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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 12, 1908.

TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Dear Brethren: "It is by no means improbable that some future text-book for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: 'What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen?' And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: JOSEPH SMITH, THE MORMON PROPHET."

Such was the opinion of Josiah Quincy in 1844, the year of the martyrdom. The intervening sixty-four years have tended to prove not only the greatness of Joseph Smith as a man, but also the divinity of the work he was instrumental in establishing. To every member of the Church, Joseph Smith is not only the most "historical American of the nineteenth century" but a true prophet of God.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1908, will be the one hundred and third anniversary of his birth, and it is suggested that on Sunday, Dec. 20, appropriate services be held in every Sunday school in the Church. As a means to this end, the General Sunday School Union Board suggests the following program. It is only suggestive, the purpose being to have every officer of the Sunday School Union put forth his best thought and effort to make the exercises so impressive that the children will realize the true greatness of the Latter-day prophet:

- 1-Roll.
- 2-Song—"Joseph Smith's First Prayer."
- 3-Prayer.
- 4-Minutes of previous session.
- 5-Song—"One Hundred Years Ago."
- 6-Administration of the Sacrament.
- 7-Song—"Joseph the Priest."
- 8-Song—"Joseph the Priest."
- 9-Song—"Joseph the Priest."
- 10-Brief anecdotes concerning sayings of, or extracts from the life and writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith; or extracts from the Doctrine and Covenants. (See Life of Joseph Smith by Geo. Q. Cannon). These may be given by classes in concert or by a representative from each department.
- 11-Remarks (preferably by those who knew the Prophet).
- 12-Song—"Sing, Sing the Wondrous Story."
- 13-Benediction.

Sincerely your brethren,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
DAVID O. MCKAY,
General Superintendency,
GEO. D. PETER,
Gen. Secretary.

ELIAS.

Some time ago we noticed in these columns the fact that students of Church schools, and particularly, of the Provo, B. Y. University, have commenced the study of Elias, by Orson F. Whitney. One of the drawbacks to the study noted, was the difficulty in obtaining copies of the great epic. We are pleased to say now that another edition has been prepared and that copies can be obtained at the Deseret News Book store. This new edition has been prepared to satisfy the holiday demand and the needs of advanced classes formed in some of the schools for the study of this literary and poetic gem. We need not say that Elias is one of the most important of literary Utah productions. It ought to adorn every library.

TITHING.

The time is approaching when the tithing accounts will be closed for the year, and it may be well at this time to remind the Latter-day Saints of this. They will want to straighten out their accounts and see that they have proper credit on the books for what they have donated during the year. Those who have a testimony of the truth of the Gospel regard it as a privilege, and not a burden, to comply with the word of God regarding tithing. They know by experience that they are blessed both spiritually and temporally in proportion to the faithfulness with which they keep His commandments. They know that it is a true principle that "he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

The law of tithing dates back to the very first era of religious history. Abraham paid tithing to Melchisedek after his successful expedition against Chedorlaomer. The law must have been in force then. Jacob made a vow to pay tithing, and the language he employed indicated compliance with an established custom. He must have been taught that law in his father's house. Therefore he made this covenant with his Maker: "And all that thou shalt give me, I will assuredly tithing it unto thee." The law is therefore prior to the Mosaic law.

Whenever the religious status of the people deteriorated, the law of tithing was neglected. With the revival of religious fervor, that law was observed. The payment of tithing was re-established at the reformation by Hezekiah (2 Chron. 31: 5, 6, 12), and again upon the return from the Babylonian captivity, by Nehemiah (10: 37; 12: 44; 13: 5). The Prophet Malachi reproved the people for their neglect of the Lord's storehouse, for which they were visited by famine. He

promised that repentance would result in the restoration of plenty.

It must not be supposed, however, that the compliance with this law is all there is of religion. By no means. The Pharisees, whom our Lord rebuked, seem to have attended to their duty in this matter as near as possible. But they were, nevertheless, spiritually blind and dead. Our Lord says they neglected the weightier matters of the law. This is a warning to His people in all ages. "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

All laws of God are given for the benefit of His children. By complying with them we gain moral strength and intelligence. It is only by complying with those laws that we can prepare ourselves for an existence hereafter, in the company of glorified beings.

