumstances, it would receive.

Among the most noticeable items that have come to us through the various sources by which we obtain news, is that of an effort to adjust the present difficult problems and knotty points that demand solution, by the medium of another Conference. Some of the London papers are very sanguine on the subject. One of them, the *Morning Post*, after intimating that France, Austria and Russia have acceded to it, thinks if some other nations, including Britain and Italy, will unite with them, a general disarming will follow and the peace of Europe be preserved. If it were not demonstrated by the history of the past, we might question the seriousness of expectations so gravely expressed. But day-dreams as visionary and utopian have been but recently indulged in by the professedly wise men of the earth, and the vapor of the illusion still hangs around their minds. A general European Congress met at Berlin some years ago with the same avowed object, comprising much of the wisdom, intelligence and statesmanship of that continent; and so general was the opinion that an era of peace had commenced, that shortly after, inventions in weapons for offensive warfare were refused admission to the International Exhibition of '61, in London, the refusal being based on the ground that the age of warfare had ceased and such weapons were fast becoming obsolete. With considerable difficulty, and after much opposition, one cannon was allowed to be exhibited, not as a thing that might have to be used, but as a specimen, though deemed a useless one, of skill and ingenuity. Three years later the most powerful nations of Europe were engaged in a deadly and terrible war! A few months ago a Conference assembled in London to adjust the existing difficulty between Denmark and Germany. Its members met, talked a great deal, and separated, the matter being settled as it was begun by the arbitrament of arms.

It is notorious that the naval and military force of every important power in Europe, is and has been for some time on a war-footing. A war, fierce, devastating and terrible, that would involve the whole continent, has been and still is the general expectancy. Each power has been watching the other as a tiger watches its prey before making the

fatal spring; preparing to meet attack as the wild-cat guards her young, with vigilant eyes and repelling front. The questions that vex Europe are deep and embittering. France has gained Savoy and stung many proud Italian hearts by absorbing the territory in her dominions; Austria has lost her hold on a portion of her Italian possessions; Naples and Sicily form part of the new kingdom of Italy; yet Rome maintains its entirety, as a temporal power, by the assistance of foreign aid. Denmark still writhes under the blow that shore her of the Duchies. Austria elated with her victory, in conjunction with Prussia, over Denmark, is more likely to demand the restoration of her lost Italian dominions than cede Venice and the whole of the Quadrilateral, which Italy feels inclined to demand. The alacrity displayed by the German powers, in pushing their forces north of the Eider, was something unusual in the Teutonic character. The change is more indicative of warlike vigor than a disposition to disarm. Russia has all but immolated the Circassians, and is gathering her strength and resources for another and fatal attack on the "sick man—Turkey. Poland is quivering and bleeding like a mangled patient under the scalpel of a cruel surgeon. Yet her spirit is only bent, not broken; and despite the efforts of Alexander to conciliate her, the bitterness in the hearts of twenty millions of Poles is nothing abated, but increased in intensity.

Yet out of this mass of discordant elements they hope to bring order and the blessings of peace by another European Conference! Vain hope. Baffled ambition, wounded pride, ecclesiastic rancor, shattered hopes and elated triumph, to be all smoothed down and restrained, and their bitter results avoided by argument of words? with the worst passions that enter the bosoms of men rankling in the hearts of millions!

The war-cloud that hovers over Europe will not melt into the gentle rain of peace, to bless her nations and gladden their inhabitants; but will burst in the fearful thunder-storm of war, scattering ruin and desolation through her empires, and scathing with awful fierceness their pride, their power and greatness.

Victor Emmanuel still clings to the hope of a united Italy. And though Cavour is gone, the fulfillment of the scheme his comprehensive mind conceived in detail is earnestly looked for by his countrymen. The announcement by France, of her intention to remove her troops from Rome within two years, will give increased vitality to this hope, though similar promises, in less definite terms, have been made before. The settlement of this Italian question is that which is stated to be the chief motive for holding another Conference. What reasonable hopes can be entertained for doing so, it is difficult to say; for, though war does not appear, at present, so very imminent as it did some time ago, yet, every one acquainted with the political condition of Europe, and cognizant of the spirit moving upon the nations of that continent, can look, intelligently, for no other alternative.

But the nations of the earth are in the hands of God, who will turn and overturn, raise up and cast down, for the accomplishment of His holy purposes; and the inhabitants of Europe will see the sayings of the prophets as literally fulfilled, as have the inhabitants of other parts of the earth, who have disregarded and rejected the message of Heaven to them.

