

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

ICRENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(EXCEPT SUNDAYS)
Office of Salt Lake City, Utah.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

Subscription Prices.	
One Year, in advance, \$5.00	
Six Months, " " 3.00	
Three Months, " " 2.00	
One Month, " " .75	
One Week, " " .25	
Saturday edition, per year, 2.00	
Semi-weekly, " " 2.00	

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,
Craig & Woodward, 87 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 30, 1899.

THE CLOSING YEAR.

This is the closing number of the Deseret News for the year of our Lord 1899. We take the opportunity of thanking our friends and supporters for the aid they have given us in bringing this paper to its present position of excellence and influence. Its subscription list, for all its editions, has increased beyond our most sanguine anticipations at the opening of the year. The "News" is now to be found in every settlement of Utah and adjacent parts of surrounding States and Territories. It circulates throughout the United States, and in Great Britain and many places in continental Europe.

The general spirit and tone of the paper are commended by the people who subscribe for it, and those to whom some of them send it as a missionary aid. Its defence of the Church which it represents, its explanations of principle, its advocacy of liberty under the law, its maintenance of constitutional rights for all persons and parties, its refutation of slanders and misrepresentations, and its promotion of truth, virtue, honesty and human progress, have extended its influence and helped greatly in the diffusion of intelligence, and in the rectification of erroneous notions about the Latter-day Saints and the State of Utah.

The encomiums we have received from different points and persons, in and outside the State, are very gratifying and encouraging. And the solid help afforded in subscriptions and advertisements have proved substantial tokens of the general sentiment of approbation of our course during the year. For all this we are very grateful.

Our friends will readily perceive that we have faithfully kept the promise made, when the present management took charge at the opening of the year now coming to a close. The improvements then projected have been made. Even our opponents have recognized them, and acknowledged the progress and excellencies of this public journal. We have given the people a newspaper, and at the same time supplied their needs on religious matters.

The Deseret News has been entirely independent in politics. Each of the two great political parties has furnished a few, a very few, objectors claiming that the opposing party was favored. When challenged to furnish the proof, they have failed to find it. Only by imagining something that did not exist and was not in words expressed, could such a charge be given any color of justification.

In the case of the Congressman from Utah, the "News" has taken this position: That he was nominated and elected by his party, and that the Church of which he is a member and officer took no part in either. As to his right to the seat which he has, so far, been prevented from occupying, the "News" has taken constitutional ground. The arguments offered on that point would have applied equally if he had been a member of any other party than that which elected him. They have no partisan bearing or tendency.

This paper may have paid too much attention, sometimes, to the attacks of the enemies of the Church. That is a matter of opinion on which good people differ. The very large majority of the supporters of the "News" applaud its course and bid us Godspeed. The views of the minority are entitled to respect and are to be considered. If we have erred in this particular at all, it has been through zeal for a cause that takes in our whole being and that we regard as paramount. The politics of the assaults of our people have not cut the slightest figure with us.

In giving the views of other papers on questions that relate to the Church, to the present congressional contest and to other public matters, we have not selected them from any party standpoint, but have given all parties equal place in our columns. Their opinions are not to be charged or credited to us, and will not be by reasonable and well informed readers.

At the end of the year we can look at our record without regret, but with a feeling of gratitude and rejoicing over what has been accomplished. And we know that we have striven to do our duty as God has given us light and ability. We say this for all the members of the staff of the Deseret News and the business and mechanical departments. A better set of workers never labored together for a common interest. They should all receive recognition and they all deserve a Happy New Year.

We tender the compliments of the season to the people of Utah of all sects and parties. We return thanks to our kind friends. We wish a better feeling in the hearts of our foes. We see a prosperous year opening up for Utah and the Nation. We behold the breaking down of the barriers to civilization, and the extension of those agencies which will prepare the whole earth for the coming of its Redeemer and King. And in that fond anticipation we desire peace to prevail, and good will to expand, and we cordially wish to every one who reads these lines a blessed and happy new year!

SCHOOLS AND PARENTS.

