

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints.
JOSEPH SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)
Office of Salt Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Eugene G. Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
In Advance: \$5.00
Per Year: \$5.00
Three Months: \$1.50
One Month: \$0.50
One Week: \$0.20
Saturday edition, per year, \$5.00
Single copy, \$0.05

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
Editor.
Address all business communications
to THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, 87 Washington St.

SAN FRANCISCO REPRESENTATIVE.
C. S. King-Sheridan & Co., 409 Examiner Bldg.

SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 5, 1900.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

Springville, Utah, June 3, 1900.

Editor Deseret Evening News:

In this morning's Tribune I noticed an article in the editorial column entitled "That Battalion Episode," wherein they say that President Brigham Young petitioned the President to enlist 100 ("Mormon") men in the United States army, and that the government did not need the soldiers at that time. The inference would naturally be that the President did it just to oblige Brigham Young, all of which I do not believe, from the fact that one of the Presidents just prior to that event had told Joseph Smith, "Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you." The question with me is why should the President be so good to Brigham Young and spend thousands of dollars to oblige him and nothing more? And why should Brigham Young be so anxious to get rid of 100 of his best men, knowing that he was going into a wild, unsettled country, filled with wild, savage Indians? Now what I want to know is, are the above assertions made by the editor of the Tribune fact or not? Are they of the same class as the Munnsey yarn? Other parts of the article I look upon as nonsense, especially about being paid to go where they wanted to go, and that the call was hailed with joy, etc., etc. That President Young did prophesy that they would not have to fire a gun I have heard from the mouths of some of the men who were in that battalion.

Kindly answer through the Evening and Semi-Weekly News whether this is any truth (which I doubt very much) or not, and oblige, yours very respectfully,
(Signed.) ENQUIRER.

This subject has been dwelt upon and the facts fully explained, so many times that it is with some reluctance we comply with "Enquirer's" request. The Mormon Battalion was mustered into the service of the United States in the pure spirit of patriotism. Considering the circumstances that surrounded the exiles from Nauvoo, when the call was made upon them for five hundred able-bodied men to serve in the war with Mexico, the response was one of the greatest manifestations of loyalty to the United States ever exhibited. It is this fact that arouses intense wrath in the bosoms of a few sordid individuals, whose chief delight is in misrepresenting the "Mormon" people, slandering the living and defaming the dead. It is a sufficient reply to the charges of "disloyalty" and "rebellion" that have so often been repeated.

When the Latter-day Saints were driven from their homes in the State of Illinois, a request was made for aid or shelter, to the governors of the various States of the Union. The appeal was made in vain. Previous to this, a committee was sent to Washington from Nauvoo, asking for governmental aid that the driven Saints might make their way towards Upper California. At this juncture, tidings of the conflict between the United States soldiers and the Mexicans reached Washington, and the project was entertained of using the "Mormons" for the occupation of California and its seizure as United States territory. But Senator Benton of Missouri, who was an enemy of the "Mormon" people, exercised his influence with President Polk to adopt the plan of a call for five hundred men from the "Mormon" camps, to join General Kearney in the invasion of New Mexico.

It is a matter of undisputed history that when the recruiting officers appeared among the exiled Saints, who had just been deprived of their homes and all their earthly property by armed mobs bent on their destruction, an intense feeling of alarm pervaded their camps, and they felt that the intention was to deprive them of the strength of their ranks and leave them a prey to the Indians in their neighborhood. This feeling was strengthened by the reports that came of boasts to that effect, that had been made by their enemies at the seat of government. It was also understood that if the demand for the Battalion was not complied with, the refusal would be construed as hostility to the government and the consequences would be serious in the extreme.

President Brigham Young rose above all rumor and resentment, and declared that the Battalion should be raised. The particulars of that memorable enlistment have been given to the world by the lamented Col. Thomas L. Kane, who witnessed the whole proceedings, and appreciated not only the grand attitude of President Young, but the spirit of sacrifice in which the people on the borders of the wilderness parted with their husbands and brothers and fathers, to march over deserts and mountains to aid their beloved country in its struggle with Mexico. It was sublime in its patriotic fervor, and should stand to the credit of a people, robbed of their all and exiled from the inhabited portion of their country.

