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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was in session on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, was one of the very best ever held in the history of the Church. This was promised by the venerable President of the Church in his opening remarks on Friday morning, and his forecast was literally fulfilled.

The congregations gradually increased in numbers at each succeeding session. The galleries had to be opened on Friday afternoon. On Saturday the tabernacle was overcrowded. On Sunday morning there was not room for the people who assembled, and on Sunday afternoon both the tabernacle and the Assembly Hall overflowed with people who could obtain neither sitting nor standing room, and hundreds remained in the grounds of the temple block.

The distinguishing marks of the discourses delivered were their variety, lucidity, practicality and force. While all were harmonious, they were in different strains. The personality of each speaker was observable, yet the spirit of the Lord inspired all. The teachings were eminently practical. Whether they related to things temporal or things spiritual, they were of a character that recommended themselves to the obedience of the people in their every day lives, and to prepare them for a higher plane of existence in this world as well as in the world to come.

Every speaker had full freedom of expression, and presented his ideas with clearness and great force. Each felt the importance of his utterances and impressed it upon his hearers. The energy and power yet kindly feeling, displayed by President Snow, now in his eighty-seventh year, were truly remarkable and of great comfort to the thousands who listened to his words of inspiration and encouragement.

All of the First Presidency and Twelve Apostles spoke to the assembly during the Conference, and the unity of sentiment and spirit they manifested was conspicuous, and was felt by the vast congregations that heard with joy their instructions, their counsels and their testimonies.

The solo and choir singing, with accompaniments on the grand organ, were truly enjoyable, and formed a very pleasing feature of the edifying occasion. There is no church music anywhere that is of a generally superior class to that which has become common in the great religious gatherings of the Latter-day Saints.

There was one change that made Sunday afternoon's spectacle in the tabernacle more than usually pleasant to the beholder. The removal of the ladies' hats was not only a great boon to people who desired to see as well as hear the speakers, but to behold the heads and faces of those assembled, in the undisturbed beauty and intelligence of manhood and womanhood, without shaking feathers and flowers and masses of millinery, was a sight glorious to look upon, and a wonderful improvement upon the usual scene at a religious meeting.

The saints who were so favored as to be able to attend this Conference, will doubtless long remember it as a grand and profitable occasion. The stake and ward authorities, from all parts of the Church, will carry home with them many precious counsels to guide them in their future labors. And the entire Church will be imbued with new energy, faith and determination, and the efforts will be seen in the increased devotion, union and good works of the people, who have come out of the world and pledged themselves to the observance of the commandments and the word and will of God. It was truly a feast of faith to the saints of the Most High.

WHY THE SAINTS MEET.

The general Conference of the Latter-day Saints, we do not hesitate to say, are among the grandest, most inspiring, and remarkable occurrences of the religious world today. Ever since the beginning, when the Church appeared weak numerically and without worldly advantages, the efforts of the adversary have been strained to the utmost to end the glorious work. Often the Church has been through as narrow passages as have Israel in the days of old, but above the din of the storms and the waves of persecution, and the rumbling wheels of Satan's pursuing army, the word of God through Moses has ever been heard, "Tell the people to go forward." And Israel has steadily advanced. There has always been a dry path through the sea. There has been water in the hardest rocks, and manna in the most barren desert. And today the Church is still advancing. The word of the Lord through His servants has been fulfilled, in regard to His people. Not one has failed.

Some such thoughts came forcibly to

the minds of many who had the privilege of witnessing the thousands that have attended the tabernacle and the Assembly Hall, during the Conference just ended, and inspired on the grounds outside to secure an entrance to the overcrowded buildings. Israel is advancing. For these thousands came, not for the sake of satisfying their curiosity; but to listen in silence to the word of the Lord through those inspired prophets and apostles. There is nothing in the entire religious world that can be compared to these gatherings of the Latter-day Saints. They are in themselves a testimony to the world, that the work is of divine origin, and is fostered by an Almighty power. If there is any truth in the famous philosophical principle credited to Gamaliel, (Acts x, 38, 39).

The Gospel of Jesus is all-comprehensive. It is a system to live by, and not only a "light in the valley of the shadow of death." It is what the world needs, because what the world needs is unsatisfactory. Its philosophy is unsatisfactory. Its theology throws no light upon most important problems of time and eternity. Its social structure is without stability and symmetry. There is uneasiness on all hands, and predictions are now warning of dire disaster. Amid all the conflicting elements, the Gospel offers a correct understanding of all the questions that at present perplex the world. As President Snow so well expressed this great truth:

"We should understand that the Lord has revealed when the days of trouble come upon nations, a place for you and me, and we will be preserved as Noah was preserved, not in an ark, but we will be preserved by going into these principles of union by which we can accomplish the work of the Lord and surround ourselves with those things that will preserve us from the difficulties that are now coming upon the world, the judgments of the Lord."

