

# DESEERT EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST

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SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 5, 1901.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The Semi-annual conference of the Sunday Schools of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle Sunday, October 6th, 1901, at 7:30 p. m. It is desired that each Stake of Zion be represented, at the meeting; and a cordial invitation to be present is extended to officers, teachers, and all interested in the great Sunday School work.

A special meeting of Stake and ward superintendents of Sunday schools is called to meet at the Assembly hall Sunday evening at 6:30 o'clock. A full attendance is requested.

LORENZO SNOW,  
GEORGE REYNOLDS,  
J. M. TANNER,  
General Superintendency.

## IS RELIGION DECLINING?

An editorial in a publication called the "Brown Book," while arguing that the world is growing better, regrets the decline of the church. It affirms that the "sum of enlightenment" is greater, but fears that "the tremendously powerful factor of the church several hundred years ago has been supplanted by reason. That 'men no longer fear God or Satan or the decrees of the church, or threats of eternal punishment.' It declares that with the spread of history and science has come the knowledge that there is no such place as Hell, that Satan is 'a fairy-tale individual,' that the church being composed of men is fallible like men, and that God is a being of Love, not of Fear. It is claimed further that 'the world has learned that salvation comes not through the church, but through a man's own efforts to create character.' The writer expresses his own position in these words: 'I like best the religion that a man creates for himself, to fit his time and place, and not the organized creeds and systems of the past.'

There is in those opinions an admixture of truth and error. The facts set forth are in a large measure correct. The conclusions drawn therefrom are not warranted by their recognition. It is true that the world has rapidly grown intellectually. Religion has not kept pace with science and with the progress of the human mind. That is because the forms of religion are virtually dead. That which is without vitality can make no progress. This fact, however, does not preclude the idea that true religion is a thing of life and force, and consequently of growth and development. Not that a truth changes with age or circumstance, but rather that it may be added upon, by the manifestation of other truths and of greater light shed upon the truths of old.

It is a good thing, no doubt, that the element of fear which was so prominent in the theology of the past, has been to a large extent eliminated from the teachings of the present. And yet it is a necessary feature of all law, both human and divine. The law is made for the transgressor. The fear of its penalties must necessarily form, to some extent, a deterrent against crime and sin. If there is to be a reward for the righteous, there must also be punishment for the wilfully wicked. If we banish these from religion we must also shut out God. The Supreme Ruler and Creator of the universe has the right to command obedience to His decrees, which must surely be founded on the eternal principles of justice and mercy, and, therefore, there must be inevitable consequences both of obedience and of disobedience. Fear, then, must necessarily enter into the influences of true religion.

The highest conception of obedience to law is compliance with it because it is right, without any anticipation of either benefits to be received by yielding to it or penalties imposed upon rebellion against it. But mankind in general have not reached that stage in human progress, and therefore the doctrine of reward and punishment must have force and effect in order to bring about the desired. Every individual is to be judged "according to his works." Man is a free agent, to the extent that he can know right from wrong and act in accordance with his volition in relation to both. Therefore the doctrine of retribution is rational and must form a part of the divine economy.

The literal Hell-fire of the preachers has very much of a scorching or scaring effect upon the majority of people nowadays, but that does not, and should not, destroy belief in a condition and a place, or conditions and places, of adequate punishment for the transgressor. Justice will undoubtedly at some time claim its own, and when it is satisfied, mercy will also demand its rights. Hell, then, in its true sense, cannot be thrust out of religion as a myth, nor can Satan, as the embodiment of the principle of evil, be truthfully declared a nonentity. Though the teachers of theology have gone into terrible extremes in the promulga-

tion of their own notions concerning Hell and doctrine, to throw aside entirely belief in the sublime truths of revealed religion, would be going to another extreme quite as evil as theirs.

"A man's own efforts to create character" are, no doubt, absolutely essential to his preparation for the exalted state which will fit him to enjoy the society and glory of his Creator and King. But in order to learn what to do in the formation, or development of that character, he needs divine direction, and that comes through the Church established by divine direction. The churches of men are fallible, of course, because they are human. But the Church of God is an institution of His own establishment. Its principles are eternal truth because they come from Him. Its ordinances are necessary, and its influence and spirit lead up to Him, and they cannot be ignored by any one who truly desires spiritual growth and perfection of character.

