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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 28, 1900.

NOTICE.

The Seventieth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Friday, April 6th, 1900.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

THE TRAINING OF GIRLS.

The Chinese ambassador, Wu Ting Fang, made an address not long ago to some girl graduates of an educational establishment in Philadelphia, and we presume he startled them somewhat by departing from the usual pleasant congratulations and sweet sentiments uttered on such occasions, by remarking, "It is the duty of keeping house and preparing to become proper and useful wives that I imagine you would be best fitted for."

In these times of organization of women's societies of different kinds, social, political, educational and otherwise, this return to the doctrine of home and family duties as the special sphere of women, is quite timely though perhaps not in exact harmony with the trend of new womanly thought. Preparation to become useful wives and home keeping mothers does not seem to be a specialty, either in the regular schools of the country or in the majority of the clubs and associations that women have been forming. But the "heavenly Chinese" injected an idea into the Christian thought-reservoir, which we hope will keep it in motion.

Not that we object in the smallest degree to the organizations among women, for the elevation of the tone of thought and the advancement of women, along any of the paths which lead to learning, usefulness and happiness. But there is so much in modern American society which tends to turn the minds of even married women from the sphere alluded to by the Chinese ambassador, that something is needed of a forcible character to form a check upon modern tendencies.

The divorce scandal is occupying the attention of statesmen, clergymen and writers for current periodicals, and various remedies are suggested for that which is regarded as a prevalent evil. Is it not probable that if girls were better trained in the duties of the household, and taught more about the responsibilities which attach to wifehood and motherhood, there would be fewer divorces, more happy homes and better managed children in our beloved country?

The education of the intellect in certain selected lines is all that seems to be aimed at in the regular institutions of learning. Domestic training is not a part of this tuition, except in special establishments for that purpose, and they are few and far between. President Brigham Young came in for a large share of the ridicule which is the chief part of the stock-in-trade of some newspaper writers, because he declared that he would have girls taught how to use a broom and make bread, and boys how to use the saw, the plane and other tools, as part of their regular education. The terms that he used were simply to show his idea that training in the practical duties and pursuits of life was essential to the real education of our youth.

He was right. Manual training is a necessity of the times, both for girls and for boys. We believe there is less of the practical in girls' schooling than in that for the other sex. The textbooks in common use do not deal much with home duties and the preparation of young people for the responsibilities of family life.

The ordinary reading matter that comes into the hands of our young ladies is of a character to injure rather than benefit them as prospective wives and mothers. The cares, anxieties, disappointments and obstacles that lie in the path of woman to be grappled with and surmounted, so as to bring to her that permanent joy, contentment and satisfaction that belong to happy matrimony, are not set forth in the light of duty, the performance of which brings solid enjoyment. But that passion which is improperly called love, and the attainment of wealth and luxury as the end and object of matrimony, are painted in the most glowing colors and placed as the summum bonum of girlhood's aspiration.

If the remark of Wu Ting Fang is founded in Confucian philosophy, it is nevertheless wholesome and beneficial for Christians to contemplate. To become useful wives and competent housekeepers is a goal to be reached by American girls, far more important than the mastery of Greek and algebra, of ancient literature and comic sections, of classical music and fine embroidery. Yet these are not incompatible with the more useful and practical accomplishments.

The great point to be considered is,

that girls are designed by nature or by Deity, whichever you please, for wifehood and motherhood and the duties and joys of home life, and that these should be presented before them as part of their regular training, so that they may not grow up in ignorance of things so vital to the welfare of society; but that the coming generation of women may be of that sterling character which is fitted for the home circle, embellished with all the intellectual as well as other charms of cultured womanhood, attracting all the members of the happy household, and shutting out those tumults and discords which now lead to dissatisfaction, distrust, and divorce.

JOUBERT DEAD.

In the death of Gen. Joubert, the Boers have sustained another great loss. He was one of the best known Boer generals. He held not only the office of commander-in-chief, but also that of vice president of the Transvaal. His long experience in Boer tactics, his glowing patriotism, and his reputed sentiments in favor of a conservative policy made him of inestimable value to the Boer cause.

What influence his death will have upon the course of events in South Africa is no easy matter to foretell. The probability is that among the Boers, as among the American volunteers, is an abundance of material for great generals. That seems to be the case with all armies of citizens, where the soldiers are not trained to act as automata. And the opportunity brings these qualities of leadership out. Obscure men suddenly become famous for deeds such as history loves to record.

