DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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RELIGION AND SCIENCE.

An eastern paper answering a question regarding the final disposition of the animals in Noah's ark, says they increased, multiplied and "went west" like the people who accompanied them in that floating voyage, only the animals went first. The reservation is made, however, that the correctness of the answer depends upon the correctness of the "biblical story," and it shows that scientists now declare that America and not Asia is the oldest part of the world. It ought to be a matter of gratification to the mind which yearns for information that science in this respect agrees with true religion; in fact, we may say that they never disagree; that which is called science is sometimes a misnomer, and it is then and only then that it collides with revealed or demonstrated truth.

Scientific men are sometimes dazzled by their own brightness and thus let astray. They have been the agents through which so much enlightenment and entertainment of mankind have been transmitted from the great Source of all knowledge, that they at times may by the force of habit rely upon hasty conclusions erroneously based and give them out to the world as new discoveries in the line of information. When this occurs and the truth comes at last, showing the incorrectness of such conclusions, it has the effect of causing the judicious to grieve and the less thoughtful to draw further away from science as a system. This is also wrong. Science is demonstrated or demonstrable truth; it is the unfolding of occulted things, the development of imperfect conditions, the explanation of intricate and previously unknown or wrongly known problems. True religion is the same, and whatsoever conflicts with either is wrong. But all things that are pronounced science by scientific men and all things pronounced religion by religious men are not of necessity what they are proclaimed as being for reasons already stated.

Religious sources conveyed the information to the world and the actual knowledge to those who would receive it many years ago that the beginning of man, the beginning of all things attendant upon and accompanying man here below was on American soil. It is consequently fair to assume that the ark did not sail from either a European, an Asiatic or an African point but from one upon this continent, and with the prevailing western winds was swept across the mighty expanse of waters encountering no land until it reached Mount Ararat, a lofty eminence in Armenia, western Asia. Here its voyage and its mission ended at the same time, and here the human beings and the animals—all native Americans—disembarked, going thence wherever their instructions or their inclinations led them. We say this is not recent information to those who seek to learn from the sources most likely to afford it, and the fact that scientific men now "claim" that such is the case does but show that in this instance they might have been much further ahead had they relied less upon the rule in which they have seen fit to confine themselves and reached out above and beyond the sphere in which they have moved.

We know of men of letters, of knowledge, of wisdom, of science, who are also men of spiritual tendencies and who seek to know that which it is proper for them to know from the sources where their questions are most readily and satisfactorily answered. They realize that human attainments are at the best but the gaining of a point more or less advanced along a road which leads to infinity, and that to depend upon themselves or their colaborers for all that they acquire is to be oftimes in error and always in doubt. To these men the announcement of the "claim" of their fellows elsewhere as to the archæology of our and the other species of the world and the world itself will sound somewhat strangely; it will sound to them as though those learned men had only just seen fit to declare that the Atlantic ocean could be crossed in less than a week's time, or had given utterance to any other truism long since known.

ANNEXATION PUT OFF.

But four working days remain of the present Congress, and it is a certainty that much that is now before it in one form or another will either be permitted to quietly slumber with on awakening promised or be hastily strangled. Nothing at a conspicuous character seems more sure of such a present outcome than the annexation project.

Some of the opponents of annexation occupy that ground for the same reason that a certain exceedingly cautious element in every nation oppose everything to which there is even a shadow of opposition—through fear of a conflict with somebody else; others look at the expense involved as an immediate and continuing consideration and base their objections on that; others still want no entangling alliances; while the great majority of opponents, we believe, see in it nothing but a speculation pure and simple in which one man or at the best a few men would reap the benefits. This is a phase of the subject well worth considering; it largely outweighs all the other grounds of opposition and whether true or false should receive adequate attention before definite action is taken.

Many of the great papers of the country are unmuzzledly against annexation, and it is not flattery to say that their objections have been weighed in the balance and found to count, for the present at least. One of them heads an article on this subject, "A fine thing for Claus," and then proceeds to show that Mr. Spreckles owns about 75 per cent of all the Hawaiian land fit for the cultivation of sugar and rice, some of which is worked by himself and the rest rented out to other planters. Why, it asks, should the United States annex these islands, spend millions on a cable, build a few battle ships and pay a sugar subsidy to the tune of $4,000,000 annually all for the benefit of "this Hawaiianized German who never did a thing in this country except to extract some of the people's wealth?" A pertinent question, whether founded in fact or error, yet but a portion of the case is developed by it.