We do not wonder that thoughtful men repudiate the numerous conflicting religious organizations which pretend to be the Church of Christ. But when they talk of creating religions for themselves, they show their lack of understanding of what real religion is. If each man makes a religion to suit himself, that will only multiply the contentions which prevail and cause confusion worse confounded. It is like the notion that man makes a God to suit himself. It is the wrong way about. God creates man. God reveals His religion to man. It is definite, comprehensible and easy to be obeyed. Everything else that is called religion is of human origin, and really unworthy of the name.

We are happy in the knowledge that God has established His Church in the present age, and has revealed principles of truth which may be relied upon as infallible, and also the means by which they may be promulgated and added to as times and circumstances require. They are adapted to the age in which we live, with all its improvements in science, in art, in literature and intellectual advancement. It casts aside the man-made theology of the past, and the errors and notions that have grown up in perverted minds concerning Him, His will and His ways. There is in it sufficient liberty of thought and action to satisfy every reasonable soul, and yet it prescribes regulations for human conduct, which are necessary for the full development of man into the perfection of the Eternal Being from whom he sprang. It is despised by the multitude today, but it will yet command the respect, the admiration and the obedience of the best people of all the nations on the face of the earth.

## RELIGIONS IN JAPAN.

In view of the fact that the Latter-day Saints mission has just been opened up in Japan, religious conditions in that country are a subject of special interest to the majority of the readers of the "News."

It is known that for years the Japanese have manifested a strange apathy for religious movements, possibly because of the chaotic state of the world of creeds and sects.

Shintoism, which once was the popular faith in Japan, was saved from oblivion only by imperial decree, declaring it to be the vehicle of traditions by which the story of the origin and authority of the imperial family is preserved. Confucianism lost its hold upon the people, as did Buddhism, while the "Christianity" that was introduced there and at first created much interest, suddenly was discarded as impractical. Indifference to temples, churches, preachers and teachers was noted everywhere.

Now, it is claimed, a change has taken place in this respect. The people are again turning with interest to religious topics. A correspondent of the Boston Transcript says the Buddhists are now astir and at work as they have not been for many centuries. Some of their orthodox sects have united in an ambitious scheme for propaganda at home and in foreign lands. They are having large gatherings of the people at many temples, and services of preaching by learned and zealous priests. Generous contributions have been secured from the people for the purpose of publication and distribution of doctrinal literature in popularized forms. Missionary societies for revival of the faith among the Chinese and Koreans have been organized, and, beyond this, measures are being completed for the propagation of the gospel of the Buddha in America and Europe.

The Japanese professors of "Christianity" are also said to be active. Most of the missionary organizations which have been sent to the Japanese from Christendom decided last year to celebrate the incoming of the twentieth century, by inaugurating a "union evangelistic movement" which should show the real union that many Christians have back of their denominational separations, and thus commend the essentials of their faith to their hearers. The movement has aroused a good deal of attention and has gained for Christianity a degree of popular favor it has not had for many years.

"New Buddhism" is the name of a new sect which seems to be attracting attention in the general vortex of religious currents in Japan. The nature of the teachings of these Buddhists is hinted at in a statement to the effect that an alliance between them and the Unitarians is seriously considered. Observers of this religious awakening among the Japanese people, regard it as very significant, and they anxiously watch to see what direction this new religious interest will take. The Japanese, it is pointed out, are rationalistic and utilitarian. A faith that shall appeal to their sound judgment, and prove itself of practical value for this life, as well as hereafter, will attract them, whether such a faith be to them old or new.