It is not true that these men were enlisted "when the government did not need soldiers." It is not true that "there was no law before them." It is not true that "they simply had to march armed to the country which they wanted to go to." It is not true that their enlistment "was hailed with joy by all the Saints." The assertions made, which we here deny, run in the face of the record and are contrary to the history of the nation as well as of the "Mormon" people.

It has never been claimed that the "Mormons" were "compelled" to furnish

that battalion, for it is on record that President Brigham Young, on the day when the call of the government was presented to the Saints by Captain Allen at Council Bluffs, told them not to regard that requisition in the same light as the oppressions they had suffered in Missouri and Illinois. There was no understanding that "not one of them would be called upon to fire a gun on the whole journey they were about to make, except they fired it at a jack rabbit or a buffalo to get fresh food for themselves." The enlistment was made of those who would "accept the service to serve their country for twelve months in our present war with Mexico." They were to be "all healthy, able-bodied men of from eighteen to forty-five years of age." They were to "unite with the army of the West at Santa Fe."

The incidents of that terrible journey across an uninhabited country are given in Daniel Tyler's story of the unparalleled march, with its privations and sufferings which we have not space to relate. It is true that President Brigham Young promised them that they should not have to fire a gun in the shedding of human blood, but this was a prediction by their Prophet and not a promise held out to them by any officer of the army or of the government.

There is no need to misrepresent any of the facts relating to that episode in national history. It must be evident, to every person in his senses, that the aid asked of the national authorities was not a request to take away from the almost helpless body of the Saints, nearly all their able-bodied men and send them to a point far distant from their own destination. It must also be clear that when, in response to the counsel of their great leader, they cheerfully gave up those whom they needed for their own protection, they manifested in the highest degree that patriotism and loyalty which their religion inculcated. Also that any attempt to belittle their devotion and cast a slur on their self-sacrifice, is worthy only of the consummate slanderer and the most persistent retailer of anti-"Mormon" bitterness. The fact remains that the "Mormon" Battalion performed all that was required in its enlistment, and that the episode forms one of the brightest pages in the history of the war of the United States with Mexico.

PRETORIA ENTERED.

For some time past, the collapse of the Boer war has been predicted and commented on. Now it is officially announced that Pretoria has been occupied by the British. The capital of the Transvaal is in the hands of the invaders. There can hardly be any doubt that the war is virtually at an end. The movements of Lord Roberts from Bloemfontein have been one continued advance. The distance has been covered without opposition, practically. Everything indicates that the British victory is complete.

A London correspondent suggests that certain mysterious movements of Kruger's secretary and physician, especially their visit to the Dutch warship "Friesland," prove that important personages are probably expected to the scene of action. But such a visit would rather prove that President Kruger is looking for some means of escape from the country. The Boer war has been a succession of surprises, the fall of Pretoria without a sign of defense being one of the greatest. The flight of the grand old man of the Transvaal at this juncture, would not be a surprise.

The following are some of the important data of this war: The battle of Dundee, Oct. 20; Elandsburg, Oct. 21; Ladysmith, Oct. 30; Belmont, Nov. 23; Gras Pan, Nov. 25; Modder River, Nov. 28; Magersfontein, Dec. 12; Stormberg, Dec. 15; and Spion Kop, Jan. 25.

In all these engagements the Boers distinguished themselves for bravery and strategic skill, but the wheel of fortune turned. Kimberley was relieved Feb. 15; Cronje was captured Feb. 27; Ladysmith was relieved March 1; Bloemfontein was entered March 12; Mafeking was relieved May 18; Johannesburg was entered May 30, and Pretoria June 5.

The total amount of soldiers engaged are estimated at, British, 240,000; Boers, perhaps, 30,000.

What will the fate of the republics now be? Lord Salisbury has already explained that not a shred of their independence will be left. Beyond that it can only be surmised what form of government will be established. But Great Britain has a long experience in colonial policy, and the questions that may arise in South Africa, the British government will readily solve.

AMERICA INTERESTED.

It is noted with great satisfaction that, if any of the European powers had any intention to secure permanent lodgment in Pekin, on account of the "Boxer" disturbances, the plan was thwarted by the United States minister, who succeeded in giving an international turn to the affair.