UNIVERSAL PEACE.

Governor Cutler, a short time ago, at the suggestion of the directors of the American peace society, issued a proclamation recommending that universal peace be made the subject of discourses in the various places of worship throughout the State, on Sunday, Dec. 20, which is set apart as "peace Sunday" in many churches. We hope this suggestion will be acted upon generally. It is during times of peace that the most effective work for the perpetuation of peace can be done, and it is, undoubtedly, in the power of the leaders of churches to do more toward the accomplishment of the object, than statesmen and politicians.

The idea of setting apart a Sunday for the consideration of universal peace was suggested in a letter that appeared in the London Times, Aug. 1903, and which was signed by a number of influential English clergymen. The letter recommended the simultaneous delivery in all churches of sermons in which the leading thought should be the obligation of Christian nations to seek a substitute for war. There is no doubt that in the degree that this suggestion is acted upon, there will be a change of public opinion. The simultaneous attack throughout Christendom upon the mental attitude that regards war as a necessary evil, cannot be without effect.

The general Superintendency of the Latter-day Saints' Sunday schools have also suggested that the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph be commemorated in the Latter-day Saints' Sunday schools. The two subjects go very well together, for the Prophet Joseph was indeed a messenger of peace to all the world. "Sue for peace, not only the people that have smitten you, but also to all people; and lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation for peace unto the ends of the earth." (Doc. & Cov. 105: 38-39.) This is the very essence of the Gospel of the Prince of Peace.

THE HARD TIMES MYSTERY.

It is not difficult to understand prosperity. A fertile soil, a good climate, a temperate and industrious population, sufficient capital, numerous manufacturers and mines, great railroads—these and other well known conditions in this country especially serve sufficiently to explain any kind of prosperity, however intense or unbounded it may be. The solution of hard times, on the other hand is far less easy. It is known, for instance, that an increased supply of money in circulation tends to lessen prices by cheapening money, the reverse is of course true, and prices rise, when the supply of money in circulation grows less. It has therefore been concluded that an increase in gold production will increase the supply of money through its influence on financial and commercial markets and will result in an increase in the bank reserves. This, in turn, results in an expansion of credit, thus increasing perhaps many fold the availability of the money or reserves on hand in banks. When this easy credit leads to a heavy increase of speculation, however, as it not infrequently does, there ensues a "boom" followed almost invariably by a reaction, which may amount to depression, hard times, and even panic.

The production of gold has increased considerably in recent years. A total of \$297,823,949 was extracted from the world's gold mines in 1897; the output rose to \$412,556,126 in 1907. During the same interval, the "index number," giving an average of prices for selected commodities, rose according to Sauerbeck's system of computation, from 62 to 80, and, according to the London Economist's, from 1885 to 2,601.

It thus appears that prices rose with an increased gold production; but was this the real cause of the rise?

In a recent issue of the Engineering and Mining Journal, W. R. Ingalls takes issue with the theory that the increased production of gold was the cause, in any marked degree, of the observed enhancement of prices. He says:

"Population and the production of the necessities of life may increase in the same ratio as the production of gold, so that the latter merely supplies the increased requirement for it, and under that condition will not influence prices one way or the other. Industrial changes in processes of manufacture, means of transportation, and many other conditions may effect prices so that the average of the latter will go down, while the production of gold goes up, or vice versa. The crises of 1873 and 1890 were each followed by several years of severe commercial depression, in each case while the price of gold falling the production of gold was increasing."

These various factors, as well as the mere increase in gold, are to be taken into consideration in accounting for the rise in the price of commodities. Mr. Ingalls shows further that after the crisis in 1857, the prices for commodities rose steadily until 1864, while the production of gold was going down. Prices then declined until 1870 while gold production was declining. Prices then fell steadily until 1879, while gold production was increasing. After a slight rise in prices in 1880, the decline was resumed, and this time coincided with a declining gold production began to rise which has continued with only slight interruptions ever since, while the decline in commodity prices kept on until 1896.