The saints comprehend to some extent this great mission, and the majority of them are willing to endeavor to do their part. Hence their eagerness to gather around their revered leaders. They are eager to hear the word of the Lord, through the living interpreters of the divine mind and will.

SUNDAY'S TRAGEDY.

A deplorable tragedy was that by which Charles H. Holmes was killed by the Chinaman, Chin Poy, early Sunday morning, in this city. If the circumstances, however, under which the killing took place were as reported, the Chinaman will not be too severely condemned by fair-minded public opinion, although it may be necessary to impress upon the Chinese residents that a heavy use of firearms is not a part of American civilization.

From the published reports it appears that the Chinaman was rudely awakened in the morning by somebody throwing heavy rocks at the door of the shanty in which he lives. Recently some of his countrymen have been assaulted by hoodlums. One was nearly beaten to death by tough boys, and another was shot in the arm and robbed of his hard-earned savings. Under the circumstances Chin Poy may naturally be supposed to have been much frightened when his little house was battered with rocks and he saw a man at the gate. His conclusion that he had to do with robbers, and perhaps murderers, was very natural. Who else would be prowling about between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning?

The pastime indulged in by the hoodlum element annoying Chinamen in their houses and in the streets, has been carried on too long, without any energetic effort on the part of the authorities to stop it. The result of this respect to the killing of the unfortunate victim of Sunday's tragedy. Had an example been established of some of the rascals of the streets within our gates, were these given the protection they are by law entitled to, it is probable that the boyish pranks would have ceased long ago. As it is, there seems to be an impression that it is much safer to greet an unoffending Chinaman than to treat him as one without a man's life in it. It is to be feared that, either for the kindness of heart or intelligence of head of some part of the community, nor of the vigilance of the guardians of the law. We hope the killing of the young man Holmes, may prove a lesson which will be beneficial for the future, notwithstanding his cruel death. For the striking relatives of the young man holding but feelings of profound sympathy are entertained.

ARTIFICIAL FORMS OF LIFE.

Some time ago it was announced that one Professor Loeb, of the University of Chicago, had succeeded in proving the possibility of producing artificial life. That is to say, it was claimed he had been able to produce artificially what is known as the parthenogenesis of starfish, worms and invertebrates of other low order of animals. The significance of this experiment, if what is claimed is true, is this, that a method of propagating which is common in the lower forms of life can, under proper conditions, be applied successfully to some higher forms, which usually propagate in some other way.

The conclusion drawn is that all higher forms of life, even human, can be thus propagated whenever the proper conditions are discovered. A certain school of philosophers have already seized upon these alleged successful experiments and pointed to them as proofs that life is no longer the mysterious force it has been supposed to be, inasmuch as it may be reproduced artificially. But that conclusion seems to be too premature. Dr. Loeb does not claim to have discovered the origin of life. He does not claim to have discovered the conditions under which inert matter is gathered together and becomes the tabernacle of life and intelligence. He cannot take a piece of clay and endow it with motion, volition, etc. And this is the mystery of life, the depths of which Darwinian philosophy still pines. Parthenogenesis does not explain the origin of life, by that process one living cell may part and become two, or an aggregation of cells, an animal, may divide and become two, but the real problem is how a particle of dead matter becomes quickened and

obtains life. It is shown scientifically that even higher forms of life, under certain conditions, may be multiplied by the process of parthenogenesis, that is, without fertilization, the Mosaic account of the creation of the woman would involve no scientific absurdity. It would, perhaps, give the key to some other great mystery, too, but it would not help evolutionists over the chasm between organic and inorganic matter.

The opinions about the importance of Dr. Loeb's experiments are divided. The Chicago Record treats them seriously in this paragraph:

"The theory that the vital something which we know as life is itself a product of material conditions and forces acting in accordance with ascertainable laws is bound to startle the world. It will be greeted on the one hand as an advance in science, and on the other as the secret of the beginnings of the material universe, and on the other hand as an endeavor to place all philosophy on a purely material basis, thereby denying the existence of spiritual or supra-material forces. Whether accepted or denied, it opens up a new line of research into some of the fundamental problems of life and is likely to be studied for that reason by scientists everywhere."