It is clear, if the facts are as here related, that the mission of the Church has been opened up in that country just at the right moment. The standard-bearers of the Gospel come at a time when the spirit of inquiry is at work among the people. The Lord has been preparing the way for His ser-

vants now, as formerly, when the messengers were impressed to go to certain places and on arriving there found that they were, so to speak, expected. Such was very generally the case in the new mission fields that were opened up in the early days of the Church. It appears to be so, to some extent, in Japan. The result will be that the honest in heart will, in the general stir and commotion, come out from their ancient traditions and embrace the truth. They will turn away from those quibbles and controversies and embrace the faith that gives them a testimony and an assurance of its divine origin and divine power. The religious conditions of Japan seem to indicate that the Lord has many people in that country to be saved through the Gospel.

## REMEDY FOR ANARCHY.

The discussion as to how to prevent Anarchists from entering this country is kept up, and in all probability Congress will be asked to pass some measure restricting immigration.

John G. Carlisle, in 1894, when secretary of the treasury, prepared a bill, which may be revived in some form. It provided for an inspection service both at foreign and home ports for the identification of known enemies of established government, and for their deportation when identified. It expressly exempted from its operation "political refugees or political offenders other than Anarchists," and provided for the right of appeal to the courts for a writ of habeas corpus as a guarantee of fair hearing for men unjustly accused.

A bill of this kind would probably prevent, to some extent, foreign Anarchists from coming here with their pernicious doctrines, but other measures are needed to extract the poisonous fangs of the venomous reptile that has already made its home here. Whether that can be done successfully by legislation alone is doubtful. Much of it is the natural result of the unbridled fury with which party leaders sometimes attack one another, in which no regard whatever is shown for truth, honor, or justice. Could this be done away with, degenerate cranks would find few followers. There would be no reason for their denunciations of the existing forms of government. To all sane persons the ravings would appear in all their insanity. It would be a good thing if the political atmosphere of the country could be fully cleared of that which aids the growth of the Anarchist microbe. Public opinion must be depended on for that.

Legitimate criticism and discussion cannot safely be cut off in a free country, but vilification, false accusations, misrepresentation of motives, ridicule, etc., are not criticism. Nor are they legitimate in a discussion of great questions. Let the public refuse to support those that indulge in such savagery, and the atmosphere will soon become clearer. And that is the best preventive of the spread of foul, pest breeding teachings.

## A GREAT COLONIZER.

The Daily Express published in London, England, has the following defense of President Brigham Young by Elder W. B. Dougall, of this city, now on a mission in England:

"The people of London only think about religion on Sundays, and then only when they go to church," was the statement made by Mr. William Dougall, a Mormon missionary, who is in charge of the Stratford Mission, at 28, Chandos road, E., to an "Express" representative on Saturday evening.

"Our great difficulty," said he, "is the indifference of the people to religion. Opposition is not so discouraging to a missionary as indifference, but still we are making good progress."

"I am a son-in-law of the late President Brigham Young, who was one of the most far-seeing men I ever knew."

"We consider that the Lord raised him and sent him to us as a prophet. President Young was one of the greatest colonizers that ever lived, and comes third in America after Washington and Lincoln. He is very much misjudged in this country, where all the good works he did are practically unknown."

"He was the first to see the advantages of the telegraph in the West. At that time, in the early sixties, the settlers were subject to Indian depredations, which resulted in loss of lives, property, and stock."

"President Young saw that if these small villages were connected by a wire, warning could be given of an Indian raid, and the settlers could arm and collect together."

"In 1867 President Young appointed me his own operator, and I was personally connected with him till the day of his death in August, 1877."

"In 1876 he made me superintendent of the line, a position I held till 1893, when the telephone company bought us out."

"Apart from the religious point of view, Brigham Young was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a wise counselor and a firm friend. Salt Lake City of today and the great temple were all built on his suggestions, and there are thousands of people throughout the Rocky Mountain States who bless and reverse his memory."

General Priesthood meeting this evening at 7:30.

To those who buy canned goods the proof of the pudding is in the brand and not in the eating.

All these airplanes seem as prone to fly downwards to the earth as the sparks are to fly upwards.

Certainly adversity has its uses, chief among which is to enable one to say to his enemies, "I told you so."

Many members of the Legion of Honor are resigning. Can it be that their honors do not sit easy upon them?

The organ recital in the Tabernacle will not be given this eve, but will be rendered on Sunday afternoon at 4:30.