It is sometimes said that the United States has no trained diplomats, but as a rule, the representatives of this country, whenever they figure in the councils of nations, come out with honors and glory. The international peace conference furnished a recent example of American influence in the affairs of nations.

This is but natural. For although there may be no special course of training laid out for those in this country, who aspire to a diplomatic career, yet the entire national life, with its elections, and political maneuvers, is such a school. Everyone who has taken an intelligent part for years, in public life in this country, is really a better diplomat than many European dignitaries who are more acquainted with intrigues than with international laws and treaties.

American diplomacy of the highest class will, apparently, be needed in China for some time to come. Our interests there are great. It is important that this country should have a voice in the matter of the division of "spheres of influence" in that country, inasmuch as it cannot remain indifferent as to who is going to be its neighbor there, nor to the conditions on which that neighborhood is to be established. We may not feel called upon to take any part of the Chinese em-

pire, but this country cannot be indifferent to the conditions on which the trade is going to be open to the rest of the world. And now is the time to see to it, that the rights secured by treaties with China, are not sacrificed.

The Chinese government seems to be possessed by a spirit similar to that which actuated the Boers to defy Great Britain. If that spirit is not suppressed, it will hurry the country on to destruction.

Events of a stirring nature are taking place in what is generally called the "far east," and it would be a mistake to suppose that this country has no more interest than a spectator, in what is transpiring in Asia.

AUTHORITY NOW THE NEED.

Some recent utterances of Rev. R. Heber Newton, rector of All Souls' church, New York, and quoted by the Literary Digest, deserve to become widely known and well considered.

Speaking of the need of the present generation of a reformation, as a revolution as that of the sixteenth century, he calls attention to the fact that in the primitive Church, Jesus was the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. "The Master taught us" was the all-sufficient reply to questions that might arise.

But with the lapse of time, the evidence as to what the Master taught became less strong. It had to be taken third or fourth hand, with such spurious additions as were caused by its passage through different channels. Then the need of some other reliable authority was felt, and the church was appealed to as the infallible interpreter of doctrine and ethics. "What does the church teach?" became the test, when the Master could no more be heard.

But with the Reformation, the final source of authority was again changed. The Bible was appealed to against the church. Before this court every opinion was tried. Philosophy, science, and art were viewed in the alleged light of the Bible. The world had accepted an entirely new authority on questions of faith and conduct. There was much comfort in this, as long as men could receive it, but the tyranny exercised in the name of the Bible has been as intolerant and intolerable as that claimed by the so-called church. Protestant countries are stained with the blood of martyrs, just as are those under the Roman purple. The difference is not great.

But, according to Rev. Newton, a new era is breaking. The world is looking for some new authority, greater than that of the church, and of the Bible. He says:

"Our age sees an era closely paralleling the period in which Christianity arose and the period in which Protestantism broke from the great Catholic church. Again man's mind is teeming with new, fresh thought. Novel knowledge is streaming in upon him from every side. The whole horizon of his outlook has changed. His mind is yearning with new ideas. The old experience renews itself—a vast growth from the soul of man, alike of good and of evil, demanding once more an authority capable of settling the true from the false and of deciding between the right and the wrong. Never was authority more needed than today—provided it be the right sort of authority. Never was authority more craved than today—so that it be an authority to which man's mind and conscience can cheerfully bow."

"Never was authority more needed than today," is the outcry of a good many honest souls, who are perishing in a "Christian" world that offers stones for bread and reptiles for fish. But what will that authority be? The so-called churches have failed; unenlightened human reason has failed, and the Bible is about to be set aside, by modern criticism. Where, then, is there any authority in matters of eternal importance? The reverend gentleman quoted, points to the Divine reason, the Logos, as such authority. He says:

"There need be nothing surprising to the conservative Christian in thus accepting Reason as the ultimate court of appeal in religion. What is the fundamental doctrine of the Christian church, if it be not the doctrine of that divine Logos, or Reason, immanent in the universe, indwelling man, the light of his intelligence, his affections, and his conscience; the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world—the very light of God Himself. We are bowing not to the human reason alone, but to the divine Reason of which it is the expression. And so, as return, in the cycle of the church's story, to the primitive authority, in another and a deeper sense—the authority of the Master Himself. That was not the authority of Jesus was not the authority of one man speaking from the common nature of all men, as all together were the sons of 'my Father and your Father, my God and your God.' The authority of Jesus was not the authority of a being sent down from the skies; it was the authority of humanity itself, finding a voice in the individual man who brought the spiritual conscience to the full, and so became himself a revelation of the indwelling Logos, or Reason, of God."

