

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

(EXCEPT SUNDAYS)

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

Charles W. Penrose, Editor.

Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:

One Year, in advance, \$3.00.

Six Months, " " 1.50.

Three Months, " " .75.

One Month, " " .25.

Sunday edition, per year, " 2.00.

Semi-weekly, " " 1.00.

NEW YORK OFFICE:

In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising, from our N. Y. Office, 117 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:

In charge of E. J. Cooper, 54 Geary St.

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.

Entered at the Post Office of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress March 3rd, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 9, 1903.

## "THE LIONS OF THE LORD."

A book with the above title has been recently published and has obtained prominent notice from our local contemporaries. This is probably due to its rehabilitation of old horrors and discredited fabrications about the "Mormons," dressed up in fresh garments and displayed before the public in the glamour of romance. If it had been favorable to the "Mormons" it would probably have had scant recognition. Why it should receive the title given to it is difficult to discover from a careful reading of its five hundred and twenty-five pages. In Nauvoo days an imaginative writer gave a fanciful title to each of the Twelve Apostles; Brigham Young he called "The Lion of the Lord." It fitted the man well, as did the other names bestowed upon the respective recipients but had no authoritative Church sanction or significance. And there has been therein no other "Lion of the Lord."

Novels of this kind usually have a purpose, which is unfolded as the plot is developed. The only object in view as disclosed by this literary effort is to place "Mormonism" in a ridiculous light before the public, paint the "Mormons" in hideous colors, and thus prejudice the reader against a religion and a people that are making headway in the world, in spite of the war that is waged against them by press and pulpit and the fierce spirit of mobocracy.

The book is a work of fiction. It differs somewhat from other anti-"Mormon" efforts in its adaptation of a number of real names and places and incidents to its theme and story, and in its superior style and diction. For it is well written, in spite of its numerous errors of fact and locality, and is therefore interesting although it is in the main sad and gloomy, and many of its incidents are as improbable as they are grotesque and blasphemous.

The hero of the tale, Joel Rae, is an impossible character, purely fictitious, and resembling no "Mormon" that ever lived or any other religious fanatic in actual existence. The author has somewhat ingeniously interwoven with his inventions and revampings of exploded stories, some incidents in "Mormon" history and some fragmentary citations from sermons and speeches, to give color to the work and a tinge of truth to the false pictures it presents.

The persecutions and drivings of the Saints and their expulsion from Nauvoo, are mentioned as causes for the bloody deeds they are accused of perpetrating subsequently.

The Mountain Meadows tragedy is painted and detailed with all the exaggerations and distortions and calumnies that could be copied from the Beadle and other novels and sensational reports, and is held up as a consequence of those sufferings endured by the Saints in earlier days. In opposition to all the reliable evidence concerning it, President Brigham Young is made responsible for the awful crime, and his teachings for other atrocities that disgrace the pages of the book.

As a sample of the stuff incorporated in the work, here is what Joel Rae is made to say after being anointed by a Bishop (save the mark) and taking a ridiculous oath as a "Son of Dan":

"Good night, Bishop, and thank you for being kind to me! The Church Book called me the Lion of the Lord, and I feel tonight that I must be another Lion of the Lord. Good night!"

That absurd and blasphemous title, the sheer invention of the author, is repeated times without number in the book, mingled with burlesques of "Mormon" doctrine and caricatures of "Mormon" bishops and elders. There is not a genuine portrait of a "Mormon" celebrity in the entire work, nor a fair statement of a "Mormon" principle or sentiment. The Saints are represented, in the earlier days here, as expecting and preparing for the coming of Christ in 1870! Also as having no understanding of the New Testament but quoting verbatim from the Old! The alleged "prophecy of Parley Pratt," when the valley was first settled, is copied from an anti-"Mormon" pamphlet as follows:

names and incidents so mixed in with fictitious persons and circumstances as to make the entire work ridiculous in the eyes of men and women familiar with the facts.

There is a love story towards the close that is prettily told and in some respects plausible and natural, but it is so mingled with the absurdity of the hero's horrible mania and miserable death as to render it repulsive if not revolting. The descriptive powers of the author are great and his dramatic force unquestionable. But his numerous blunders and his gross misrepresentations mar his entire work, and render it obnoxious to every Latter-day Saint who takes the trouble to read it through.