There are several reasons why the United States should own the Sandwich islands in few simple, the chief of which is that history, ancient and recent, has abundantly shown that the islanders cannot maintain themselves and keep up with the Christianity, civilization and progress of the age in which we find ourselves, and as such are bound to become the dependency in one form or another of one or more of the great powers sooner or later. The United States has the best and least sustainable right not only because of contiguity, but because of having more people and greater interests there than any other nation and because of having done three-fourths of the improving and civilizing, placing the people on the way to eventual enlightenment and self-support as the better races elsewhere are supported. Then the islands are a strategic point viewed either in a civil or a military sense; as coaling headquarters for steamers, as points of general supply, or as a naval station for auxiliary work in case of war, from either point of view they are valuable not to say indispensable adjuncts. Perhaps the greatest and most pressing reason of all is that if we do not accept the offer of the islands Great Britain will be made the border, and Britannia would as soon rule the waves which lash the shores of the little insular nation as any others. Of course we could not stand that sort of thing even at the risk of ridicule if nothing more serious for acting the part of the dog in the manger, we could not permit her majesty's flag to float unchallenged over Hawaiian soil, and thus would likely arise an entanglement much more serious and consequential than if Uncle Sam took possession and let John Bull do the growing. It has been observed all along the line of history that Britain is much more easily kept out than driven out.

As to the cable, we must have that before long anyway. We should not only be in immediate telegraphic communication with Honolulu but with Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Yokohama, Hong Kong and other great commercial ports of the inter- and trans-Pacific regions. So that objection may as well be rubbed off the blackboard. We are and for some years have been in the business of building battle ships, so there is no potency in the second count. Lastly, the sugar bounty, or "subsidy" if that term be preferred, is a matter within the control of Congress, and if it appears that Spreckles or any other man or number of men are going to be unduly profited by the operation of any of our laws, we must repeal or change the laws so that such special privilege may no longer exist.

President Harrison is said to be strongly in favor of annexation; we believe President Cleveland is not opposed to it, and it seems that an overwhelming majority of the people actually demand it. This is certainly the case on the Pacific slope.

A CRITIC TEEED.

In no respect is the present age more superficial than in the matter of its reading. Whether it be poetry, history, fiction, literary bric-a-brac or what not, the generality of readers have nearly always something else on their minds, or something else to do, or but little time to spare from one cause or another, and thus the "reading" amounts oftener than otherwise to a hasty glance over a few of the pages, but not always to so much as even that. It is related of an English critic that he recently contributed to a literary paper an alleged review of "The Queen of Sheba," a volume by Thomas Bailey Aldrich. The critic said it was like the author's other poems. An American critic at once protested against such a conclusion for reasons which seem to be incontestable, and this brought forth the defense of one of the Englishman's friends that he meant the poem was worth no more than other poems. The soundness of the American's position, however, will scarcely be questioned by the reader after being advised that "The Queen of Sheba" is not a poem at all nor a series of poems, but is a novel in prose!

This circumstance prompts the sarcastic *News Record* of Chicago to observe that "it will doubtless occur to many literary men that it is a very good plan not to pass an opinion on a book without a study of the title-page, or at least without inquiring of some trustworthy friend whether the volume contains poetry or a discussion of rules for whist. The precaution may seem simple and obvious. But it would have saved Mr. Andrew Lang, for instance, from his little imitation of Don Quixote's adventures with the windmill."

THE ASSAULT ON MACKAY.

John W. Mackay is about the last man in the world who would have been thought of by those who know him as the target for an assassin. He is immensely wealthy, but has not been exclusive, miserly or selfish with it all; on the contrary, his record of good deeds quietly performed is a long one, and the encouragement he is said to have given to those who seemed to him to deserve it would if published make a volume of no mean proportions. And he lacks that haughtiness and disdain which characterize nine out of ten men who own more than the generality of their fellows, being as affable and accessible now as when his sole possessions were his wages as a miner. True, his family live in a rather aristocratic if not ostentatious manner beyond the sea, their mode of life and place of abode being somewhat antagonistic to the democratic spirit of the land in which they got their money; but that is altogether a matter of taste, something with which they alone have to do. There is nothing of that kind about Mr. Mackay himself, nothing, so far as we have heard, to justify anyone in harboring resentment against him; and it is a safe assertion that his assailant was one of those narrow-minded cranks who are opposed to others having money which they will not divide with everybody who demands it.