—M. Du Chaillu has been heard of. He is doing a good deal in the gorilla way, and has sent a live one to England. Should the distinguished foreigner arrive safely, he can personally confound the foes of M. du Chaillu.

## HOME ITEMS.

**SABBATH MEETINGS.**—The attendance at the Tabernacle on Sunday was not as numerous as usual, owing, perhaps, to the unsettled state of the weather.

Elder Wm. J. Cox, of Beaver, was called to the stand in the forenoon, and delivered a discourse on practical religion, reasoning upon the necessity of reducing to practice the principles that are taught by the living oracles. Admonished the Saints to live so that they will not be ashamed of their conduct, nor of the use they have made of the heavenly knowledge imparted unto them.

The sacrament was administered in the afternoon, by the presiding Bishop and others, and President Joseph Young addressed the congregation on the means employed to get in possession of the true theory of religion, and how to obtain a knowledge of God; showing that a life of obedience and humility is indispensable to the spiritual increase and growth of the Latter-day Saints. The gospel, he said, is full of the most liberal principles, both those that emanate directly from the worlds above and those that are found in this world. The Spirit of God communicates to the spirit of man, and points out to him the way of life, but if he forgets the Lord he becomes hard hearted towards his God and towards his friends. When we are in the spirit, he remarked, we listen to the voice of humanity, and of all things that come before us we take a judicious survey. God is patient and long suffering with all his children, and so we shall be, if we have His Spirit. Let the Saints have their hearts and minds opened by the Spirit of God; and then they will see as God sees and feel as He feels; but the earth can be shaken and the dead brought to life sooner and easier than the conscience of a man can be touched, who has once had the Holy Ghost and has turned away from the light of truth. Such a man has no society, neither is he society for anybody else.

**FAIRVIEW—WEBER COUNTY.**—From a person well acquainted with the above named region of country, we are assured that it is one of the finest portions of Great Salt Lake Valley, and well adapted to farming purposes. At present there are but few settlers in this locality, in fact the western portion of Weber county is as yet but little developed; it remains to be occupied and cultivated by the industrious and enterprising citizens of our Territory who are in want of farms. Bro. Blair and a few others, aided by the inhabitants of Plain City, are moving in the right direction.

All that has been wanting to make this a desirable farming district, has been the water necessary for irrigation. This is now being obviated by taking out a portion of Weber river, but the present settlers are represented as being too weak handed to accomplish a work of such magnitude, therefore they invite those wishing good farms to pay them a visit, stake off their claims and help get the water to them. South and west of the bridge in the neighborhood of Fairview, as also on the north side of the river south-west of Plain City, thousands of acres of land can easily be watered.

The water sect made last spring and summer by the few residents of Fairview is capable of watering more land than is now used by the owners, and it is said water privileges may be secured on very moderate terms from this company.

**THEATRICAL.**—"Hamlet" and "The Duke's Motto" have been the attractions at the Theatre during the past week, with Mr. Pauncefort in the leading characters. Both pieces created quite a furor, and deservedly so, on their presentation last season; and the performances on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, were equally deserving of public approbation. Miss Alexander and Mrs. Gibson made a very creditable Ophelia and Blanche de Nevers.

We noticed the application of the calcium light, for the first time here, in the Ghost scene in Hamlet, and felt gratified that the Management had procured and got in working order this powerful aid to scenic effect. Some of the greatest spectacular dramas of the age have depended, to a very great extent, on the brilliancy which this intensely powerful light has thrown upon their finest scenes.

"Belphegor, the Mountebank," to be produced to-night, for the first time in this Territory, is a drama of a style different to anything we have ever had presented here before. It is a capital Christmas piece, well suited to holiday times, combining great dramatic effect, impressive situations, and much that appeals to the best instincts and sympathies of our natures, with a great amount of the rollicking fun and broad humor of the regular harlequinade. A pantaloone, a columbine, the masculine moiety of time-renowned "Punch and Judy"—only fancy, —Punch on the boards! what a treat for the little folks—with a Pierrot and Pierrette, a Cupid and a Psyche, and character masks *ad libitum*, should make fun enough to satisfy the most laughter-loving.