The great interest taken in the convention of the State teachers is one of the signs that augur well for the efficiency of the educational system of Utah. A great variety of subjects was presented at the various meetings, and the attendance was large.

The general public naturally does not care to enter into the details of pedagogical work, or follow it in its development. They are satisfied with the general results, and proud of the schools and classes over which the teachers preside.

The school has become one of the most important institutions of American civilization, and it follows that only those should be employed as principals and teachers who possess the greatest ability, as well as highest wisdom and unquestioned integrity. It is, of course, not conceded yet, as one of the enthusiastic school teachers would have it, that the "home" is the preparation for the school. The home is yet the principal corner stone of the State, and the teacher is as yet only the paid help of the parents. What may come is another question. It is conceivable that in course of time the "home" will be an obsolete institution, having given way for the club, the office and the eating house. When such a time comes, the unfortunate offspring may have to look for some substitute for the home and parental care. But as society at present is constituted, the home is yet supreme. Teachers, especially the younger of them, may feel their intellectual superiority over parents, but they will do well not to give the children entrusted to their care the same impression. Let the school rather be the auxiliary of the home. Who ever heard of establishing homes as auxiliaries of the school?

One of the great needs of our time is the maintenance of that parental authority which is of divine origin. The tendency is to undermine it on all sides. If the school is conducted in the proper spirit, it aids in instilling into the minds of the children reverence, love and obedience to parents, even more than conformity to the more or less arbitrary school rules. The teacher that has not proper conceptions on this matter is hardly fit for a place as a leader of the children.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Columbus, Georgia, Dec. 28, 1899.
To the Editor:

Dear Bro.—Kindly explain through your valuable paper the following apparent discrepancy. Ezekiel 37, 16, says that he is asked to take another stick and write upon it for Joseph the stick of Ephraim. When Jacob blessed Joseph's two sons he said (Gen. 49, 19) that Ephraim should become a "multitude of nations." We understand, of course, that this "multitude of nations" refers to the many tribes of Indians, descendants of Lehi. In reading Alma 10, 1-4, Amulek traces his ancestry to Lehi who came from Jerusalem, and who is a descendant of Manasseh. We have, so far, been unable to find any one prepared to solve the problem; therefore for the benefit of others as well as ourselves we respectfully ask for the desired information. The "News" is an ever welcome visitor.

Your brethren in the cause of truth,
H. P. HANSEN,
J. A. SORENSON.

The "discrepancy" which troubles our correspondents and which is only "apparent," is caused by the assumption that the tribes of Indians who were once a "multitude of nations," are all "descendants of Lehi." That is a mistake. Lehi, it is true, was a descendant of Manasseh. But Ishmael, who, with his family, joined Lehi and his sons in their colonizing of this continent, also Zoram the servant of Laban who accompanied them, were Ephraimites; so the Prophet Joseph explained. He said, too, that if the larger plates of Nephi had been translated this would have been fully revealed. But the smaller plates were utilized and the Book of Mormon is but an "abridgment" of the entire record. The people of Zarahemla must also be taken into account among the early inhabitants of this land. (Book of Mormon, p. 155.)

Ezekiel calls this record "The stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel his fellows." (cxxxvii, v, 19) The blessing of Jacob concerning the sons of Joseph placed Ephraim before Manasseh. He takes precedence in this matter. (Gen. xlviii, 15-20). In the last days, too, Ephraim is the Lord's "firstborn" in the new and everlasting covenant, and the stick of Joseph is now "in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel his fellows," and may be appropriately called, either the stick of Joseph or the stick of Ephraim.

Please answer following questions in your paper:

Section 20 Doctrine and Covenants says in verse 16, the Elder or Priest shall administer the Sacrament, "He shall kneel with the church." Does that mean for all to kneel? The writer has had the privilege to visit several places of worship. One place the Elder or Priest will stand alone while the other sits; the next place the one will kneel while the other sits; the next place the two will stand or kneel together. Please answer which of all these are right. Yours in the Gospel,
J. A. M.

