

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted.)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.)

One Year	\$2.00
Six Months	\$1.25
Three Months	.75
One Month	.25
Saturday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	2.50

NEW YORK OFFICE

In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising from our Home Office.
141 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

In charge of F. J. Cooper, B. G. Gary, Jr.

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.Address all business communications
and all remittances.THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake
City as second class matter according to
the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 14, 1904

DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
this establishment a great deal of annoyance
if they will take time to note these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's office, 71-3.

For Deseret News Book Store, 14-2.

For City Editor and Reporters, 22-2.

For Business Manager, 38-3.

For Business Office, 22-2.

ABOUT TITHING.

The Presiding Bishopric have issued a
circular to Ward authorities, concerning
the settlement of the free-will offerings
of the Saints known as tithing, for the
current year. According to this circular,
"the Bishopric of each ward will designate
a time for the annual tithing settlement
of the year 1904, and announce that time
at all the ward and quorum meetings, including
the meetings of the auxiliary organizations,
during the month of December. This
settlement should commence so as to
allow ample time to complete it by December
31st, so that every person having a
membership in the ward may be given full
credit on the records for this year. It is
also recommended that Priests and Teachers
visit members and notify them of the time
and place for settlement, as well as to teach
them their duty in that regard.Special attention is called to the fact
that the books of the Presiding Bishopric
office will close for individual credit on
December 31st, 1904, but in order to accommodate
Bishops who desire to remit cash received
during the settlement, it will be accepted from
Bishops ONLY for credit in 1904, until January 15th,
1905.The law of tithing was familiar to
the former-day Saints, through the divine
commandments given on the subject. Abraham,
after his remarkable victory over the combined
forces of five "kings" considered it one of his
first duties to give to the Lord a tenth of
the proceeds. Jacob, at the beginning
of a long and dangerous journey, made a
vow to the effect that if God would be
with him and bless him with bread to eat
and raiment to wear, he would "surely give
the tenth unto Thee." When Israel became a
nation, in its laws were incorporated statutes
concerning tithes. "And all the tithes of the
land," we read, "whether of the seed of the
land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's:
it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will
redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add unto
it the fifth part thereof. And all the tithes
of the herd or the flock, whatsoever passeth
under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto
the Lord." The principle was common to all
the early nations, as long as they enjoyed the
slightest ray of divine light. It was fully
explained to Israel, and that nation remained
faithful to God in that respect, until the
general apostasy from Jehovah brought
darkness and error.The law has been revealed again to
the Latter-day Saints. Its observance means
spiritual and temporal blessings. The Saints
know that "the windows of heaven" are
opened to those who are faithful to God, and
that through whatever sacrifices they make,
they are educated and trained until they
become fit to join celestial beings in the
eternal spheres. Other Christian denomina-
tions have taken up the tithing question,
and we believe that the example set by the
Saints in this matter will soon become
general.

FREEDOM IN THE CHURCH.