Readers of the "News" cannot fail to notice the acknowledgment here given to one of the fundamental doctrines of what is known as "Mormonism." The proclamation was made by God, through Joseph the Prophet, that Christendom had gone astray, and that there was no way back to light and truth, except through the divine revelations. It was stated, through the Prophet, that the divine authority had been taken away from the earth, but that it was about to be restored again. It was restored, God spoke, and conferred authority upon His servants. For this, they were imprisoned, mobbed, driven, and killed. Now eminent divines and teachers openly corroborate the testimony of the "Mormon" Elders. Is not this one of the signs of the times?

But if the learned gentleman intends to make human reason, however enlightened, the authority in matters of religion, he merely shifts the ground of uncertainty and doubt on which the Bible-worshippers stand. Without the light of the Lord man's reason is a poor and unstable guide in spiritual things. Is it not true that, as Paul declared, "The things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God?" And again: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost."

To settle disputes, to decide differences, there must be an acknowledged final authority. It must be vested in some person or body of persons forming "the end of controversy." No book can take the place of that power. Nor can it be found in human beings whose reason may lead them to diverse con-

clusions. Even the earthly head of the Church, though clothed with the mantle of right to decide, must have the spirit of revelation; or he would not be adequate to the task.

Rev. Newton is correct in saying the world needs divine authority and inspiration. We add, the Lord, in His infinite mercy, has foreseen this need, and established that authority. It has been given again to man, just as in the days of Moses, Ezra, John the Baptist, and the Son of God Himself. For the Father and the Son have spoken in this dispensation. They have given to man the authority to act in the name of the Deity. They have again stretched out their arm in power to bring salvation to the human race—salvation temporal and eternal. If it is offered in the system commonly called "Mormonism," let no one take offense, for was not, before this, salvation proclaimed through the Cross? Was it not offered in a system which appeared offensive to Jewish theologians, and foolishness to pagan philosophers? If "Mormonism" offers from God that which mankind need, let it be accepted in humility and with songs of everlasting joy.

Britain is wild with joy today. Her armies have beaten the Boers, and her troops are in the Transvaal capital.

Instead of coming home from South Africa, it looks as though the British army will be headed next for China and British India. Russia is there, too.

Pretoria is occupied by the British. Will Lord Roberts try now to run down the scattered Boer army, or let it wear itself out against military occupation of the cities?

Monday's attempt to check Lord Roberts' advance on Pretoria seemed to be a weak effort. But what else could be expected of so small a force as that available to the Boers?

The experience of those Tennessee thieves who attacked Colorado sheepmen is a warning to their kind to leave herders alone. The sheepmen were decidedly lion-like when they got to work on the robbers.

The Provo Daily Enquirer commenced its nineteenth volume on Monday with a change of form and heading. It is now an eight page paper and announces other improvements as patronage warrants. The enlargement, it states, is made necessary by the number of advertisements requiring preferred positions. We wish our Provo contemporary increased support, success and usefulness.

A Chinese Christian, in speaking of Paul's saying, "Let your women keep silence in the churches," takes issue with sectarian preachers as to what Paul meant. The Mongolian says: "He meant that women should keep quiet in church, not talking among themselves and disturbing the meeting." Certainly if Paul were in a modern church he would not object to that application of the remark.

The break-up of China seems to be at hand, with no prospect of delay. The empress dowager has given orders to the Chinese foreign office to face all Europe rather than to interfere with the Boxer movement against foreigners, and the further landing of European troops is to be opposed. This means that the European powers, in defense of their citizens in China, must crush the government that upholds the Boxer policy. As China cannot face one of the great powers, much less all, the result is not hard to tell, so far as the Chinese government is concerned. But another interesting question is somewhat of a puzzle: How will the nations that divide China settle among themselves?