The explanation of this, however, is found in the statement made by admirers of the author, who scored a great success with a former novel. It appears that the gentleman—Harry Leon Wilson, spent a short time in this city last year, and then went east and availed himself of the mass of "Mormon" and anti-"Mormon" literature, collected by an atheistic lawyer of some notoriety here, and who made a list of gathering all the necessary materials, which he rehearsed as occasion offered. From these the author of this anti-"Mormon" romance gathered materials for his book. As he took for granted what was placed at his disposal, there is no wonder that he has reproduced so many of the defunct stories that were long ago buried as unfit for further use. We are of the opinion that the author of the widely read work called "The Scoundrels" will not increase his popularity by the publication of "The Lions of the Lord."

## THE BURNING QUESTION.

A statistician has tabulated the lynchings that have been recorded in this country the last twenty-one years. According to his figures, in that time, 1,822 negroes have been lynched, and 1,256 whites. Since the whites are about six times as numerous as the blacks, the proportion of negroes lynched is of course very much larger than these figures indicate. Only 33 per cent of these negroes were lynched for the crime that is usually associated in the mind with this manifestation of mob law. Some consolation is, perhaps, to be derived from the fact that the lynchings seem to have diminished since 1882, although at present a veritable epidemic seems to have swept the country, demanding special attention.

The apologists for mob law generally allege there is no law on our statistics adequate to the crime for which lynchings occur. They hold that there is a "decline of danger when human force begets a lawless mob," and that the "fifths of intelligent reason is shattered and vengeance begins, and when, like the case in question, [Delaware] the honest innocence of a law is seized from the black man's ambush, outraged, and by his own confessions, for those enslaved to her death, they and there no limit of law in any state of our land can hold back the mighty arm of vengeance."

Unfortunately for this logic, the lynchings do not always occur as a result of such crimes. In 1902 the lynchings in the United States numbered 92. Of the victims 19 were accused of criminal assault and 11 of attempted criminal assault—altogether less than a third of the whole number. The other 66 were charged with murder (37), attempted murder (4), and offenses such as larceny, planning an elopement, "conjurings," making threats and ordinary assault. "Race prejudice" and "mistaken identity" also figure in the list. Of the 56 victims, 56 were negroes, 9 whites and 1 Indian. These figures touch the fine phrases of "the limit of forbearance" and "the mighty arm of vengeance," and make them explode as soap bubbles.

Unfortunately again, for the logic of the apologists, lynching is not a remedy for crime. If it had the effect of deterring criminals from engaging in their fearful work, the most irregular proceedings might be excused. But lynchings increase crimes, instead of decreasing them. Rev. Carroll of Columbia, S. C., declares that leading newspapers in the South are opposing lynchings, because they find that the white man who kills a negro or attends a lynching party generally kills some white man before he dies. "It would not surprise me," he says, "if there were more lynchings in the North in the next ten years than there will be in the South in the same length of time, and they will not be confined to one race, but to all the races."

The same testimony is given by the Charleston News and Courier, as follows:

"We have no reproaches for the people of Illinois, however. They will find that the lynching habit will grow upon them, as it has grown upon the people of the commonwealths which have permitted the mob to take the place of the law. The lynching of men in the South for one offense has been followed by the lynching of men for other offenses, and so it will be in Illinois, if the public sentiment of that state is not aroused to the dangerous tendency of the incident at Deleware."

That is the chief objection to lynch law. It brutalizes those who administer it. It makes murderers. It creates contempt for the laws and the courts. Crime must be reached through the arm of the law, or not at all. If the laws are insufficient, make them over; if the officers of the law are recalcitrant to duty, turn them out and replace them by others. The best that can be said for lynchings is that they are a relief to frontier conditions, but there should be no need of such a relief anywhere in the United States at the present time.

## RUSSIA'S GREAT NEED.

Editor Hearst, in an article over his own signature takes the view that what Russia needs now, is "yellow journalism." He argues that in Kishineff the influential newspaper is a government controlled paper. This paper, he says, did its work well before the massacre, coloring the religious and race hatreds of the arrogant governing class, and inciting the unenlightened, ignorant population on to the murders that have

shocked the world. And then he asks: "Would not a free newspaper, collecting facts and spreading them broadcast, enlighten the people, unite in a solid body the integrity of the country, and wipe out a system of secrecy, oppression and murder?"

We need not quibble over the logic that confounds "yellow journalism" with a free press, although those two are very different. Russia has it "yellow journalism." That is, it has some papers edited in the interest of certain parties, in which nothing can be published contrary to those interests, but in which everything of a favorable nature may be said, no matter how grotesquely absurd it may be from the standpoint of sober truth. Such journalism Russia has, but it has not a free press.