FEBRUARY SLIGHTED.

This is the first month without a full moon in about twenty years, and will be the last for a similar long s of time. This confession as to February happens because it has but little more than the number of days within which our satellite makes the complete cycle of her phases, twenty-nine and a half, and the whole month falls between one full moon and another as is the case this time, the last full moon being on the 31st of January and the next on Thursday, March 2nd. This arrangement cuts February out as nearly and precisely as though it were done with a knife.

While we have had no eclipse of late and even the little comet that came failed to make himself discernible to the average unaided eye, there have been a great many celestial events worthy of note within a few months past and there are more of them coming. Some day we will have a grand observatory here and make the most of many things going on overhead that are now either unnoticed or so imperfectly noted that little or no instruction or pleasure is afforded by them.

A FOOLHARDY ATTEMPT.

A man calling himself Professor Tobey, but whose real name is Tobey Acker, is announced as intending to make a trip by water from New York to Richmond, Va., in a dry goods box or something very little better. According to the *New York Sun* he was to make the start from the Battery and strike out into the ocean, going directly or as nearly as so possible in the direction. The undertaking is for a wager of $500 and he is to make the trip in forty-five days; he is not to use a sail, the only means of locomotion permitted being a pair of ordinary oars.

As an exemplification of the foolhardiness seemingly born in some people the matter is worth speaking of, but otherwise it only gratifies that morbid desire for notoriety which they possess and is the means of encouraging others inclined that way to "go and do likewise." We are informed that this is not the first thing of the kind which the "Professor" has done. Last September he made a trip from New York to Boston on a wager that he could not cover the distance inside of forty days. He did it in thirty-eight days and is now willing to try a longer voyage. Acker is a member of the Rockaway beach life-saving crew and he made the start for Boston from that station. On that trip he was accompanied by Capt. Ackers, but on the next journey Acker will have for a companion his faithful dog, who went on the Boston voyage. There was also a cat on that trip and during heavy weather the box was upset. Acker and Ackers clung to the boat, but the cat and dog drifted away. Fussy was drowned and Acker thought that so far as the dog was concerned it was a case of "last bark." When the two men reached Boston they were astonished and delighted to learn that the dog had made land at Narragansett and was safe and sound. Their boat was upset dozens of times, and the men were compelled to swim and tow their craft in a storm. They took nine pairs of oak oars when they started from the Rockaway life-saving station on Sept. 15, and when on Oct. 29 they landed at Indian wharf, Boston, there were only three pairs left.

Acker is described as a man thirty years old—old enough to know better than to endanger human and other lives in the accomplishment of a purpose which will add nothing to the world's store of knowledge or its enjoyments in the world. He is, however, no worse than the one who makes a wager with him, thus furnishing the first incentive. It all reminds of the chestnut bets which some men make and pay, the payment of which affords pastime for the populace because of able-bodied and right-minded men making public spectacles of themselves.

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The Judge, Hon. Cephas Bliss.
Counsel, W. W. Riter for the Prosecution, Hon. C. C. Goodwin for the Defense.
Messrs. Varian, Sutherland, Young, Young, Young, Sheeran, Dr. S. Young, Lewis, Rees, Williams and other eminent counsel secured for the occasion.
A special twelve has been drawn from the following prominent citizens to form a petit jury:
Ralph Bels, H. P. Mason, H. M. Lawrence, Jas. Dalton, R. M. Tuckett, C. W. Bow, Hugh W. Ivins, Hiram B. Clawson, Judge L. A. Scott, A. Hansen, Jr., W. C. Spencer, A. T. Hollister, W. H. Rowe, Frank K. Gillespie, Jas. S. Parker, C. E. Jeremy, H. G. Whitney, Max M. Kaufman, Lewis Wilcox, Richard Mack, Jos. Wormell Hobson, G. M. Waite, H. G. Sandquist, W. S. Hillstead, James Moran, C. E. Wentworth.
For witnesses, the services of Mrs. B. A. Tyler, Eugene Lewis, Rose M. Tyler and Wm. McCormick have been secured, who will corroborate the characters, besides which many others will be called.
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