Home Mission Echoes is a religious
periodical published in Boston, under the
auspices of two Baptist organizations. In
its November issue it pays some attention
to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints. In one of its articles it gives pictures
of Senator Smoot and Apostles Teasdale and
Grant. It has a letter from Murray, and so
on.The first page of the magazine is
adorned with tolerably good portraits of
the First Presidency, but the legend under
this group contains some grave misstatements
which, we hope, the Home Mission Echoes,
in the interest of truth and fairness, will be
good enough to correct, when the error is
pointed out. It is said that, "These three
constitute the First Presidency of the Mormon
Church, or the First Quorum. These three,
together with the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
have absolute control of all Mormon affairs
and are accountable to no man or set of men.
They handle, for instance, all the money of the
Church, and no one knows where it goes to. All
their tithing goes through their hands, and no
one knows how much it is or where it is used."Such is the information—or rather,
misinformation—that is constantly being
poured out like a stream by enemies of the
Church, and industriously distributed by tale-
bearers for the delectation of credulity. But
this is neither new nor original. The writer of
this will remember when the most absurd
stories were circulated about Baptists,even in the press. He has been in countries
where fables about the Jews were current,
to the effect that they are in the habit of
killing Christian children at the time of the
Passover, for ritualistic purposes. Reason had
no effect upon ignorance, when such tales
were contradicted. There is no telling to what
length imagination will go, to stir up prejudices
and create sensations among the ignorant. But
the religious press at least should scorn the
methods of sensation-mongers, and stand firm
on truth. A cause that must evade facts and
draw support from fiction should not be en-
couraged by the spokesmen of religious bodies.The statement quoted from Home
Mission Echoes is of this nature. It is fiction,
pure and simple. The First Presidency does
not have, and do not claim to have, "absolute
control of all Mormon affairs," with or without
the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The Church
of Christ, in this age, as in former dispensa-
tions is a free body of men and women, its
members enter voluntarily, and remain volun-
tarily. They perform their duties, as members,
whatever these may be, voluntarily. There is
no absolutism in the Church, except absolute
freedom. In the kingdom of evil, all is despotism.
The subjects are neffs—slaves of passion, of sin.
That is one of the essential differences. The
very strength of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints consists in the fact that the
members govern themselves and do their duties,
because they love God and their fellow men. The
Prophet Joseph himself claimed no "absolute
control of Mormon affairs." He endeavored to
teach the people correct principles and then left
them to govern themselves. And that rule still
obtains in the Church.Regarding the tithing, the facts are
that the First Presidency do not "handle" it at
all. The free will offerings, generally called
tithing, are "handled" by the Presiding Bishopric,
and strict account is kept of every cent received.
Everyone who pays anything, whether money
or anything else, receives a receipt, and has an
individual account with the office. The system
of book-keeping in the office of the Bishopric
is, as can easily be ascertained, as perfect as it
is possible to make it, and is not exceeded in
accuracy in any business house. Every cent
received is recorded, and every expense kept
account of, and any tithing payer is perfectly
welcome to inspect his account, or to make
inquiries as to the expenses of the Church. There
is nothing secret about these things.Furthermore, the First Presidency,
the Presiding Bishopric, and all officers of the
Church, are sustained by the people, at the
proper conferences held regularly, on which
occasions the voice of the people is as distinctly
heard as in any church or association on earth.The statement made by the Home
Mission Echoes concerning the "absolute" control
of the First Presidency, and their handling of
tithing, is "absolutely" false, and we hope our
Boston contemporary will realize its duty in the
case and give its readers the correct information
here offered. Only by so doing can it repair the
injury done. Baptists, who nobly have endured,
during many long centuries, all manner of
persecutions, and who were among the first to
establish religious freedom in this land of
liberty, should not join the persecutors of this
age.

A LITTLE "HIGHER CRITICISM"

We read in the anti-Mormon organ:

"Humbug, as defined by Webster, is
a something contrived in order to deceive and
mislead."This definition is exact, but the applica-
tion is entirely wrong. We respectfully suggest
this correction:Just at the present time the chief
humbug that is being peddled to the people of
Utah for their attention is the pretense that
all the leading anti-Mormons are animated by
sentiments of patriotism and moral purity.

We also read:

"Mess of Potage. This is supposed to
be what Esau sold his birthright for."This, it will be observed, is not even a
loose definition. Webster was not consulted on
that. It is merely a little slingshot at the
translators of "King James' Bible, who render
the Hebrew text thus: "Then Jacob gave Esau
bread and pottage of lentiles. . . . thus Esau
despised his birthright." There is no "supposed"
about the pittance of a price for which the wild
son of Isaac, in a moment of faint-heartedness,
bartered away his birthright. But, "foolish as
may have been the act of Esau, it is nothing in
folly and falsity to compare with the act of
those [who are endeavoring to sell] the birthright
of the people of Utah in order to gratify their
own desire for selfish power."We have quoted verbatim, except for
the words between brackets, from the Tribune.

We read again:

"Judas—One of the disciples of the
Lord and Master; the purse-bearer."This definition is, of course, correct
as far as it goes, but in the connection in
which it is used it is a very good illustration
of the kind of sophistry which consists in
enumerating some facts, in order to draw the
attention away from others. Judas was at one
time a trusted disciple; also a purse bearer. But
on the background of history he stands out
prominently as the unfortunate man who, for the
paltry sum of 30 pieces of silver—the price, by
the way, of a slave at that time—betrayed his
Master into the hands of assassins.

But we continue reading:

"Recalling the great story about the
Savior, that He took thorns and lashed the
money-changers from the steps of the temple."This may be a "great story." It is
entirely on a par with other great stories
that come from a certain story-telling establish-
ment. But it is not true. The Apostle John, in
relating the incident referred to, merely tells us
that the Master, after having made a "scourge
of small cords," drove them all out of the temple,
and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the
changers' money, and overthrew the tables." After
which He spoke to those that sold doves, etc. Not
a word is said by the evangelist about the Savior
"lashing" anybody from the "steps of the temple."
The reasonable inference is that Jesus used the
"scourge of small cords" to drive the sheep and
oxen from the temple grounds, and that He com-
manded the owners to withdraw. Concerning the
money-changers it is expressly stated by the
sacred biographer, that Jesus poured out their
money and overturned the tables, not that He
"lashed" them. But, in the columns of the
Tribune, "a scourge of small cords" becomes
"thorns;" the act of overthrowing the changers'
tables becomes lashing; and the temple becomes
the steps of the temple.It is a "great story!" But it is abominable
exegesis. In fact, it is falsehood.