He therefore concludes that from 1858

to 1896 the prices for commodities frequently went down as the production of gold increased and vice versa.

Among the various causes in the advance in the price of the necessities of life, Mr. Ingalls enumerates the following:

"The exhaustion of certain natural resources, such as timber, tending to increase prices; the policy of labor unionism and the increasing inefficiency of the laborer; the accumulation of great fortunes through speculation of profits, and an inauguration of general extravagance in living; waste of resources and reckless expenditure of money in replacing them; over-extension in enterprise; failure of agriculture development to keep pace with the growth of population; the increase in the cost of food and clothing and directly leading to advance of wages for labor in manufacturing."

THE VICTORY IN UTAH.

The last County election here was followed with intense interest by Saints and Elders all over the world, and by others acquainted with the conditions in Utah. Recognizing this fact, the President of the European Mission, Elder Charles W. Penrose, in the Millennial Star, gives a very clear and concise account of the situation in this City. The readers of the "News" will be interested in what President Penrose, who for so many years conducted the editorial department of our paper, with recognized ability, has to say about "the victory in Utah," and for that reason we take the liberty of copying his leading editorial in the Star of Nov. 26, in full:

"The announcement was made through the Millennial Star last week that the Republican ticket had been elected in Utah by a very large majority, and that this included Salt Lake County, in which every office, without exception, was won by the party thus defeating completely the anti-Mormon organization, and that the latter result was brought about through a united effort on the part of Democrats and Republicans. The announcement then made requires some further explanation, so that the event may be understood by readers of the Star in this part of the world. There are in America, as in England, two great national parties. While there are other political organizations, the majority of the citizens of the United States are either of the Republican party or the Democratic party. The Republicans were largely in the majority throughout the United States in the vote that was cast for President Cleveland and Vice President Tamm on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. Utah was in harmony in that respect with the rest of the nation.

There is nothing peculiar about this, but in Salt Lake County and a few other places, there is an organization calling itself the 'American' party, which is, in reality, distinctly anti-Mormon, because it has for its object the destruction of a religious body. It is through and through, from top to bottom, in its whole purpose and spirit anti-Mormon, and only avows its intention, if placed in power, to force into prison or exile that which it denominates the 'hierarchy.'"

"By this term, it denotes the leading authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The name is as inappropriate as the title of the faction that employs it. There is no 'hierarchy' in the Mormon Church, nor can there be in the nature of things. Its leaders are subject to the will of the body of the Church, and their names are presented twice a year to the members of the Church in conference assembled for their acceptance or rejection. They exercise no despotic power, but have to act in conformity to the rules and discipline established in the Church, and are subject to its courts in case of transgression. The combination of the enemies of the Church in a political organization has in view the deprivation of all the rights and privileges of citizenship of the 'Mormon' Church authorities, and the domination of the State of Utah, to the exclusion of the ecclesiastics here referred to, and indeed, of all leading men in the Church."

"This is anti-American, because the very spirit and genius of American government tend to secure to all its citizens equal rights, privileges and immunities before the law. The Constitution of the United States forbids the passage by Congress of any law restricting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and announces that no religious test shall ever be applied as a qualification for office in the United States. Under that instrument, religion is free, and all people have a right to worship as they please, or to abstain from worshipping at all, and each citizen, without the least restriction, may exercise political rights and privileges without hindrance, so long as he is obedient to the laws. Therefore, an organization for the purpose of discriminating politically against any citizen, or body of citizens, because of their religious principles or affiliations, is entirely hostile to real Americanism."

"The faction misusing itself the 'American' party has supported a clique which attempts to regulate the political movements of its members, and through a daily newspaper, which is constantly publishing scandalous libels against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its leading authorities, has assailed the rights of the Latter-day Saints in the most unscrupulous and vile manner, growing in effrontery with the years, during which it has been free to pour forth without hindrance its foul libels until it has boldly announced its purpose and determination, and this, at length, caused members of the two regular political parties to unite in the 'Mormon' and 'Gentiles,' to come together in Salt Lake County, where the anti-American organization was concentrating its efforts, and the result we have already announced."