Just now the attention of the world is called to the feat of General Olivier, who seems to have conducted past an enemy of superior numbers, an entire train of wagons loaded with supplies. If that has been accomplished successfully, it must be set down as one of the most remarkable events of the war, and it proves ability in those who planned and executed the movement. And how many more able leaders may not the conflict develop!

By the way, Lord Roberts is taking a long rest at Bloemfontein. Probably he realizes that there is hard work for his men, somewhere to the north. The silence about his movements is ominous. In all probability the next time he is heard from will be when he is engaged for the second time with the enemy, now mourning the loss of two famous leaders. Everything points to serious news from the field of action before long.

FRANCE LAGGING BEHIND.

France is considerably behind the times in the matter of the execution of criminals, which is still held in public. A measure has been introduced in the French legislature abolishing the publicity of such exhibitions, but the bill has found opposition.

It is strange that France should be so much behind the rest of the world in this respect. Great Britain, Germany, and other countries are a quarter of a century, or more, ahead of France, and many European countries, as well as some States of the North American Union, have entirely abolished the death penalty.

It must be a remnant of the spirit of Robespierre and the French revolution that still lingers in certain circles in France. Elsewhere in the civilized world the tendency is to reduce the number of capital crimes, and to make the taking of human life as little revolting as such an act can be made.

It was a great reform when capital crimes were limited to 37, their number being much greater in the beginning of this century. But the reform has been going steadily on, and today there is, practically, only one crime punishable by death, and that is murder in the first degree. And the reformatory influences are still at work. France cannot afford to lag so far behind in the procession. It may be thought necessary to retain the death penalty on the statute books, but to make its application a public show cannot but be condemned as a remnant of barbarism.

WAR CLOUDS GATHERING.

A couple of days ago special dispatches to the eastern press said the Turkish sultan had yielded to the demands of Russia for railroad concessions in Asia Minor. It was represented that the warlike attitude of the northern giant had had the desired effect. But later London dispatches put the situation in Turkey in another light. They state that the tension between the Sublime Porte and St. Petersburg is becoming more acute daily, and that grave apprehensions are felt. The Russian garrisons in the Caucasus are prepared to advance at any time. And if the Sultan, who is believed to have the support of Germany, persists in refusing to yield, war may ensue.

It is not publicly known whether the Sultan is mobilizing his troops. News from the Turkish dominions, particularly about military matters, is scarce on account of the strict censorship. But if Abdul Hamid is gathering his forces, there is danger of a clash with Russia, for that would mean that he is determined to fight for the rights of the Turkish government to build and control its own railroads. By the victory over the Greeks he obtained honor and glory throughout his dominions, and undoubtedly the Mohammedans would again flock to his banners, against the Russians, or any nation, trusting in favorable "kismet" for further success.

War clouds in eastern Europe are frequent, but, fortunately, they most often pass by without discharging their stormy contents. Russia does not want war. She desires to expand in every direction, but rather by diplomatic strategy than by violent conquest. The other European powers do not court a war in which the fanaticism of the Mohammedan world shall again be aroused from its lethargy. They are aware of the cost of such a conflict. If that war ever breaks out, as it appears it must do, before the final adjustment of all things, it will be in spite of diplomatic effort to prevent it. It will be under such circumstances,

and be followed by such consequences as to make the entire world acknowledge in it the hand of Providence, as did the Egyptians in the manifestations that preceded the deliverance of the chosen people.

There are some events in history in which the hand of Providence is more clearly seen than in others, and those which relate to the last days of the Ottoman empire belong to that class. When the clouds finally burst over the Turkish storm center, the display will be such as to leave no doubt of the divine purposes to be accomplished thereby.

AN EASTER EGG.

The present year seems destined to bring forth chronological troubles in more lines than one. Whether it belongs to the 19th or 20th century has not yet been settled to the entire satisfaction of some learned lights, but this is not all. Now some one has discovered that there is a dispute as to which Sunday is Easter Sunday.

The Almanacs give the 15th of April as the day. The rule is to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then the following Sunday is Easter. Now this year it happens that the first full moon after the vernal equinox is on Sunday, April 15, at 2 minutes past 1 o'clock in the morning. Easter Sunday, therefore, ought to fall on the 22nd of April.