The spirit rather than the exact form is the "great thing needful" in this administration. However, it is important that all the forms given by revelation should be carefully observed. If the Elder or Priest who pronounces the blessing uses the words given by divine command in a reverent manner, and kneels while doing so, we think the ceremony is properly performed. He kneels with or in the presence of the Church. Circumstances sometimes render it inconvenient for all the members to kneel. But if one of two brethren administering the emblems can kneel, both can do so, and that we regard as better and sufficient to answer the purpose in view. Uniformity in all such things is greatly desirable. But none of us should be too technical.

A letter from Cache Valley contains a lengthy account of some disputes that have occurred, over the question of the number of members of the Church at the time of its organization, when, it is stated in Church history: "We now proceeded to call out and ordain some others of the brethren to different offices of the Priesthood, etc." Some take the view that only six persons had been

baptized up to that time—April 6, 1830, and others claim that several more had received that ordinance, and some of them were ordained, but they think that this conflicts with the statement that the Church was organized on that date with six members.

The explanation is simple. Six persons were necessary, under the laws of the State of New York, to form the corporate body of the Church organization. Six persons subscribed their names to the legal document that had to be filed. But several others had been baptized previous to the date of the ecclesiastical organization, as may be seen from Church history, and some of them were called and ordained to the Priesthood, after Joseph and Oliver had been accepted as leading Elders of the Church. We hope this will settle the disputes.

Another question propounded in the same quarter is:

"Can the negro race receive the Holy Ghost?"

That may appear very simple to discuss, but it seems that some of the inquirers think that negroes may be baptized in water but not by the Holy Spirit. However, strange to say, they argue that such persons may be confirmed members by the laying on of hands, but the Holy Ghost must not be sealed upon them, and even quote what they allege they heard President Young say to that effect.

The answer is, certainly. The negro race may be baptized and confirmed, and the latter ceremony necessarily includes the conferring of the Holy Ghost upon the baptized, repentant believer. The difficulty has arisen from a misunderstanding of the remarks said to have been made by President Young. He explained that while negroes could become members of the Church and enjoy its gifts and blessings, and become heirs of salvation, they could not hold the Priesthood and it should not be conferred upon them.

None of that race are entitled to it nor would it be of benefit to them if they were ordained, as they are under the ban pronounced by Noah upon Canaan, the son of Ham, and his descendants. But that race may receive the blessings of salvation, and have the testimony of Jesus, and enter into the Kingdom of God, having been born of water and of the spirit. They may know that Jesus is the Christ which they cannot without the witness of the Holy Ghost. The Saints in the early Church of Christ were "all baptized by one spirit into one body whether they were Jew or Gentile, bond or free" and all drank into "one spirit." It is so in the Church of Christ today.

THE STRUGGLE OF CHURCHES.

Modern churches are looking in every direction for something whereby to secure their existence. They are sorely threatened and tried. Indifference is filling the ship, that is tossed about among the breakers of infidelity and "higher criticism," the compass of revelation gone, and the helm in the feeble hands of hirelings. Many experiments are tried for the purpose of perpetuating an institution in which popular interest is waning.

To make the church a concert hall and lecture room has been tried, but not with entire satisfaction. The drum and tambourine do not reach all classes. The bazaar and social gathering have no permanent charms. Churches are being deserted. They are unable to compete with the popular farce, or the circus.

Among the new ideas put forth is this, that the "one-man-ministry" must be abandoned. Churches having places of worship in close proximity to one another, must join in partnership about the preaching and the finances. Says a Presbyterian paper:

"In place of the system prevailing among us today, we would suggest a grouping of churches and a partnership of their ministers. In a town where there are four or five Presbyterian churches, or in a section of a large city like New York, where there are the same number, these churches might enter into a definite union of ministry, of finance, of everything. Thus, in that town, or in that section of the city, there would be simply one Presbyterian church with various buildings in which to carry on its operations. The results of such a change could not but be highly beneficial to the cause of religion."