The Kansas City Star calls President Roosevelt "a civil service zealot." If that be calling the President names, make the best of it.

Senator Daniel has submitted his plan for the regulation and control of the suffrage in Virginia. A close reading of it shows that a Daniel has come to judgment.

His distinguished brother-in-law, the late Emperor Frederick, died of cancer of the throat, and should Britain's present ruler so die it would be a strange coincidence. Thus far there is nothing but rumor and throughout the world the hope will be that it may prove to be nothing more than an idle rumor.

Major R. W. Young has returned to the practice of law and his office is in the Templeton building. This is a profession in which he has had much experience and achieved great distinction. He was prominent in the latest compilation of the statutes of Utah, was one of the Supreme court judges in the Philippines, and a host of friends in this State will be glad to learn that Judge Young has settled down once more as an attorney in this city.

Attention is directed to the announcements on page 17 of this issue by the Brigham Young Academy at Provo. This is the pioneer Church academy in Utah, and has always maintained its high standard as an educational establishment, specially suited to the youth of both sexes among the Latter-day Saints. It is steadily growing in favor and usefulness, and keeps pace with the scholastic spirit and requirements of the times. Its great success is well deserved, and we take pride in its advancement.

In various schemes proposed and discussed for the suppression of anarchy, the remedy is almost always directed to the prevention of attacks on our highest officials. This is well and good, but Anarchy being an attack on all organized society this fact should be taken into consideration and means devised to prevent and punish attacks on all citizens. To distinguish between attacks on officials and attacks on citizens generally is to take a narrow view of the disease sought to be cured.

The races for the America's cup are over and the famous piece of silver remains on this side of the Atlantic. The Columbia has proven to be a better boat than the Shamrock II, and that it about all that has been proven. All Americans are glad the races resulted as they did, but they all have a deep respect for Sir Thomas Lipton and recognize in him the thorough gentleman and sportsman. For no other Englishman have they more admiration than for him. The Columbia enjoys the proud and unique distinction of being the only yacht to have twice defended the cup.

On October 27 and 28 the millennial celebration in memory of Alfred the Great will be held in many places in this country. In New York city there will be a special service at St. Paul's church, Sunday, October 27. The next evening, Monday, there will be a dinner at Delmonico's, at which men and women will be present, and the chief speaker will be Capt. Mahan, his subject being "Alfred, founder of the English navy." Each guest will receive a souvenir pin and an elaborate edition of Besant's "Story of King Alfred." It is also planned to endow a lectureship on Anglo-Saxon subjects, probably under direction of Columbia university.

## ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Kansas City Star.

The hold that the Catholic church retains upon its communicants throughout the world was again exemplified by the visit to this city of Bishop Scalabrini, founder of the Society of St. Charles, which has general supervision over all the Italian churches in this country. The bishop showed the foreign population of the city and by many visitors from neighboring towns, together with the hundreds of children brought to him for confirmation, denote the ardent attachment among these people to the religion of their nation. The great tour of the distinguished bishop, and his ministrations, to the Catholics of the city is taken by the church of its adherents in all parts of the globe. The importance of this preservation of religious feeling, with its practical fruits, such as churches, schools and charities, can hardly be overestimated.

The American Hebrew.

The religious atmosphere has slightly cooled. We have had a difficult problem here, but one of our own choice. A new environment, opposing customs, newer thought, better ideas of refinement, have made the religious situation become more systematic, the Yarn has become a positive factor and has further complicated matters. All conferences, conventions, etc., of the year have been cancellations, offering opposition to no view of religion if only claimed to be Jewish. No dogmatism has been displayed. Synagogues have been erected in far-off communities; the communities have grown; charity has become more systematic, the very root of the evil has been approached in many instances. Former cosmopolites have become ardent conservers of the customs and virtues of the olden times. Not all the religious work has been done in the synagogue, the rightfulness of all religious effort. The work has been done by the sisterhoods, by the councils of Jewish women, by the Jewish Chautauqua society, and, in some measure, by the fraternal organizations. Now what we may hope for is the direction of all effort toward the synagogue, to build up that as the source and inspiration of all communal work, where all work shall be harmonized and united.

