

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

CICERO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.

	In Advance	Per Annum
One Year	\$5.00	\$5.00
Six Months	2.50	2.50
Three Months	1.25	1.25
One Month	.42	.42
One Week	.15	.15
Sunday edition, per year	2.00	2.00
Semi-Weekly	1.00	1.00

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.

Cruz &amp; Woodward, 5 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 18, 1899.

EASTERN MANNER.

Miss Adah Roberts, daughter of Congressman Robert Roberts of Utah, complains that the people in Washington were indecently rude to her and followed her around and made impertinent remarks in her presence. Miss Roberts forgets that if a stranger, equally the object of public curiosity, were to go about in Salt Lake City the result would be the same.

The Kansas paper that ventured the foregoing opinion is mistaken. Miss Roberts forgot nothing. Her statement stands unchallenged. It embraced not only the conduct of people in Washington, but the contrast afforded by usages in Utah. The "gawping" that is noticed here is on the part of visitors from the polite East. They excite no curiosity among our people, who have become accustomed to their contemptuous manners and the conspicuous ill-breeding exhibited by many persons who think the "Mormons" are a different race from themselves.

One of the most objectionable displays of eastern boorishness is of frequent occurrence in the Tabernacle on Sunday afternoon. The services are often disturbed by the entrances and exits of well dressed people, who would resent the idea that they are not ladies and gentlemen, but who seem to pay no regard to the feelings of worshippers, nor the noise they make by their movements. To us in the west this is vulgar. It may be "Christian conduct" in the East.

Whoever had cause to complain of rudeness or impertinent remarks when visiting Salt Lake City? Strangers are treated here with the utmost consideration, much more than some of them deserve. Just imagine a "Mormon" trying to intrude into private society at the capital, without acquaintance with or introduction to the occupant of a dwelling, the only excuse being curiosity. Yet there are tourists who have the audacity to seek entrance into "Mormon" homes, with the notion that they will be able to see what our family life is like!

The conduct of people at the nation's capital, resented by Miss Roberts, is not to be apologized for by the suspicion that "public curiosity" makes similar breaches of good manners in Salt Lake. It is not true; and if it were it would be no fair excuse for the "relies of barbarism" that were so conspicuous in the department of certain Washingtonians towards a young lady from the Rocky Mountains.

## COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

To the Editor:

Sir—I am heartily in sympathy with the views expressed by you in your issue of Saturday on the question of vaccination. I am a thorough believer in the Jenner system and days before the board of health and the board of education took up the question of having my children, some of whom are in the schools and some of whom are not, vaccinated. But I do not believe in compulsory vaccination. The Legislature having refused to enact a law making vaccination compulsory, where does the power to enforce it come? Some say the "police power" is authority for it, but lawyers tell me that police powers must be conferred before they can be exercised and that the powers of school boards and the like are limited, and are so construed by the courts, and cannot be enlarged by the boards themselves. If the boards of health and the board of education can enforce vaccination, why can they not enforce inoculation with Koch's lymph for the prevention of consumption, with antioquine for the prevention of diphtheria, the injection of serum for the prevention of the bubonic plague? The Jenner theory of vaccination is the basis of all these.

If it is necessary to have compulsory vaccination of the school children of Salt Lake City, why isn't compulsory vaccination of the non-school population equally as necessary? And if it is necessary in Salt Lake City, why isn't it necessary throughout the entire State?

The attempt to work up a smallpox scare in this city is not only senseless, there being no foundation for one, but it is positively pernicious. I cannot but think that the prime and actuating motive for it is an overweening desire on the part of some public officials to pose before the people and a consuming vanity to have their names in print. A little brief authority, I remain, A PARENT AND A PUBLIC SCHOOL PATRON.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 18, 1899.

The foregoing letter expresses the views of a great many people in this city. We have received numerous commendations of the position taken by the Deseret News on this question. While there are persons who believe in the now popular theory that vaccination is a preventive of smallpox, notwithstanding the evidence adduced by its opponents to the contrary, even the believers resent the assumption of authority by which it is proposed to compel all school children to submit to that tyranny. That is the great point now in consideration. The Deseret News does not wish to prevent people from being vaccinated who wish to adopt the practice, but does most emphatically protest against the presumption by which public officers attempt to exercise powers not conferred upon them by law.