But it is not necessary to insist on this point. The question arises, however, what is then the great need of our country, if Russia's need is "yellow journalism." In this country we have a free press; also a liberal share of "yellow journalism," and yet race hatred flourishes to an alarming extent. If "yellow journalism" can stay the hand of assassins and quench the flame kindled by savage mobs, why are the pages of American history daily bespattered with the blood of victims of mobs, in no sense better than those who stirred up the powers of hell in the streets of Kishineff? Some hold that "yellow journalism" by always appealing to the lowest tastes and the passions of the readers, is largely responsible for the multiplication of crimes, and this may be true, whether that journalism exists under the censorship that always looks up to the powers that be, or to that censorship which in the first place regards the literary taste of mobs.

A free press is as independent of the tyranny from below as of that from above. Such a press, and the direction of intelligence, light and truth, is a blessing to any country. It was such a press that Jefferson had in mind, when he said: "Where the press is free, and every man able to read, all is safe." That is true, but it is not applicable to the press that knows not the difference between liberty and licentiousness in letters.

Just now all roads lead cardinals to Rome.

In results the Evansville riot resembled an automobile race.

One thing is certain. Senator Kearns did not go to Oyster Bay to eat oysters.

The war cloud in the far east seems to be peeping over the horizon.

Ambidextrous people can make double wages on Kansas farms.

Marconi is suffering from a cold. He may have caught it from a wireless cold wave.

Putting up negro harvest hands at auction in Kansas shows what a sell our boasted liberty is.

Of course the paths of glory lead but to the grave, but their attraction over other paths is that there is something doing along them.

"Assistant" President Corey of the United States Steel trust is only thirty-six years old. This is the day of young men. Long may they live!

Kansas is becoming desperate. The farmers are holding up trains and looking for harvest hands. Things never quite balance in the Sunflower state.

The Shamrock III has proved that she is a better boat than the Shamrock I. But so far as "lifting" the American's cup is concerned this proves nothing.

Mrs. H. F. Thomas of New York announces that a woman needs \$8000 a year to dress on correctly. And after all many such a woman may be nothing but shoddy.

Can it be possible that the prominent Russian officials assembled in conference in Port Arthur are there to formulate a plan for maintaining the open door policy in Manchuria? Hardly.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra have been exceedingly gracious to the officers of the U. S. European squadron. And why shouldn't they be? Are not Englishmen and Americans cousins?

The peasants of the Peloponnesus are demanding a current monopoly and are excitedly shouting "The monopoly or death." In the days of Leonidas the folk thereabout were shouting "Thermopylae or death."

To Kansas City belongs the credit of discovering a new Fourth of July idea. It is to make certain sections of the city "immune," that is, to prohibit the discharge of firearms or fireworks therein on the Fourth. This is a splendid idea and cannot fail to become very popular.

It certainly was very rash for Judge Ruch to order the negro Lee Brown, who killed the Evansville policeman, brought back to that place. His arrival would have been to put the match to a most inflammable mass of humanity. Luckily Governor Durbin put the matter on the plan.

It is pleasant to see the czar and Queen Wilhelmina graciously acknowledge Mr. Carnegie's magnificent donation of a palatial home for the International Court of Arbitration. To the czar was due the initiative of the famous peace conference at The Hague, and it is fitting that he should be the first to recognize Mr. Carnegie's gift to the permanent court.

## THE AUTOMOBILE RACE.

Baltimore Sun.

Nobody suffered in the automobile race in Ireland yesterday except the automobilists who were so unfortunate as to be thrown from their vehicles while running at a speed of 60 miles an hour. The public escaped injury, and in this respect the Irish races were in gratifying contrast to the recent contest in France. The winner of the Bennett trophy was a German, although he was closely pressed by a French automobilist. The American and English participants in the contest were apparently outclassed. The distance traveled by the racers was 364 miles. It is not clear that such speed trials are of practical value in solving the problems of locomotion and transportation. It was demonstrated yesterday that automobiles can run for hours at a speed of more than a mile a minute. In the French races the record was even better than this.

## Chicago Record-Herald.

The interesting feature of the race to those who are concerned with the speed possibilities of horseless vehicles is the remarkable speed that was attained. The winners averaged close to a mile a minute for the entire run, while in the heat of the contest a speed of 66 miles an hour was reached. The race appears to have been a well-managed affair, and was happily free from fatalities.

## New York Evening Sun.

The friends of the automobile in this city have reason to congratulate themselves over the few accidents at the great Irish road race. It showed conclusively that if a course is properly policed, as the Royal Irish Constabulary did the job, there is no reason why there should be wholesale slaughter on the part of the contestants or the public.