The question is said to have created some anxiety in Great Britain in several circles. Finally the attorney-general decided to lay the matter before the House of Commons in a short bill covering the difficulty, probably in accordance with the announcement of the calendars.

In churches where extra holidays are but little observed, it can make no difference whether Easter is kept a week sooner or later, or not at all, but in some countries such holidays are so intimately connected with the national life that any irregularity would be a serious matter. Perhaps in the present instance there will be as much difference of opinion as there is about the beginning of the century. Perhaps some churches will celebrate Easter on the 15th and some on the 22nd. In past centuries a discrepancy like this would have been sufficient to cause deep schisms between professed believers. But at present there is enough toleration to regard such matters as immaterial. The world does move.

MICROBES IN SPEECH.

The latest scientific discovery is to the effect that dangerous bacteria proceed from the mouths of speakers, and endanger the lives of the hearers at a considerable distance. It is a German scientist that has spoken this time. According to the British Medical Journal, when a man was placed at a distance of a foot and eight inches from a set of plates representing a surface of thirty-one square inches, and made to speak for ten minutes, a number of germs came with each sentence and were deposited on the plates. The germs came in little bubbles of saliva which for a time floated about and scattered in every direction.

The discovery has suggested the necessity for surgeons to wear a special apparatus over their mouths, lest in uttering a word over the patient upon whom they operate, they should send a colony of bacteria into the wound. It also suggests, as very properly noted by the Medical Journal, that in the future, parliamentary and pulpit orators will have to wear muzzles when they appear before their audiences, in order to protect the hearers from the effects of germ-infected eloquence. The same rule would apply to performers on the stage, singers, and musical bands.

Lately there has been some agitation against noise in large cities. Were the ideas of the German experimenter carried out, so that the public could receive some pulp and platform oratory, as well as some band music only as it had been filtered through and deadened by a germ-catcher, there would be less call for the anti-noise agitation.

But seriously, what can a human being do for bacteria, in this advanced age? To eat is dangerous; to drink is as dangerous; to speak is to send out death with each winged word, and to listen is to risk death. With a few more scientific discoveries in the same direction, there seems really to be nothing left but to wrap one's self in resignation and patiently sigh for nirvana, the only condition, presumably, in which existence is free from the microbe, and the germ-crank.

The United States are going to fix up Crab Island, West Indies, as a naval station. It ought to serve in keeping a tight grip on the eastern Caribbean.

The California girl who has fallen heir to a share in a thirteen million dollar estate is not likely to display trepidation in accepting it because of any superstition over the number thirteen.

If the "scrapping matches" in the committee investigating the Idaho riots continue, it may be necessary for a little taste of martial law in the committee room. The thing has become a disgrace to the country.

It is announced that four hundred Missouri farmers are forming a colony to settle in the valley of the Concho river, Chihuahua, Mexico, this spring. And this while thousands are coming to the United States every year from abroad.

Congressional disputes continue to be "hot" affairs, as witness the proceedings in the national House yesterday and the scene in the Idaho investigation today. Fortunately there is no particular danger of "gun plays" as in a Kentucky court, to break a quorum.

The Italian held in Chicago for murder got his voice back by jamming the end of his crutch into his throat. This may be a suggestion to the medical profession that after all there is something in the Spanish maxim that paralysis in a donkey is curable with the lash.

Gen. Joubert did not live to see the downfall of the republic he helped to establish and struggled nobly to main-

tain, nor even to see an enemy's force occupy any part of it; but he saw sufficient to verify his own prediction that in a war with Great Britain his people had all to lose and nothing to gain in the way of independent government.

Gen. Olivier has done what Gen. Cronje failed to do, namely, guided his army of 3,000 men or more in safety past a superior British force which was intended to stop it. Whether or not the new commander of the southern Boer army can make for himself as distinguished a name as Cronje remains to be seen; but he certainly will not have as much time to do it in.

The story about Russia menacing Turkey for a new war presents the greatest probability for trouble in the far East of any of the recent movements alleged. The likelihood for trouble between Russia and Japan is not great, the steps taken by the former in the neighborhood of the Chinese frontier and coast being rather a safeguard against Britain's advance from that direction than a menace to Japanese possessions.