A head-line in the "News" on Saturday evening may have conveyed the

impression that the Board of Education had decided to enforce vaccination in the city schools. This idea would be incorrect. It was only in a committee that such a decision was reached, by a bare majority. The Board has yet to act on the recommendation of that committee. It is to be hoped that the Board will pause and consider the extent and also the limit of its lawful powers. We do not think that body should attempt to enforce what the Legislature of the State refused to make compulsory by law.

Recently the Minnesota State Board of Health issued an order, that all school children be refused admission to school, unless they furnished a certificate that they had been duly vaccinated. This raised considerable excitement, and the matter was referred to Attorney-General Douglas, who promptly decided that "The right to require vaccination as a condition precedent to admission to school is not expressly conferred by statute and does not exist." The Board of Education of Salt Lake City will find itself confronted with a similar legal barrier. The school laws do not require vaccination as a condition precedent to admission to the public schools, nor do they confer upon school boards any such arbitrary power as that which certain doctors are now trying to induce them to exercise.

The whole question of the virtues or vicious consequences of vaccination is open to serious controversy. We are aware that hosts of physicians in both hemispheres have drifted into the current of the Jenner theory. It is claimed, however, by many eminent scientists and practitioners, that coincidences have been taken for cause and effect, and that facts do not establish the truth of the vaccination hypothesis. The medical world adopted the inoculation process with as much avidity and enthusiasm as they afterwards fell into the present vaccination idea. Smallpox was actually put into the bodies of healthy people, on the notion that it would save them from a severer form of the disease. By this means the filthy disorder was spread in Europe like a plague. Vaccination has been adopted in its place, but with no more general acceptance by the faculty than the original process of which it is a modified imitation.

There is an anti-vaccination society in the United States, organized for the purpose of resisting the compulsory movement by interested persons. The society has a monthly journal which records verified instances of dire results from vaccination. These have occurred in various parts of the Union, and a tendency to blood-poisoning, which is increasing in the land, is attributed to the prevalence of vaccination. Reference is made also to the breaking out of smallpox among vaccinated and re-vaccinated soldiers by whom, in many cases, it has been carried to various places. The outbreak at the Presidio in California is cited in evidence. From that paper we quote the following:

"With the opening of the public schools each year the ever present vaccination is on hand, only too frequently encouraged by school boards and other officials, standing upon the threshold, saying 'no poison, no education.' In violation of reason, logic, justice, and common sense. The reason the people do not more strongly object to this disease-breeding practice is because they do not understand what vaccination is, and have been taught to believe that it will usually prevent and always mitigate smallpox. Glycerinated-calf-lymph is only a new device to make an old and discredited practice longer acceptable, and vaccine virus poison is as dangerous and deadly as before."

We might quote from numerous authorities to show that there are many reputable physicians who denounce the vaccination theory, as not only fallacious but promotive of disease. But we do not care to attack the system so as to prevent or hinder the course of the worthy people and doctors who are in favor of it. We advocate the liberty of the citizen within the lines of statutory law. Let those who are willing to put the vaccine virus into the veins of their children, do as they please and take the consequences. But let there be no force work in this matter. Allow the parents who are opposed to the system to exercise their judgment and protect their little ones from that which they abhor, and let school boards and health doctors keep within the lines which define their official authority. That is imperative, and is a matter that concerns not only many individuals but the entire municipality of Salt Lake City and the whole State of Utah.

## HELPFUL ATTACKS.

The Springfield Republican advertises editorially the anti-"Mormon" literature of the League for Social Service, of New York City, and adds the venomous remarks that the "Mormon" State is treasonous, and that the "Mormon" emissaries all over the land "are dangerous to every community, as well as to the country."

The efforts of our contemporary in this way to aid in the propagation of "Mormonism" should be duly appreciated. The anti-"Mormon" literature it advertises contains so gross perversions of facts and so palpable falsehoods as to deceive no one whose opinions and good will are worth anything. The distribution of such literature is sure to have the effect of calling attention to the doctrines of the unpopular sect, and to create a desire in many, that can be reached in no other way, for correct information. We know whereof we speak. Only the other day a gentleman from the East came into this office and asked for "Mormon" literature, in order that he might judge for himself of the teachings of the Church. And this occurrence is by no means an exception.