The New York World dismisses the matter with this stinging sarcasm:

"In an age of scientific research and intellectual progress it is rash to suppose that advances in extension of human knowledge, but a great many people will be inclined to hope that Dr. Loeb, of the Chicago University, will be disappointed in his sanguine expectations of being able to manufacture artificial human beings. The contented evidence of the fact that the product of the divorce courts and of the patent medicine advertisements proves conclusively that there are already more people in this world than there ought to be—that there is a superfluous population that is neither wise nor happy nor healthy and the increase from natural causes more than keeps pace with the demand. Should Dr. Loeb's daring experiments in producing artificial human beings be crowned with the success he has met with in the production of sea-anemones, starfish and worms, an overcrowding of the world worse than the worst predictions of Malthus would be inevitable. Imagine the demand for artificial men from boom towns of the West anxious to make a showing in the census! Worse still, imagine the job lots of manufactured citizens that would be contracted for by campaign managers for voting purposes! Prof. Loeb probably means well and his zeal for science is commendable, but if the Chicago University is wise it will put a stop to his researches and if necessary demolish his laboratory and save the world from a possible calamity."

THE POOR, RICH MAN.

"What can a rich man do?" is the cry of despair that comes from a young clergyman, Rev. Amos Phelps Stokes Jr., of New York, who finds himself encumbered with a large inheritance as he enters the steps of the pulpit.

The New York World has kindly endeavored to help the young minister to a clear understanding of this question, by submitting it to no less than ten millionaires, who presumably have solved the question satisfactorily.

John D. Rockefeller thinks the money God has given him should be given to universities. That he considers the best investment. William C. Whitney believes that rich men should engage in politics. Russell Sage declares that he is "constantly turning over his wealth in a way that will help others," and this turning over process is also advocated by Henry Green. She says: "Help some one I say. That is the way to win souls. Now I try to help some one every day. Mind, I don't give money, but I try to give people employment." This will, no doubt, be a surprise to many who know Mrs. Green only by reputation. She is not generally known to be engaged in "winning souls." Carnegie thinks the aim of the millionaire should be to die poor, and other millionaires believe in bequeathing their wealth to charities. Helen Gould agrees with Henry Green. She says: "It is the duty of women who have wealth to help others, and especially other women, and to make life for them more comfortable."

Perhaps the reverend gentleman, after having duly weighed all these answers, in which there are more or less pleasant platitudes, may find himself moved to turn to sacred writ and endeavor to grasp the truth conveyed in these solemn words of the Master:

"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me."

Another drouth has struck India, and further relief may be called for. Truly troubles do not come singly, in India more than elsewhere.

Dr. Koch says he has found a sure cure for malaria. It is to be hoped he has made no mistake in the announcement (if his discovery of such a boon to humanity).

The naval academy officials at Annapolis seem determined to put down hazing. In other words they insist that the members of the higher classes there shall be gentlemen.

The Germans have been beaten by Chinese near Tien Tsin. It seems to be a case in which the Germans invited defeat by making an unnecessary attack on Chinese markets.

A Chinaman is in jail in this city, charged with murder. If it develops to be a case of self-defense, as seems probable, he should receive the same leniency shown before the law as would a white man.

A meeting of mine workers' representatives has been called to consider the proposition of the Pennsylvania coalmine operators. Now is a good time to settle the fight, if the terms are found to be reasonable.

A proclamation of peace in South Africa is to be issued next Thursday. The anniversary of the declaration of war, will be recalled that what General Buller was expected to do in sixty days has taken British full force a year to accomplish.

Two hundred people hurt by the explosion of 7,000 pounds of dynamite near a Minnesota town will result to old residents of Salt Lake the Boston powder explosion on Capitol Hill in April, 1876. "Terrific" is a weak word—describe the awful noise of the outburst.

The Chinese emperor has denounced the Boxers and ordered the punishment of princes who committed the er-

ror of inciting attacks on foreigners. The emperor will save his own head because there is no one over him to punish for the mistake which he himself committed.

The State Fair had over 6,000 less persons in attendance than last year, half of the number being children, and presumably from this county. Doubtless the storms on Friday morning and Friday night were the chief contributing cause to this result.

The Russian admiral reports that the Americans have again refused to join with the other powers in seizing Chinese forts. This is one more indication that while the Americans are living up to their profession of preserving the integrity of China, the other nations are displaying a good deal of hypocrisy.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has been brought well to the front in British politics by the outcome of the South African war, but the conservative party's expressed fears that he may become Britain's premier show that while the Birmingham unionist is acceptable as a fighting minister, he has not the confidence of the people to the extent that they want him for the highest office within reach of the people.