Mr. Cronkhite, a Mexican mine manager, tells a startling story of Mexican intentions regarding the Yaqui Indians. It is that the Mexican generals intend to show no quarter, but to execute every Yaqui who is taken prisoner. Certainly there has not arisen in Mexico an emergency which requires such a barbarous course, so foreign to civilized methods. The alleged policy is so inconsistent with the Mexican president's past course that the story declaring it cannot be accepted as accurate without strong corroboration.

A MILD HELP PROBLEM.

San Francisco Chronicle.
If Mrs. Emmons Blaine has at last solved the servant problem by applying the eight-hour rule, the country need not worry over such secondary troubles as the Philippine war or the growth of trusts.

New York Mail and Express.

The new rule applies to all the employed of the household, including house-keepers, cooks, maids, butlers, laundresses, coachmen and gardeners. For each of these persons eight hours is to constitute a working day, those who begin their tasks at 8 a. m., to be relieved by others at 2 p. m., being similarly relieved at 10 a. m., and so on. In other words the day is divided into three "watches" of equal length, each with its separate force of servants, thus giving all employees sixteen hours out of every twenty-four to do with as they please.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Of course this is all interesting and humane, and a really delightful study in domestic economy, but that it is attracting serious attention must be a somewhat exaggerated statement. Certainly a number of Chicago women who are in a position to follow the example of the dame who makes the test must be decidedly limited. The Noah's ark principle of two of a kind can scarcely be taken up by the rank and file of housewives. But if it should be adopted by those who can afford it, it is a strong probability that it would not be confined to the establishments of the rich alone. Then, heaven save the mark if the ordinary everyday hired girl hears of it.

ABOUT THE LENT.

The Outlook.
He who cares for the growth of his own life will not treat the Lenten season as a mere formality or religious convention; he will welcome it as a fruitful opportunity of growth; finding in it not only stated times and places of worship, but a constant reminder that the things of the body perish, but the things of the spirit endure; that no man is safe who has not in him the spirit of self-sacrifice and self-surrender; that the life of the soul is always more than the life of the body; and that the true values of every form of possession are to be measured by a spiritual and not a material scale.

Christian Work.
Gradually but surely the advantages of a period of devotion and abstinence come home to many hearts that once did not care for these things, but who now delight to take refuge from the demands of life in which the festivities claim more honors than are its due, and seek comfort in the services of the sanctuary, in meditation and abstinence. Assuredly these will have no effect of power, that they have thus broken in upon a life where Mammon and Pleasure too often dispute a supremacy which belongs to God alone.

ABOUT CUBA.

Los Angeles Express.
In about two weeks hence the year allowed by the treaty of peace with Spain for the Spanish inhabitants of Cuba to decide whether they will become Spanish or Cuban citizens will expire. Immediately after that date, April 11th, according to the program laid down, preparations are to be made for the holding of municipal elections and ultimately for the election of a convention which will decide upon the Cuban form of government. To that government, according to the original program, the United States is to surrender control of the island. Theoretically, perhaps, that program may be right under certain conditions, but it is extremely doubtful if it is practical to carry it out in its entirety.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
In Cuba the American educators have a chance to develop a system from a strong pedagogical basis, and the fact that they have limited the size of the classes is an endorsement of the educational reformers who have been striving for smaller classes, or a reduced amount of work for the large classes in the crowded schools of American cities.

New York Mail and Express.

Governor-General Wood has attacked one of the greatest evils attending Spanish administration in Cuba. In the criminal law, perjury has been regarded as a common expedient in prosecution. Hereafter, in a capital case, conviction of perjury will carry thirty years' imprisonment; in a case involving imprisonment of the accused, fifteen years, and in minor cases one to twelve years. This is reform with a capital R, calculated not only to prevent the grossest violation of justice and private rights, but to raise materially the moral standard.

Boston Herald.

So long as it is doubtful whether Cuba will continue under United States authority, there will be a certain reluctance about making permanent investments. Any self-government must be experimental in its first years, and nobody can say how wise it would be, or how favorable to foreigners, or how long it would endure without revolution. In short, the prime consideration for the future of capital is lacking. The soil and the climate are sufficiently tempting, but there are insufficient inducements without a guarantee of security in the possession and use of property.

Kansas City Star.

No one, it is presumed, doubts the sincerity of Secretary Root's expressed conclusions, but many people in this country, and even in Cuba, disbelieve

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