In the early days of Christianity there were all sorts of absurd rumors in circulation about the practices and teachings of the "Nazarenes," as the Saints were then called. Because the doctrine of brotherly love was preached, they were accused of licentiousness. Because of their expectation of the coming of Christ in glory to rule the world, they were said to be traitors to the state. Their commemoration of the death of the Lord, whose "body and blood" were represented in the sacred emblems, they were accused of cannibalism as one of their "secret rites." They were charged with the

grosslest superstition, because they worshipped as God a man slain by Roman authorities.

But all these misrepresentations helped to bring Christianity before the world. The thinking classes investigated and came under the influence of truth. The very absurdity and venom of the opposition brought to the front some of the best talent of the early ages in the defense of truth. We all know that history repeats itself.

## A STRATEGIC BLUNDER.

General Gatacre probably tells the secret of British reverses in South Africa, when he telegraphs that the idea to attack Stormberg seemed to promise certain success, but that it was afterwards found that the position of the Boers was "unscalable," that the distance had been underestimated, and that the Boer guns "were remarkably well served." In other words, he was so eager to win a victory that he did not take time to learn all about the number, position and ability of the enemy. It really seems as if all the British commanders had made similar mistakes.

The seriousness of the situation is to be judged from the effect of the series of reverses, now recorded, in foreign countries. It is already visible in the German press, where it is hinted that "England's difficulty may, in certain circumstances, be Germany's opportunity." And this expression is all the more significant because appearing in a paper which is supposed to be the mouthpiece of the German minister of foreign affairs.

Nor can the present South African trouble be entirely without effect in the colonies of Great Britain. The Chicago News quotes authority for the statement that the federation of the Australian colonies now approaching completion is the first step towards complete independence for that country. Canada, too, that journal thinks, is fast approaching the point where she may claim absolute independence. The war in Natal, unless the power of the empire is speedily demonstrated, is sure to encourage the aspirations for independence in the remote dependencies, to say nothing of the danger of loss of prestige in every part of the world, where the great powers meet in competition.

It is no reflection on the magnificent role Great Britain has been playing in the civilization of the world, to say that her fate, like that of other world-powers, must ultimately be to disintegrate. Nations, like individuals, grow old, and the continuation of their work is placed on the shoulders of others. Some of the colonies of England have before them a future possibly as great as that of the United States. But it seems it must be achieved under a republican form of government, which is the only natural form for nations grown to manhood and therefore capable of the highest and most intelligent activity.

In the very nature of things, great changes in the world are to be expected in the immediate future. It is all preparatory to the final adjustment as a result of which the kingdoms of the earth are to "become the kingdoms of our Lord." A question of great moment to our people is this, What would be the duty of the United States, should Great Britain be involved in complications of such a magnitude as now appear possible? It is conceivable that a stand must be taken on one side or the other, and that on the decision will depend the fate of the world?

In the meantime it is sad to reflect that as the season approaches, in which the "Christian" world is in the habit of singing anthems to Him, who came to proclaim "peace on earth," some of His professional followers are chiefly occupied in plans for the destruction of their fellowmen. Has "Christianity" accomplished its mission among the nations of the world?

## A GREAT MISTAKE.

The Boston Herald of Dec. 12th, has this to say on the action of the House on the famous case:

"There is something very like an agreement among the members of the House of Representatives of Congress now, if we may accept what the letter writers from the capital say, that a mistake was made in the refusal to allow Mr. Roberts of Utah to take his seat in Congress. According to the Constitution, he should have been permitted to do this. The Herald, in common with, we think, most of the newspapers of the country which are in the habit of weighing questions calmly on their merits, took that view of the subject. We went further, and expressed the belief that this was the sober judgment of the members of the House themselves. They were simply swept off their feet by the storm of denunciation being rendered on the merits of the case. Many of these members are now repenting of their action, according to what we hear from Washington. If the constitutional course had been taken, Mr. Roberts might have been expelled and the whole affair ended by this time. In referring the subject to a committee, the House has initiated what threatens to be a long and tedious investigation, and what would have been an unnecessary one if the other course had been pursued. One of our contemporaries suggests that the House needed Speaker Reed to steer it in its proceedings."