"The anti-Mormon faction succeeded some time ago in bringing together persons of different religious organizations, and by the use of the seductive name of the 'American' party, so as to gain control of the Salt Lake municipality, and for three years the city has been under its domination. The law has been raised, and the debt has been increased, vice has flourished, capital has been deterred from investing in useful industries, a bitter spirit antagonistic to the progress of the city has been engendered, until the better portions of the community have determined that these conditions shall be ended."

"The step taken in Salt Lake County is a sign of what may be accomplished in the future. The next municipal election will take place in November, 1909. If the same spirit of unity which has brought about the triumph of right in Salt Lake County shall prevail in Salt Lake City, the anti-American party will be brought to its finish. The only thing that has given it power has been the division of the better portion of the citizens into rival political parties. It is quite proper that men and women shall be free to exercise their political rights in support of those principles and measures, and candidates which appear to them to be most in accordance with their ideas of good government. In the nation and in the State, the right of every citizen to vote such political party as they choose, but when it comes to local interests, and especially when it affects the religious and civil rights of the Latter-day Saints, whom they venerate or esteem, common sense suggests that they drop for a time their party preferences and

come together against the common foe. "The victory thus attained in Salt Lake County has been signal and decisive. The anti-American faction has failed to elect one solitary candidate for any office in the county. Judges, commissioners, clerk, sheriff, attorney, recorder, auditor, assessor, treasurer, clerk of the courts, and the state senators and representatives, will all be members of the Republican party. A good many Democrats, perceiving that they could not succeed in the election, have joined the Republican party, and that the voters throughout the United States.

"The good news of the clean sweep in Salt Lake County has doubtless brought joy to all the Elders of the Church laboring in the mission field, and to the members of the Church who understand anything about the situation in Utah. When our religion is assailed and attacks are made upon the ministers of the Most High, it is our duty before God, as well as our right before the law, to unite for the vindication of the truth and its supporters, and to make a stand in their defense. We congratulate our friends in Salt Lake County upon the position they have taken and the victory they have achieved. Let them now make it complete in every respect. The matter is in their own hands. God helps those who help themselves. Let union be the watchword, and good sense govern in all things."

Christmas shoppers soon learn by experience.

Why do so many short, broad women insist on wearing flat hats?

At this season Christmas trees are more popular than family trees.

Erasmus wrote in praise of folly. Judge Taft writes in praise of golf.

The omnibus bill comes up Monday. The automobile bill comes up daily.

Even Judge Taft's honest and thorough tariff revision will have its ups and downs.

There seems to be something monkish about this much discussed Des Moines plan.

The boys and girls are looking for new skates while the police are looking for "old skates."

Being an intermountain city, Salt Lake, on freight rates, catches it coming and going.

Historian Ferrero says that Cleopatra was not beautiful. Well, what's the difference? She's dead anyhow.

Van Vliet's automobiles are to be sold at auction. They are further evidence that he led a fast life.

The President may find it easier to make an agreement with Japan than to come to one with the Senate about it.

Postmaster-General George Von L. Meyer would have children instructed on the organization and operations of the postal service.

The French government has notified Castro that while he is in France he must do as the French do and not as the Venezuelans do.

The whole country is crying, "Preserve the country's natural resources," while few are crying, "Preserve the country's Constitution."

The finding of \$2,410 in a "News" by an Ogden man shows that there is money in taking the "News." Now is the time to subscribe.

What are the English suffragettes about that they do not enlist the services of Carrie Nation? In the Commons her little hatchet would act as a counter-balance for the speaker's mallet.

Senator Lodge is to speak on the Brownsville affair. It is impossible to say anything new on it, though a few classical quotations might be thrown in, which would give a speech on the subject a new appearance.