Almost blasphemy.

But it is, we admit, as valuable as
most of the information offered from that
quarter, about any subject.A useful present is rarely an appreciated
present.The first touch of winter makes all
the world glad.The snow makes old King Coal a
merry old soul.Nan's defense may be that Caesar
was ambitious.Even higher wages fail to solve the
hired girl problem.Just now Wall Street's financiers are
in a fine frenzy rolling.Cassie is now in the same class as
Jason. Both found the golden fleece.The country needs an elastic currency
to stretch over the growing deficit.Under the circumstances even those
who recite the poem of "The Beautiful Snow"
are excusable.Very few people ever feel to shed
tears when they read of an express company
being robbed.Mrs. Chadwick is going to prove more
than a nine days' wonder. Already she has
been longer than that.A mule has been killed at Zeigler.
Wonder if it is any relation to the one killed
in the bombardment of San Juan?Had moths and rust got among those
securities (value, \$25,000,000), they could not
have made them more worthless than they are.Five times has the jury in the case
of ex-Mayor Ames disagreed. Yet the ex-
executive would be willing to trade them all
off for one acquittal.The members of the Hungarian diet
lead the most strenuous life of any legislators
in the world. There is nothing like it in
America, not even in Indiana.The women of the Progressive Health
club of Chicago have declared that high heels
on women's shoes must go. There is no need
for them to say it. They are all the go now.Secretary Taft's confession that he
blundered in ordering that the Dingley tariff
should be applied to the canal zone is a very
handsome way of saying that he would rather
be right than President.The organ grinders of New York
have organized a union. It is proposed to
regulate the kind of music that is dispensed
in the streets, and to see that it is more
classical. This simply means more music by
hand.So Judge Swayne is to be tried on
impeachment. Such trials have never been
very successful or popular in this country
from the time of Judge Read's to that of
General Belknap.The present case will hardly prove an
exception.It isn't often that a lawyer becomes
a lamb, but ex-Judge Olcott frankly confesses
that he was for fifteen days in the hands of
Mrs. Chadwick. During that time he loaned
her fifteen hundred dollars, a hundred a day.
In fact, he proved to be lamb with mint
sauce.

A HISTORIC PARCEMENT.

From an Exchange.

A document which is valued very
highly by the Creeks is the copy of theold treaty between the United States
government and the Creek Indians, Feb. 12,
1832, assigning them to their present home
in the Indian Territory. It is printed on
parchment and bears the signature of Millard
Fillmore, president of the United States, when
the treaty was finally ratified, Aug. 1, 1854.
The long stretch between the two dates on
the document is the period of more than
twenty years which elapsed before the govern-
ment could induce the Creeks to leave their
home in Alabama and move to the new country.

COST OF WAR.

Kansas City Times.

The enormous cost of war is emphasized
again by the report of the value of the
Russian armed ships in the far east, most of
which have now been destroyed. At the begin-
ning of the war the fleet was said to represent
an investment of 150 million dollars. No body
knows precisely the number of vessels de-
stroyed already, but their value is probably in
excess of 100 million dollars. In other words,
the destruction of Russian naval property alone
is equivalent to the loss of the entire wheat
or corn crop of Kansas for the current year.
It is possible to have a slight conception of the waste
that would have been involved in blotting out
these two important crop yields. Japanese
shells have inflicted at least an equivalent
property loss upon Russian ships.

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be made in New York. The effect of the
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slight, yet the response of the people to the
idea of constitutionalism is unmistakable.
Among the instructed classes, and particularly
among liberals of all sorts, there is a perfect
ferment of constitution-making.

MAY STAY AWAY.

Syracuse Telegram.

Russia is at liberty to stay away from
The Hague peace conference if she chooses,
but the fact that she is engaged in a war is
no excuse. The war will in all probability be
over before the peace conference will, but
whether it shall be or not makes no difference.
Russia can participate in the deliberations
and yet withhold her concurrence in any or
all of the conclusions of the conference, just
as was done in several instances by other
nations in 1899. If a guilty conscience is not
her real objection it might be decidedly to her
benefit to participate, and concur, too.

MRS. CHADWICK.

Pueblo Chieftain.

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estate men will find a full supply of legal
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(The play that John Drew scored in).

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Little credence is to be given to the
St. Petersburg correspondent who pro-
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Russian officialdom may be slight, yet
the response of the people to the idea of
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