The mistake is all the more deplorable, because some time it is sure to come back to plague those that perpetrated it. It is different from the mistakes of doctors and lawyers. It can neither be buried three feet under the ground, nor be suspended as many feet above the earth.

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

To the Editor:

We have read in the "News" the arbitrary decision as to when the 20th century will begin, launched by the "Century" dinner at Glasgow, in April, 1870, which is not only unmathematical, but absurdly inconsistent with the chronological terminology in use throughout Christendom. For example: The date of this communication is December 16, A. D. 1899, which, mathematically interpreted, means 1899 years, 11 months and 16 days added to the era of the world which terminated at the beginning of the era A. D. Obviously 1899 years have not been completed since the era A. D. began, yet we call this present century the 19th century; and when 1899 years will have been completed we will be in the 20th century.

If, now, the century beginning at the termination of 1900 years is the 20th century, the century beginning at the termination of 100 years is the second

century, the first century being the century previous and adjacent to the termination of 100 years. To be consistent with this terminology we are forced to the position that the first year of the first century was the year previous and adjacent to the termination of 1 year, that is, the year beginning with A. D. zero and ending at the point denoted 1 in the calendar. This is made clear in the time line commonly used in the chronologies.

Accordingly, the first day of the first century would be written January 1, A. D. The first day of the second century would be written January 1, A. D. 100. The first day of the 20th century should therefore be January 1, A. D. 1900.

G. Q. CORAY,  
D. H. ALLEN.

By the reasoning, in the foregoing, a communication written in the first year of the Christian era, taking the illustration of our friends, would be dated "December 16th, A. D. 0." Away with the unmathematical "reasoning" that a letter written on the 16th of December in the first year of the Christian era would be 1 year, 11 months and 16 days from the commencement of reckoning, whereas it is only 11 months and 16 days.

The new currency bill passed the House today. The measure is not likely to be delayed long in the Senate.

Those Dublin Irishmen who want to fight are liable to get near enough to smell smoke, the way things went on Sunday.

The peril to the British empire through the success of the Boers is not half so great as the peril to the white man in South Africa if the blacks should rise during the progress of the present most regrettable war.

The big failure announced in New York today is not likely to affect western business; and from the statement given out by the bank, a re-adjustment probably will straighten out affairs all right.

Parents who go visiting and lock their little ones in the house should read the Sunday experience of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, at Nicholasville, Kentucky. They have the charred remains of three children to bury.

When Gen. Buller was appointed to the supreme command of the British in South Africa, Maj. Graham, who had served under Gen. Buller, exclaimed "God help the Boers!" And now the Boer sympathizers say He has done so.

The reported agitation in Great Britain over Gen. Buller's defeat suggested that England has been so used to gaining victories in such combats as have been engaged in in recent years that a few setbacks excite an unduly alarming condition.

"Where will the United States go in the case of a European war?" was the question discussed at the Bethel M. E. church in Chicago on Sunday evening. With Uncle Sam's usual astuteness, he will stay at home and work up business for himself.

The local organ of the crusade has a short dissertation on the "impotency of saving grace." We know of no authority better able to descant on the subject than the writer of that essay. Personal experience is said to be the best school-master.

Suppositions which have no basis in fact, will not answer for evidence nor supply the place of arguments. That is a lesson that needs to be studied by the expert in sophistry, that is still trying to deceive the American public and brand with infamy the loyal State of Utah.

The French and Chinese forces on the Tonkin border have fought one engagement, and war is said to be imminent between the two powers. It is not likely to come while France and China only are disputing; but if another power steps in there will be a stir.

Count Von Buelow, German foreign minister, denies the friendly understanding between Great Britain and Germany, announced by Mr. Chamberlain, head of the British colonial office. The German's denial takes the form of a virtual challenge to Great Britain in South Africa. Possibly both Mr. Chamberlain and Count Von Buelow are "talking through their hats," but their speeches are a menace to the peace of Europe.

"If the Mormons are conscientiously living up to the compact made with the United States to abolish the practice of polygamy in Utah, why have they elected an avowed polygamist to Congress?" asks the Los Angeles Express. Does that paper not yet know that "Mormons" do not elect congressmen, or other political officials? The gentleman alluded to was elected by the party with which he is affiliated, and for no other reason than that, that he was considered the best available candidate.