The Chinese minister at Washington points out today the unselfish and dignified course the United States has followed in China. At this time it will be realized that that course has brought respect and prestige to America quite as well as did the achievements in the Spanish war. It may be recalled also, that the wisdom of the government which resisted a clamor for declaring war on China, has been the means of showing to the world that the United States is a full believer in the great axiom that "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."

A private letter has been received from the new settlements made by "Mormons" in Sonora, Mexico, just across the Arizona line. The writer mentions the allegation that the "Mormons" at La Marica and neighboring places had been ordered to leave, and the "News" denial thereof. He confirms the position taken by the "News," that there has been no difficulty whatever, and no prospect of one. The "Mormon" settlers at La Marica and neighboring places all the way to Oaxaca are well received and cordially welcomed by the other people now there, and by the Mexican authorities. The district is sparsely settled at present, but there is the prospect of a prosperous community there soon, chiefly by accessions from Utah and Arizona.

CONVICTION OF HOWARD.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The conviction of Howard as one of the principals in the Goebel murder case, is not surprising to those who have followed the details of the trial. The defense rested almost wholly on the establishment of an alibi, but that was broken down by testimony produced by the State. It is to be expected the claim will be made that the jury was packed for the purpose of conviction, but that seems hardly probable politically. It is composed of nine Democrats, two anti-Goebel Democrats and one Republican. So far as political bias is concerned it may be regarded as on its face nine to three against the accused, but there appears to have been no division as to his guilt, the only difference of opinion being whether he should be sentenced by the jury to imprisonment for life or to death, the final unanimous decision being for capital punishment.

The evidence was considered very strong by the jurors as indicated by the unanimous verdict of guilty on the first ballot and by a subsequent unanimous verdict in favor of fixing the punishment at death. The men daring testimony against Howard appear to have been given by witnesses who saw him running out of the grounds of the State capitol immediately after the shooting of Goebel and by another witness who swore that the defendant confessed the crime a few days later.

THE COAL STRIKE.

New York Journal.

The capitalists who control the anthracite mines in Pennsylvania have declared industrial war. A hundred and fifty thousand men have been forced into a strike. The men demand widespread distress, and that will disorganize the business of the whole country if it is allowed to continue for any length of time. What the operators call "outside interference" is the performance by the regularly authorized representatives of the workers of the duties for which their organization was created. In their refusal to recognize these representatives the employers are fifty years behind the times. Labor unions can no more be ignored in the coal industry by unprincipled labor-saving machinery can be ignored by workmen. The whole business world recognizes the right of any person with a claim of any sort to be represented by his attorney. The officers of the labor unions are the attorneys of the members.

UNCLE SAM IN CHINA.

London Outlook.

As for the semi-sequencing of the United States, the move of the State that direction was clever, anything coming from the United States is likely to be in this country. Unfortunately, because the Chinese emperor, the State have an election on hand, and nobody troubles about a corn on his toe when the house is on fire. . . . In Washington Lord Salisbury has hitherto found the keynote of his foreign policy, and he will, we believe, find it there still just as soon as Mr. McKinley is relieved from electoral embarrassments.

JOURNAL DES DEBATS.

The United States is well aware of the difficulties of the case, hence her wish for unanimity, despite the acceptance, in principle, of the Russian proposition. France has, of course, accepted; it is not likely that the Russian government would make such suggestions without the cord approval of Russia's ally. England may yet be prevailed upon to withdraw. Her position in the Chinese middle is not an enviable one. The only serious opposition will probably come from Germany.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The October American Boy presents a feast of good things. Among the stories are the following: "Who's All Right?" "Trainer," a football story; "Literally Unforgettable," a school story; "Seddy and the Jar," a tale of Yankee enchantment; "Menge's," a story of boy heroism in war; "Three Boys in the Mountains," the first four chapters of a continued story of adventure. Harry Steel Morrison continues his letter to boys from the Paris Exposition, and an American boy now in Paris writes a visit he made to the Shah of Persia. J. W. Burgess gives two short talks to boys about their school work, and other writers take the boys into their confidence and tell him how to save money, how to spend it

how to make investments, while other little treat of "Boys Seeking Positions," "Boys in a Hurry," "Keeping the Boy Ambitious," "Practical Principles for Boys," "Amateur Photography," "Dogs, and How to Train Them." The prize and puzzle department has its usual space.—Sprague Publishing Company, Detroit, Michigan.