The Americans came into possession of Cuba Jan. 1, 1899, less than a year and a half ago. In that time the whole island has been placed in order, and on June 1 an election will be held, preliminary to turning the island over to the Cubans. It looks now as though by the close of the second year of American occupation, it will be possible to transfer to the islanders an independent, well-ordered government. This is really a great accomplishment in the time stated. During the period of American control in Cuba, there has been one notable case of dishonesty in officials, that connected with the Neely expose, and if the present vigorous prosecution be followed, as it probably will be, the prospect is that about the same time the Cubans enter into the full exercise of their rights as freemen, the embezzlers will pass behind jail doors to pay the penalty of their wrongdoing.

THE CHINESE REBELLION.

Possibly, in the face of determined action, the "Boxers" will disperse and a more favorable opportunity presents itself. But in any event there appears to be but one course for the civilized nations in the present emergency. Every power which has citizens or subjects in China has a clear legal right and a moral obligation to defend their lives. There is still a chance, of course, that this may be accomplished by a mere showing of force, but if not, China cannot expect the civilized powers to rescue them from their position until it is definitely assured that the "Boxer" movement has been effectually suppressed.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The Boxer uprising in China appears to be growing more acute, and it would seem that the movement is approaching the magnitude of a rebellion. The term "Boxers" is applied to the disaffected Chinese for the reason that the troubles began with societies organized for athletic purposes, but which, as it often came with associations formed in despotic countries, very soon became engaged in politics. The uprising is confined to the northern provinces, and apparently centers in the vicinity of Peking. The object, so far as is known here, is to drive out or murder the "foreign devils." The Chinese government appears to be endeavoring to fulfill its treaty obligations by protecting all foreigners so far as it is able, but the imperial government has little real power, and there is no doubt that the Boxers fully believe that the real sympathies of the empress are with them.

Omaha World-Herald.

The murder of missionaries, the besieging of railroad engineers, affords the opportunity to enter the domain of the Celestial empire which, it is to be feared, is too welcome to some of the nations concerned. It may be the hour of doom for China. It is the hour of great peril for Europe, for every soldier of every nation who carries a rifle into

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Chinese territory is carrying a lighted torch into a powder magazine.

Chicago Record.
The news from Peking for several months has indicated the probability of such attacks upon foreigners in China as will necessitate the retirement of all Caucasian residents from the flowery kingdom or the maintenance of a strong body of European and American troops at the capital. If the spread of the so-called "Boxer" movement continues, and the hostility of the existing government to foreigners is not checked by the use of force, the missionaries in interior towns may be murdered any day, and even the foreign diplomats and their families in Peking may not be secure.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
If the powers make it clear to the empress dowager that outrages must stop and the "Boxers" be suppressed it is possible that this remarkable woman may yet have sufficient influence to prevent armed interference by putting down the rebellion. If, however, she proves powerless or blind to consequences and the rising is not put down at once it is not easy to see how the combined powers can refrain from action.

Boston Transcript.
The Chinese "Boxers," who are the armed militant element of the reactionary party in China, are doing their utmost, unwittingly, to force the hands of foreign powers to intervene, and one of these does not need any forcing. Nothing would please Russia more than to be "forced" to play her old role of the power that will intervene by force to protect Christian missions against "Pagans." She has the men at hand at Port Arthur and she undoubtedly has the intervening power. Russia will get out of it only on compulsion. Peking is to her now what Constantinople once was.

Kansas City Star.
Sending small bodies of American marines to Peking involves the risk that the Chinese may turn upon them. In that event the marines would certainly be in a desperate situation, for aid could not reach them in time to rescue them from their enemies. Yet such is the contempt in which Chinamen are held that this danger of catastrophe is hardly thought of. The condition of the Chinese nation is eloquently told in this sending of marines to Peking. Other nations have submitted to the ignominy of foreign soldiers being posted in their capital, but never without a strong show of resistance.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Every American home will be visited during the month of June by an enumerator sent out by Uncle Sam to collect facts for the next census. The way in which this process will be carried on is described in the current issue of Cutler's Weekly. The article was prepared by W. H. Merriam, former governor of Minnesota, who was appointed a year ago as the director of the twelfth census.—New York.

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