## Presbyterian Banner.

On the two Sabbaths following the assassination, and especially on the day of the President's funeral, was there any trouble in getting people to fill the churches? No, the only trouble was to get the churches to hold the people. And at the hour of the funeral was not that a wonderful spectacle when the people in many of our cities and towns stopped all business and traffic and travel, and for the space of five minutes stood in reverent and solemn silence? Was it not an act of worship, a recognition of the unseen and eternal? The secular press, also, spoke in a new tone and their view of the visitation was deeply religious. The nation has been baptized with a new sense of its dependence upon God and that which God draws near in His providence. No doubt there are periods of depression in religion—the sea sinks before the tide comes rolling along burying everything under its waves—but the spiritual nature of humanity is a great deep that is sure to be stirred and lifted again by religious things which God draws near in His providence and to His Spirit.

## Christian Register.

The old idea of denominational exclusiveness is rapidly passing away, and the exclusive right of any church to represent the religious life and thought of the world must soon find its occupation gone. Because such things are passing and the denominations are passing, men are becoming more foolishly jump to the conclusion that religion

# CONFERENCE WEEK SALE

We have some of the most splendid offerings yet made in the bargain line, for the week COMMENCING MONDAY, SEPT. 30th, AT Z. C. M. I.

We also have the grandest stock of goods ever presented to the public. We invite a careful inspection of goods and prices, and know we are doing better by our customers than any other dealers in the West. Here are some of our figures for the Sale during Conference and Fair week:

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CHILDREN'S UNION SUITS, Jersey ribbed, grey.....	30c and 75c
CHILDREN'S UNION SUITS, Jersey ribbed, grey.....	50c
CHILDREN'S UNION SUITS, Jersey ribbed, grey, regular price, 75c, in sale.....	50c
CHILDREN'S UNION SUITS, heavy fleece lined.....	50c
LADIES' VESTS AND PANTS, Jersey ribbed, grey.....	35c, 40c, 60c, 75c
LADIES' VESTS AND PANTS, heavy balbriggan.....	50c
CHILDREN'S VESTS AND PANTS, fleece lined, from.....	15c to 40c
CHILDREN'S VESTS AND PANTS, natural wool, from.....	25c to \$1.25
CHILDREN'S VESTS AND PANTS, camel's hair, from.....	25c to 65c
LADIES' VESTS AND PANTS, fleece lined, all open front, grey.....	40c
LADIES' UNION SUITS, in heavy balbriggan open across bust.....	60c
LADIES' UNION SUITS, Jersey ribbed, all open front, grey.....	75c
CHILDREN'S VESTS AND PANTS (Munsing) white and natural wool, from.....	85c to \$1.00.
LADIES' UNION SUITS, fleece lined, all open front, grey.....	40c
LADIES' UNION SUITS, in heavy balbriggan open across bust.....	60c
LADIES' UNION SUITS, Jersey ribbed, all open front, grey.....	75c
CHILDREN'S SLEEPING Garments from.....	35c to 85c
LADIES' CASHMERE HOSE.....	35c
LADIES' GREY WOOL HOSE, plain and ribbed from.....	40c to \$1.25
CHILDREN'S BICYCLE HOSE, heavy fleece lined, ribbed.....	25c
CHILDREN'S CASHMERE hose from.....	30c to \$1.25
LADIES' UNDERSKIRTS, A handsome assortment, black and colored, in Silk, Moire and Satene, at special low prices. All this season's goods, just received.	
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needs no special exponents and interpreters, and that organization among the churches needs no further representation among the activities of the world. It is not many years since prophets of this kind were saying, "Science has come. There will be no more poetry. Romance must give way to realism, and eloquence will henceforth be unknown." It has not taken a quarter of a century to prove that these prophets were not practical men, but idle dreamers. At the time when every important interest related to the welfare, the cultivation, and the progress of the human race has its representative organs, only excess of folly can predict that religion will have no representatives in periodical literature, and that we must look for our spiritual food to the daily press and the monthly magazine.

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