A French critic says that America is lacking in poets. He cannot be a very widely and well informed critic to make such a statement with Posey county, Indiana, still turning out poets and poetry by the wholesale.

Scarce does a national convention of any kind meet these days that does not call on Congress to make appropriations or authorize the issue of bonds for hundreds of millions of dollars, but not one of them suggests how these hundreds of millions are to be raised. Trusting to luck won't do.

HAITI NOT WANTED.

Philadelphia Record.
Every time a revolution arises in Haiti suggestions are renewed for annexing the Republic to the United States. There can be no question that annexation would be of great benefit to the wretched inhabitants in relieving them from the volcanic turmoil which is instigated for the most part by foreign adventurers. But whatever may be said of the advantages of annexation to the United States, there are many good people among them, the interests of the United States forbid its consideration now or in the near future. Apart from the fact that the American people will never consent to incorporate in their United States this negro republic, with its low standard of culture and political progress.

NOT A TREATY.

New York Evening Post.
Ambassador Takahira, happily describes the nature of the agreement between his government and that of the United States. He calls it simply "a transaction between trusted friends." The text of the notes exchanged, as now published, bears out this characterization. It is ingeniously worded so as not to take the form of a treaty. There are no promises; no binding obligations; no assumptions; and we have is merely a statement of facts. "It is the wish of the two governments; their policy is directed," they "are firmly resolved," in case of any disturbance of the Oriental status, "it remains for the two governments to communicate with each other in order to arrive at an understanding as to what measures they may consider it useful to take." Nothing could be more simple, nothing more amiable. A lawyer,

to be sure, might pick the agreement to pieces and show that it contains not a single clause by which either country could be held. But it is not a question of a legal contract. A friendly understanding is all that we have in hand; and to a diplomatic document of that kind the old saying applies with especial point: "C'est le ton qui fait la chanson." The tone of the Japanese agreement is good will, and the resulting song is all of peace.

MR. ROOSEVELT ON CHINA.

Theodore Roosevelt in the Outlook.

The awakening of China is one of the great events of our age, and the remedy for the "yellow peril," whatever that may be, is not the repression of life, but the cultivation and direction of life. Here at home we believe that the remedy for popular discontent is not repression, but justice and education. Similarly, the best way to avert possible peril, commercial or military, from the great Chinese people, is by behaving righteously toward them, and by striving to inspire a righteous life among them. Our Christian missions have for their object not only the saving of souls, but the imparting of a respect for the possible kingdom of God on the earth. It seems to me that there is no place where there is better opportunity today to do this work than in China, and I earnestly hope we can attract the attention of the great public outside of the so-called missionary circles to the possibility and practicability, no less than to the importance, of the work. The time for the West to implant its ideals in the Orient in such fashion as to minimize the chance of a dreadful future clash between two radically different and hostile civilizations, if we wait until tomorrow we may find that we have waited too long.

JUST FOR FUN.

Rivals.

The two-step is to have rivals this winter in the dances of the before-the-war period—the mazurka, the schottish, the polkas and the like. The fashionable dancing masters in New York are leading the way.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Good and Bad Indians.
Look out for the cross-eyed Indian

on the front of a \$5 bill. If he is there you are \$5 out. The grubstaker bears an Indian from from grubstake.—Boston Transcript.

The Wrong Diagnosis.

Housekeeper (bitten by the breakfast food bug)—Have you corns in your feet? Grocer—No'm. It's rheumatism in m' toe that makes me limp.—Puck.

They Always Do It.

The teacher of one of the rooms in a school in the suburbs had been training her pupils in anticipation of a visit from the school inspector. At last he

came, and the classes were called out to show their attainments.

The arithmetic class was the first called, and in order to make a good impression the teacher put the first question to Johnny Smith, the star pupil.

"Johnny, if coal is selling at \$5 a ton, and you pay the coal dealer \$20, how many tons of coal will he bring you?"

"Three," was the prompt reply from Johnny.

"The teacher, much embarrassed, said, 'Why, Johnny, that isn't right. Oh, I know it ain't, but they do it, miss.'—San Francisco Chronicle.