In other words, the churches are becoming tired of their "pastors." They want a change, and they promise themselves great results from such a change. Did not Paul speak about a time, when professed Christians would clamor for teachers willing to feed them according to their own prescription? It is "variety" that is needed, they think. And so the church services should be arranged on the pattern of a vaudeville performance. The ministers in a district might form a stock company and jointly fill the pulpits in the district. The programs might consist of solos, recitations, duets, exhortations, anthems, reading, etc., according to taste, with such other variations as might be suggested from time to time. Many modern churches would be less open to the charge of simulation, were they managed more in accordance with the variety show.

The deplorable condition which the churches fall to grapple with is well known, and sometimes pointed out. Thus at the Methodist congress at St. Louis last month, Rev. W. W. King did not hesitate to say that he doubted whether some American cities would compare favorably to ancient Sodom. He pointed out that the church can never fulfill its mission, as long as it permits a social system that literally compels sales-girls and clerks in stores to live lives of impurity. He further showed that the churches were to blame for the condition that makes it "almost impossible to get a decent man elected to any office," or to "get any legislation without a liberal use of money."

In view of such an arraignment of modern churches, what is the object to be gained by introducing greater variety in the pulpits? What is needed is a thorough awakening—a shaking up as by an earthquake. The religious world needs to be made to realize that "now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Not till the churches and their leaders realize that

they, like the branch in Laodicea, are neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm, and in addition "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked," will they turn to God, whom they have forsaken, and buy of Him gold, white raiment and eyesalve. A church that offers no practical remedy against the social, commercial, and political evils of the age is as useless as the salt of the earth that has lost its savor. It is good for nothing.

DELAGOA BAY.

Lorenzo Marques is an important harbor in the present conflict in South Africa. It is about the only one through which the Boers can receive any supplies from abroad, the entire coast for hundreds of miles on either side being almost inaccessible to vessels of heavy draught. The port belongs to Portugal, and as long as that country remains neutral, it cannot be blockaded. That is the reason why Great Britain is seizing vessels on the high sea, suspected of carrying arms and men for the Boer republics.

According to the established rules, England has a right to stop and search all ships of doubtful character, but if nothing is found to justify the seizure and delay, there may be an indemnity to pay, and the too frequent interruption of legitimate traffic might result in bad feelings in the countries suffering from such conditions. Any proof, therefore, that the Portuguese officials at Lorenzo Marques are unable to maintain the neutrality would be welcome to Great Britain as an excuse for seizing the port and the entire bay.

That Great Britain herself is drawing supplies from neutral countries, is not denied, but the Transvaal is not in a position to enforce its demands for an observance of strict neutrality, and that makes a difference. However, it is more than probable that before long the contest about Delagoa bay will become one of world-wide interest. Great Britain will not readily obtain the consent of Europe for the seizure of an important port of Africa.

TOLSTOI IMPATIENT.

Count Tolstoi is said to have written an article lately, in which he has practically pronounced as vain the creed of self-renunciation, which he himself has preached and practiced so long. The reason given is, that no good has been accomplished by it. No improvement has been made in the condition of the poor by his sacrifice—no softening of the hearts of the rich has come about. It all goes on—the old, cruel system of greed and rapine, of ignorance and waste. There is no salvation for the world through renunciation.

That is to say, Tolstoi, if his notice of him is correct, has virtually come to the conclusion that his "way of salvation" is too slow.

Tolstoi has many friends and admirers, even if not many sincere followers. The problem of his life seems to have been the solution of the question, how to eradicate from mankind that which is evil. He has searched far and wide for a remedy; he has thought and prayed earnestly, and wrestled, as it were, with God for light on that subject.

Tolstoi has grasped the great principle of non-resistance to evil, as the true remedy against it. Looking around the world he finds that all the methods employed in the battle against evil, only serve to aggravate it. It is like cutting the weeds, thereby making them grow more luxuriant, instead of pulling them up by the roots. The latter process, the only rational one, he conceives to be recommended by the Master, when He teaches to render love for hatred; good for evil; blessings for curses.