If the board of health has the power of compelling people to submit to vaccination, what prevents that body from compelling them to take doses of salts, or quinine, or any other drug, and thus create a boom in the business in which doctors and druggists are interested? Vaccination may be all right, but there should be another loud and effective protest against compulsory vaccination at a time when there is no need of such a high-handed measure. The people of Great Britain have successfully fought that controversy out. It should not be renewed on American soil. Vaccination, at best, is proved to be an exceedingly dangerous operation. It should be done only by responsible physicians and not on the principle of branding cattle.

## BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.

Chicago Times Herald.

Now that Leo XIII. and the Methodist Episcopal church have agreed upon next year as the beginning of the twentieth century it is of little practical consequence how the astronomers and mathematicians of Great Britain may decide the point. If Great Britain wants to lag behind in the nineteenth century while the United States, Pope Leo and the Methodist church proceed triumphantly into the twentieth, why let her. She has no entangling alliance with the United States.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII., has solemnly declared that the Twentieth century commences on the 1st day of Janu-

## BEST HOLIDAY GOODS

Display in the City is now on view at Z. C. M. I., and everybody is invited. Our great DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT has the Choicest and Largest Stock ever exhibited in the West. All other departments are in unison with an extensive supply. Owing to having been able to make most of our purchases just before the recent advances, we are able to make OUR PRICES THE LOWEST.

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Also make nice presents. Keep the Ladies good natured and make home pleasant. We have them for young and old. Make the little girls happy by buying a Toy Sweeper.

FOOTSTOOLS AND OTTOMANS, A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT.

Z. C. M. I. T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

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of being kissed by a pretty girl many a man is now that is having his dress suit made by Buckle & Son. We can make a man more kissable and more attractive to the ladies, when attired in one of our dress suits or one of our fine Prince Albert coats or Tuxedo than any tailor in Salt Lake.

Suits to Order, \$25.00.

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**BUCKLE & SON,**  
TAILORS AND WOOLLEN DRAPERS.

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With Christmas only a few days away. The whole store is turned over to the Christmas shoppers, and we've so many useful, handsome articles, things that don't cost very much. Today we mention the Toilet Articles with sterling silver mountings, good strong mountings too, not the kinds that bend all up as soon as you touch them. First there are the Hair Brushes, handsome backs, the very finest bristles, these come from \$2.75 up to \$7.50. Then we have the Tooth Brushes, and the Nail Brushes, and the Cloth and Hat Brushes, all in handsome designs and the best bristles. Then there are Nail Files and Cuticle Knives, Button Hooks and Paper Cutters, Pomade Jars and Powder Boxes and Bottles, these in cut glass; Mucilage Bottles and Blotters, they range in price from as cheap as it is safe to go for silver goods, 50c up to as high as your fancy wants to take you. Maybe your thoughts run to something else; Atomizers, Perfumes, a Pocket Book or something for men, Safety Razors or Cigars.

Maillard's Confections will be here about Thursday - just in time for Christmas. We suggest you leave your orders early.

## F. C. SCHRAMM, Prescription Druggist,

Where the Cars Stop. McCornick Building.

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GEO. D. PYPER, Manager.

Thursday, Dec. 21st, ONE NIGHT ONLY—THE

UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC CLUB

In A. W. Pinero's Comedy,

THE WEAKER SEX.

Prices reduced to 25c, 35c and 50c. Seat sale Tuesday.

Under the Direction of MISS MAUD MAY BABCOCK.

San Francisco Call.

Men say sometimes that Washington was behind the times; that he and the men of his generation never saw a railway, nor telegraph, nor any of the marvels of power and mechanism which has transformed modern life. That is true. But it is true also that no American of this generation took a naked sword from the Continental Congress to flush it through the night of seven years' war for human liberty and the right of man to govern himself, and at the end gave it back to the Continental Congress, dulled and nicked and rusted in the task of carrying out a new nation in which all men are rulers, equal in right and equal in opportunity. He won for us that emancipation and enfranchisement which are the final cause of all we have and are. These things we boast, unseen as they are by him in the flesh, are but the monuments built to his memory and perpetuating among men the foremost greatness of his character and the lasting glory of his name.

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