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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 9, 1899.

MEMORIAL DAY.

The program of exercises for Memorial Day has been published, as prepared by the committee of the G. A. R. department of Utah. Particulars of the ceremonies will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Deseret News. Department Commander M. M. Knight is very desirous that the day shall be properly observed by the people of Salt Lake City. In this he expresses the wish of the organization he represents and of the most influential of our citizens.

Originating in the decoration of the graves of the Union soldiers, who fell in upholding the flag of our country and the supremacy of the government of the United States, Memorial Day expanded in its spirit and observance after the close of the Civil war, so as to include the gallant men who battled for what they believed to be the rights of the South and who lost their lives in that "lost cause." The blue and the gray met in friendship over the graves of the heroes on either side, and united under the common stars and stripes.

Since then the scope and services of Memorial Day have obtained a still wider form and meaning. It has become a time for tender memories of all the departed and the decoration of their graves with flowers from the hands of relatives. It is a beautiful custom, a token that the dead are not forgotten though their forms have passed from view.

Memorial Day, then, should be observed in the spirit in which it originated. It has been made a popular holiday for that purpose. But in consequence of that general freedom from toil, it has become a day of revelry rather than of reverence, a time of feasting instead of fasting, of carousing in the place of care of graves and the adornment of cemeteries.

Cannot the people of Salt Lake City, and indeed of this whole nation, devote that day to patriotic ceremonies and family devotion, to the memory of the dear ones who have "gone before," instead of making the day noisy and riotous with pleasure excursions, revelries and excesses? Let us, then, make our preparations to observe the day with decorum, and honor the dead in the spirit of patriotism and affection for those who have preceded us on the way to rest and peace?

THE PLUM ALLEY ROMANCE.

As far as can be judged from the reports, the truth about the disappearance of the Chinese woman Gock Ying, seems to be that she has been taken away from her own people, and placed in the hands of some ladies interested in missionary work.

The story goes that she is a married woman, and that a Chinaman, not her husband, "is in love" with her. On the testimony of the lover, her husband is a "brute," who maltreats her, and so in his absence, the plan was laid and carried out to bring the woman to a place of safety, and those keeping guard over her express their determination not to allow her to go back to her husband, unless he can prove that she is his wife. "We do not propose, one of the ladies interested in the case says, 'to let her go to a man who has abused and will abuse her.' That is, unless she is his wife. Then they will let her go back to be abused, but if not a wife, she will be protected.

The incident has a queer look. It raises strong doubts as to its rightness and its legality. Did the woman ask for protection against her husband? Is she in love with the man who is said to entertain tender feelings for her? Are the missionary ladies aiding a lawless love in his desires against man's wife? And that in the midst of the panic-stricken Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist of Utah? If Gock Ying is the victim of an another man's wife? And that in the the law appealed to? As stated, there is an air of mystery about the Plum Alley romance, that does not place the various participants therein in an entirely favorable light.

Chinese missionaries in China are reported to have been in the habit of kidnapping children, and of occasionally breaking up families, by exerting undue influence upon women. True or not true, such rumors have been circulated in China, and have sometimes caused mobs to gather and to wipe out mission stations. Such methods cannot but be condemned, even if the alleged purpose is to "save souls." In the kingdom of grace, as in nature, order is a paramount law. Authority, whether in the State, or the family, must be recognized, for where the rights of governors, or of rulers, or of husbands, fathers or brothers are trampled under foot, so surely as civilization are they in ruins.

CONSERVATION IN ST. PAUL.

The people of St. Paul are being stirred up to a restless pitch of excitement by some radical women, whose intentions no doubt are good, but whose knowledge of current affairs appears to be very limited, and whose discretion is an unknown quantity. The inhabitants of that city contained an account of a meeting of a mission class, held on May 3, "composed of women from the various Episcopal churches" there. It is amusing as well as surprising, it says:

"Had a book fallen in the midst of the assembled women it could not have occasioned greater consternation than that caused by a statement made by Mrs. E. Hale, the organizer of the class, that two 'Mormon' missionaries were now in St. Paul, and that they were working among young women, chiefly young girls, trying to induce them to go to Utah and there join the Latter-day Saints. These Latter-day Saints have been in St. Paul several weeks, it seems, and have already induced a number of young women to promise to go to Utah."

The "consternation" caused by the presence of two "Mormon" Elders is funny; the story that they were working to induce young girls to go to Utah is an absurdity. It is an echo of the past days of utter ignorance concerning the Mormons and affairs in Utah, the most people know that these stupid reports, that once once circulated by the pulpit and the press had no foundation. In fact, even when plural marriage was practiced here, that it is really astonishing that ladies, professed to have some information about conditions in this country, could give credence to such exploded tales and fall into "consternation" over their revival.

The truth is there is no need to induce young girls to come to Utah. Or into any of the settlements of the Latter-day Saints. In the respective words of our first and of the country settlements and "you will be impressed with the number of young women of marriageable age who are present. It seems as though the young men were afraid of matrimony, or too utterly lacking in enterprise and responsibilities. The older, married men cannot wed the girls, under the laws of the State and the rules of the Church, even if they were so disposed, and the young, single men in many instances are too timid to make the venture, and so there is a "surplus" of young women who ought to be happy wives and mothers.

If these ladies in St. Paul who have been alarmed by the clergy of that city, about an influence that does not exist, and which, if it did, would be of the most beneficial character, morally and spiritually, would inquire into the conditions existing among hosts of women in St. Paul, they might be smitten with greater "consternation" over very unpleasant facts, existing within the shadows of their own churches and homes, and find a field for their labors in ministering to young girls, irrespective of any danger from "Mormon" teaching or influence.

The stories that are being used extensively throughout the United States, for the purpose of bolstering up the way of our missionaries in preaching the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, originate in this city, and are spread abroad by professed ministers of religion, who know that these reports are either totally false or are monstrous exaggerations.

There is this consolation: Whatever they do against this work of the latter day, will in the future be for it. The "consternation" and enmity they arouse, when cooled down will turn to interest in "Mormonism" and indignation against its clerical defamers. Opposition is to be preferred to stagnation. So let them go on with their work of slander, and let the Elders be encouraged to continue their labors of love, traveling "without purse and scrip," seeking for honest souls who will receive the truth, and bearing with patience the scoffs and falsehoods and persecutions, with which Satan and his cohort of surprised assistants are seeking to bar their way. And let the ladies of St. Paul make personal investigation of the work and teaching of the "Mormon" missionaries, and they will find out that their "consternation" was caused by misinformation and hastiness in jumping to a groundless conclusion.

THE DECLINE OF WAR.

To those who believe in war as a necessary evil, by which the patriotism and the "manhood" of the human race are best brought out, a glance at the history of warfare should prove of interest. For the annals of the human race show conclusively that the military spirit has been steadily declining for centuries. The friends of universal peace will also find in the same records ample indications that their idea is not an idle dream, though the late General Moltke so regarded it. They will see clearly, instead, that in all probability their hopes and expectations are nearer realization than ever before.

Mr. Alexander Sutherland, in the Nineteenth Century, shows how warfare has undergone a complete change from what it was anciently. In the seventh century there was no occupation of an great region as that of a warrior. Peaceful industry was fit only for slaves. Then to die on the battlefield was a coveted honor. Such