"Belphegor" is a character in which Charles Dillon, Benjamin Webster, and other eminent artists, have gained repeated triumphs. We have seen it; have gone to see it again and again, and could still witness and enjoy it. It will give Mr. Pauncefort an excellent opportunity of displaying in one piece that versatility of talent, so characteristic of his playing, and which he manifests in a very high degree, as it

runs the scale from broad comedy to deep pathos and refined sentiment. The wandering mountebank, luxuriating in the wild gale and freedom of his itinerant life and profession, basking in the sun-light of the love of a darling wife and two budding, human cherubim, finds that wife and one of his little ones suddenly stolen from him, by the machinations of villainy to pander to the pride of birth, sheds the buffoon, after proving he is a loving husband and a fond father, and shows the man of deep sensibilities and correct feeling, determined to have his treasures—all that, to him, is worth living for.

We need scarcely say the plot is well worked out, dramatic justice shining at the end.

With a cast embracing Messrs. McKenzie, Margetts, Simmons, Dunbar, Bowring, and Maiben; Mesdames. Gibson, Bowring and A. Clawson and Miss Alexander, to support the leading character, it cannot fail of being a success.

We have had no play produced here that should draw better than "Belphegor," all who want to enjoy theatricals at holiday time should see it.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—While Bro. Samuel H. Davis was engaged walling up a well on Friday afternoon, Dec. 23, in the 11th Ward, a large bucket full of rough rocks, which was about to be let down into the well, by accident got disengaged from the tackling just as it was leaving the landing or platform, and fell to the bottom, striking Bro. Davis on the head, breaking open his skull and killing him instantly. Deceased was born in Neath, Glamorganshire, South Wales, on the 21st of March, 1810; he embraced the gospel about 20 years ago, and before leaving his native land labored diligently to disseminate the principles of eternal life. His wife, who mourns his loss, is the only member of his family that has gathered with the Saints.

**PROBATE COURT.**—Tuesday, the 20th, the grand jury came into Court and presented bills of indictment against D. M. Griffin and George W. Kent; also one against Samuel M. Butcher, and a joint one against George Heath, James Rhodes and Louis Donzanser—charge, larceny.

The prisoner, S. W. Dildine was then brought into Court, and asked if he had anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be passed upon him. The prisoner not wishing to say anything, the Court sentenced him, in accordance with the finding of the jury, to six months in the Penitentiary at hard labor.

His Honor also passed sentence upon the prisoner, John Gorman, whose punishment was assessed by the jury at 5 years in the Penitentiary and \$200 fine, as stated in the last issue.

Kent was arraigned on an indictment charging him with receiving stolen goods. He pleaded guilty to having the goods on his premises, but denied knowing that they were stolen. Fined \$250.

On Wednesday, 21st, the case of the People vs. Samuel M. Butcher was called up; Mr. Thurmond appeared for the defence. An affidavit for a continuance was filed, argued very lengthily, and somewhat amusingly, and was overruled by the Court. Notice was given that exceptions would be taken to the ruling of the Court.

Griffin was brought into Court and arraigned on two indictments, both charging him with receiving stolen goods, to both of which he entered the plea of "Guilty." Counsel for Griffin asked permission for the prisoner to make a statement which was granted by the Court. After hearing the statement of Griffin the Judge decided to hold the case under advisement; the sentence was, therefore, postponed.

Mr. Miner, special prosecutor, being quite indisposed, the Court appointed the Hon. Z. Snow to assist him in his duties during the present session.

Thursday, 22d, counsel for Butcher filed a motion for a change of venue. The motion was overruled.

A jury was obtained from the regular panel, whose names have already appeared in the News, and they were duly sworn to try the case. When the trial had progressed for a short time, on the part of the prosecution, it was discovered that there was a fatal defect in the indictment, and, therefore, the prosecuting attorney entered a *notte prosequi*. Butcher was discharged from custody, and was about to leave the Court House, when he was again arrested. He gave security in the penal sum of \$1,500 for his appearance in Court the next morning, when he was informed he would be required to plead to the above indictment.

The Grand Jury came into Court and presented indictments against Madison L. Ketner, Samuel M. Butcher and —Nelson, and also a separate one against Butcher.

On Friday morning, 23d, the Court informed Butcher that two more indictments were found against him, and inquired if he was ready to plead, to which he replied in the affirmative; he was arraigned and pleaded "Not Guilty." At the suggestion of the assistant-prosecutor, the Court required Butcher to find securities in the sum of \$3,080, to answer to these last two indictments, when the other, upon which he was being tried, should be disposed of. The trial of Butcher was then proceeded with till evening, when the Grand Jury came into Court and again presented the results of their investigations in the shape of indictments against Lewis White, William Fair and W. H. H. Sheets, for larceny.