The human family is evidently not yet ready to receive this doctrine, although it has formed a part of the Christian system from the beginning. But it should not be forgotten that we are nearing the time, when that fundamental principle of the Master's teachings will be understood. Every new year brings us nearer to the triumph of truth over error. Count Tolstoi, though not permitted to see much fruit of his work—speaking from a mere human point of view—has nevertheless done much toward bringing that truth to the attention of his fellowmen, and that is not vain.

Count Tolstoi, himself, has found the key to all true moral progress. He has seen clearly that that is a question of individual reform, and not conversions en masse. As he understands this, he should patiently wait for developments. A true reformer is content with doing his work faithfully and then leaving the results with Him, who rules the fate of the world in accordance with His divine plans and purposes.

Farewell, 1899.

Uncle Sam is going to build three of the biggest battleships afloat. It costs to be a peacemaking nation.

Chicago labor unions are to have a permanent board of arbitration. If the plan suggested works there, it ought to be more catching than measles.

During the present year prices have gone up in everything from foodstuffs, say the financial reviews today. Now for the "kick" of the farmers.

Repentance is a meritorious condition—precedent to forgiveness; but pretense at repentance is a sin of hypocrisy which puts a darker shadow on the other offenses.

It is notable that while Gen. Otis reports that organized rebellion has ceased to exist in Northern Utah, there is sufficient armed force in organized form in that section to put up some pretty strong fights.

The program of the National Live Stock association convention at Fort Worth, Texas, next month, includes many topics of decided interest to Utah; and the voice of this State will be heard through representative men in the convention.

The reported fighting between Boers and Kaffirs in South Africa arouses fears of a most serious condition of affairs, in which the black races will be pitted against the white residents, independent of nationality. The war

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country, there was a feverish and thoughtless rush to put money into shares. A reaction had set in from the want of confidence that prevailed while the shadow of the panic hung over the land, and the very people who during the former period would have refused to purchase gold double eagles offered at fifteen dollars apiece were now tumbling over one another to pay out good money for printed bits of paper. It was a time when "anything would go," and the promoters took full advantage of it. The bull movement was of such force as to carry everything up for a time. Then came a halt and a partial reaction.

Denver News.

Henry Clews, the New York banker, thinks the disturbance in Wall street is over, and that prices have settled upon the basis of six-per-cent money. He says: "The squall has come and gone, and the situation is the better for it now it is over. It is like cutting off a dog's tail—it can't be done over again. The liquidation had to come, as a matter of fact, because the enthusiastic talkers and believers in the prosperity of the country overbanked themselves on a credit basis on their faith. These people have been the cause and the victims of Monday's panic. They were unable to realize new conditions which prevailed. They bought stocks at sky-high prices on a two-per-cent money market last summer. Monday's squall in prices simply brought them down to a six-per-cent money basis, which is the present value of money all over the world, and well employed at that."

Kansas City Star.

Wall street has passed through another week of enforced liquidation of high priced stocks without in the least degree affecting the general business interests of the country. While conditions bordering on a panic have prevailed there, the trade and industries of the country go on maintaining the largest volume of business on record, with no interference with the machinery of

Worcester Spy.

Within two hours on Monday fully \$90,000 shares were dealt in, and more than double this number between noon and three o'clock of the same day. Early in the afternoon of that day the supply of loanable funds became exhausted temporarily and rates were bid up to a figure equivalent to 187 per cent. The result was what might have been expected; the market broke wide open and prices took a tumble that had not been known within recent years. But it was just at this juncture that the banks and such banking firms as J. Piermont Morgan and Company came to the rescue of the market. Millions of money were offered freely at 6 per cent and thus the decline was checked. Immediately there came a smart rally, but it was only partially maintained, although it enabled the market to close well above the lowest of the day.

Boston Transcript.

That element of the public which watches the course of money and business because it is professionally interested in the subject must have noticed weeks, if not months, ago, the development of a tendency to high rates in all the great centers. The general public, however, rarely watches much beyond their own doorway, and the many millions of everyday Americans probably were taken by surprise when they heard of tight money and saw the stock market beginning to slump. Had they been watchful, they would have been prepared for a combination of local and general conditions that should make money rates high not merely in New York, but in London, Paris and Berlin, as they are today.