## Springfield Republican.

Possibly the great automobile race in Ireland came off without killing anybody, owing to the severity of the population. The Irish government has been automobiling them for 500 years, with the result that pretty much all Ireland is in heaven or America.

## AT KIEL.

Chicago Chronicle.

There can be no doubt that the German Emperor has two entirely different manners, one of which he consistently manifests toward his subjects, the other being reserved for foreigners toward whom he feels kindly disposed. The latter phase of the imperial personality was most pleasantly shown at Kiel the other day. Nothing could have been more cordial, more democratic, more than the manner of Wilhelm toward the officers and men of the American squadron. He was appreciative, interested and commanding. He talked with everybody in the frankest fashion, praised everything he saw and conveyed the agreeable impression that he had thoroughly enjoyed his visit. It is safe to say that every man whom he met will henceforth be his friend and admirer. It would be an impertinence, of course, to undertake to advise an Emperor, but the Kaiser's conduct would have a mighty small representation in the Reichstag at the next elections.

## Los Angeles Times.

The fact that the Kaiser was allowed to visit and inspect our warships was all right in a good many ways, even if it did strain a point in naval ethics. The sense in which the Kaiser's visit was a good thing, was that it showed the kind of men we grow to handle them, and if he ever takes a shot at them, he will have only himself to blame for the consequences.

## Boston Herald.

It is quite evident that the American squadron now visiting European ports for the purpose of making friendly visits with other countries and creating kindly relations with powers beyond the seas is in charge of just the right sort of commander. Everybody, from the crown heads down, seems eager to cotton to Admiral Cotton.

## Saltair Beach

Salt Lake &amp; Los Angeles Ry.

TODAY.

OGDEN DAY.

17TH, 20TH, 21ST, 27TH WARDS.

FRIDAY.

POLYNESIAN SOCIETY.

Dancing Afternoon and Evening.

ROUND TRIP

25c.

Leave Salt Lake: No. 2 10:20 a.m. No. 1 1:30 p.m. No. 4 4:20 p.m. No. 3 5:40 p.m. No. 6 6:20 p.m. No. 5 7:40 p.m. No. 8 8:00 p.m. No. 7 9:20 p.m. No. 12 9:45 p.m. No. 11 11:30 p.m. Sunday's last train leaves Saltair at 9:30 p.m. Trains from Salt Lake and 4th West Streets. J. E. LANGFORD, Mgr.

Every

Fifteen

Minutes

Of the day you can get a street car for Calder's, and no more pleasant place to spend an afternoon or evening. Then Christensen's Orchestra furnishes the best of dance music. The fare to the only and popular resort is 5c, from any part of the city. All street cars transfer to Calder's.

Schramm's

WHERE THE CARS STOP.

LEATHER BELTS.

Special Bargain 75c 75c

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## As You Like It

That is about the way The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York issues policies in these days of varied requirements in business and family life. The postscript to a letter written by Mr. Ebe Walter, of Clarksville, Del., enforces this thought:

"The feature which I particularly like about my policy is that the longer I live the more I get out of it during the balance of my life there is nothing more for me to pay."

(From Wilmington (Del.) News, Nov. 27, 1902.)

What Mr. Walter did take was a dividend check for \$106.98 on the paid-up policy of a \$1,000, which cost him all told \$43.02. He says:

"The feature which I particularly like about my policy is that the longer I live the more I get out of it during the balance of my life there is nothing more for me to pay."

(From Wilmington (Del.) News, Nov. 27, 1902.)

In writing for terms for a policy of this kind, state what you would like to receive in cash at the end of limited payment period, amount you would like your beneficiary to receive in event of your death, and give your age.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

RICHARD A. MCCURDY, President, RULON S. WELLS, Manager, Salt Lake City, Utah.

## SALT PALACE THEATRE.

HARVEY AND DOANE.

MUSICAL SINGING AND COMEDY.

THE APOLLO QUARTETTE.

THE CYCLE WHIRL.

Cunning, the magician, who ranks first in the country.

25c general admission 25c.

Palace of Illusions. It worth of fun for the sure to please the ladies and children. Don't forget Sunday night concert. Dancing every evening.

## BICYCLE RACES

Tuesdays and Fridays.

## ITS NATURAL TO LIKE SWEET THINGS.

But prudence should govern indulgence therein. However, in regard to Candies, there can be no mistake made in eating any of

## GUNTHER'S

delicious productions, they are the finest and best. Fresh stock of all kinds just received by agents.

## WILLES-HORNE DRUG CO.

Prescription Druggists.

Deseret News Bldg. Phone 374.

Where the Popular Soda Fountain Is.

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