"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM."

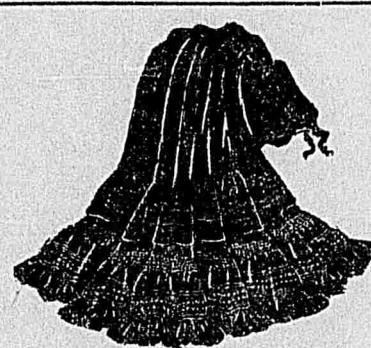
How truly was this passage of Scripture fulfilled one day recently in our city. A young girl, the daughter of an artist could scarcely copy and draw. "Oh, yes," said the husband of the artist, "The wife admired it ever so much, and asked the price. It was rather high, but, Oh, how sweet baby looked in it. The blue just matched those wonderfully bright baby eyes and it would look up in papa's face and laugh, then at mamma and laugh, then at the clerk and coo. There was no use, a few dollars was not to be thought of, and the papa could do without cigars and mamma could economize in something else, and so make up the difference. Baby was too bright and pretty things—so both papa and mamma looked at the darling. The pretty blue and white cloak was bought and while the clerk was gone after the change I watched those faces. Could you, dear reader, have seen the proud manly look the husband bestowed upon the wife and baby, the look of a sweet, confiding trust and love the wife gave in return, while baby laughed in their faces and looked unutterably happy, you would have thought a little: 'And a little child shall lead them.' Let us hope that they may be led by 'green pastures' and still waters. May flowers bloom brightest when they dwell. So we will leave them manhood at its zenith, womanhood crowned with the sacred crown of motherhood—with God's greatest gift, immortal soul, given them to train and cultivate for His honor and glory while in their keeping."

MRS. LOUISE COULSON.

Stirring Sale of Silk Petticoats At Z. C. M. I.

DOZENS AND DOZENS OF BLACK TAFETA PETTICOATS AT HALF PRICE.

A silk petticoat value that has never been equalled or attempted in this city. The regular price of these underskirts is \$9.00. Monday and Tuesday your choice at \$4.50. This is one of the most fortunate purchases our buyer has made in years. When you see them you will agree with us that they are indeed bargains.



Petticoats made of the highest grade Black Silk Taffeta, good widths, deep flounce, full flare; an unusual money-saving sale that only occurs once in a great while. Regular \$9.00 \$4.50 underskirts, Monday and Tuesday at.

ENTIRE STOCK OF COLORED SILK PETTICOATS AT ONE-FOURTH OFF

To make the department additionally attractive and to invite Christmas purchasing we will place our entire line of colored silk petticoats on sale Monday and Tuesday at ONE-FOURTH OFF.

All the stylish colors—green, navy blues, tans, Copenhagen, steel gray, old rose, two tone effect, brown, red, pink, light blue and yellow, ranging in price from \$8.00 to \$25.00 at 25% OFF

Christmas Glove Specials

Fownes' prime quality Pique Gloves, 12 button length, black and tans. All sizes. Regular \$4.50 a pair, values, for \$2.50

Women's Pique Street Gloves, all colors and sizes, special \$1.25

Monitor Pique Gloves, the most serviceable glove on the market. All colors and sizes, special \$2.00

Grenoble fine over-seam Real Kid Gloves, all colors and sizes, special \$1.50

Fownes' Pique-seam Gloves in regular tan shades. All sizes, special \$1.50 and \$2.00

Ribbon Special Taffetas, Satin Taffetas and fancies. Values up to 40c a yard, special 25c

Belt Specials.

Women's Elastic Belts, with latest navy buckles, good 50c values, Special 25c

New Embroidered Corset Covers.

\$2.00 to \$5.00 Each.

We are showing a splendid new line of RUCHINGS and LADIES' FANCY NECKWEAR in all colors and widths.

Black Taffetas One-Fourth Off.

Our entire line of Black Taffeta Silk, ranging in price from 75c to \$1.75 a yard, all next week. 25% Off

OUR DRUG STORE IS AT 112-114 SOUTH MAIN ST.