An interesting anecdote is told in the October number of Little Folks. It is called "A Fox in School." When a fox is caught, it often loses its head before its brush. During a run of the Glamorganshire hounds which had a long stern chase over moorland and finally bolted through a window of the grammar school, the hounds in close pursuit. The pupils, amazed, did not stop to see the end, which came soon, for the once-wild fox was cornered in the schoolyard, and paid with his life for his rashness in seeking the shelter of a classroom.—Cassell & Co., New York.

Mr. Richard Mansfield has written for the current issue of Collier's Weekly a remarkable article, wholly different from anything he has already published, entitled "My Audience—And Myself." It contains many humorous and pathetic touches and some interesting reminiscences.—New York.

In Cram's for October Anna Louisa Heather continues her department, "Woman and Her World." Woman as a religious creature, especially comes in for consideration. In "Hygiene and Proprietary Medicine," Dr. Eugene Murray-Aron discusses the subject of overdosing with unknown drugs. He points out that it is not a spirit of rivalry or of jealousy that causes the average modern man to choose proprietary medicines, but that it is due in the main to the fact that such medicines are chosen, not with the advice of competent authority, but without advice and on the insecure diagnosis of the patient himself, or the equally uninformed relatives. A number of other subjects receive attention in this number.—Fulton St., New York.

The "News" has received an advance copy of a new song by Mr. Paul Dresser, who is favorably known to the world of music through his "Blue and Gray" and numerous other compositions. The striking title of the new song is, "Give Us Just Another Lincoln." The text is patriotic and the music well suited to the sentiments expressed. It bids fair to become popular.—Hawley, Haviland & Dresser, 1209-1294, Broadway, New York.

The October number of The Black Cat has two prize stories. One is "Through the Forbidden Gates," by Carroll Carrington; the other is "A Sister to the Borgias," by Joana E. Ward. There are three other short stories, and all are written in the fascinating style which seems peculiar to that publication.—Shurtzoff Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

Lois's Texas Magazine for September opens with a short story by Grace L. Washburn, entitled "Misunderstood." Then there is a "Cradle Song," by George W. Morse; "Leaves from a Mental Journal," by Herbert Altamont Jones; "Department of Literature," by Tessa Wincham Roder; some by Margaret A. Richard. An article on the Buffalo Exposition, and notes on various topics complete the list of contents.—Dallas, Texas.

The October number of Table Talk contains, as usually, a great amount of valuable information on household topics. The magazine is authority on all such subjects.—Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

The September number of the Successful American, like its predecessors, has a great number of portraits and biographical sketches. It is a magazine that most readers will like to preserve and bind, that it may be conveniently referred to at any time.—15-21 Park Row, New York.

One of the interesting contributions to the October number of Amies's magazine is an article by Isaac Taylor Headlam, on "Kings and the Empire and the Dowager." "The Eastward Migration of Oriental Peoples" is the subject treated on by Frank Morton Todd. There are besides many other stories of interest. One feature of the magazine is its "Topics of the Theater,"—Street & South, 228 William St., New York.

The current number of The Living Age has this list of contents:

"The Pious Pilgrimage," by the author of "Elizabeth and her German Garden," National Review. "The Gray and the Cuckoo," by Ford M. Hueffer. Some of the Sea, by Alan Walters. Temple Bar: A Head by Helen IV. (Conclusion), by Adolph Melnhard. Rundschau: A Real Treasure, III and IV (Conclusion), by Leslie Keith. Lancers Hour: Hawthorne Told, by A. C. Swinburne. Athenaeum: The Orthodoxy of Tenyson, by Robert F. Horton. Good Words: How History is Written, by Emmanuel Arene. Les Annales: Lord Russell of Kilowen, Economist. The Tale of the Sexton, Saturday Review. Elizabeth of Bavaria, by H. L. Academy.—Boston.

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Men's Overcoats.

It was really interesting to see the overcoats go out Saturday. We don't believe we ever sold so many in one day before. But that's nothing of much interest to you—you're more interested in the values. Still did it ever occur to you that this big business wouldn't keep a growing if it were not for the values you get here? Overcoats \$7.50 to \$40.00. Kerseys, Cheviots, Oxfords, Coverts, \$20.00.

Underwear for Man or Boy.

We sell underwear differently from most stores. None but the honest, durable sorts. Not at half their worth, but at their actual value. And it's surprising how much we sell, too. We start the men's at \$1.00 and run up to \$5.00, stops in between at \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00. All wool, all cotton, wool mixed fleece lined and silk. We start the boys' at 50c and run up to \$2.00.

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