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Y. M. AND Y. L. M. I. A. CON-FERENCE.

SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 19, 1903.

The 8th General conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 30, 31, and June 1, 1903.

On Saturday, May 30th, at 10 a. m., a conjoint meeting of all officers will be held in Barratt Hall.

Business meetings will be held on Saturday and Monday, May 30, and June 1; for the young men in Barrett Hall of the L. D. S. university, and for the young ladies in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms, and general publio meetings in the Tabernacle on Sunday, May 31, at 10 a. m. and 2 and 7 p, m

All officers and members of the assoclations are requested to be present at all the meetings, and a cordial invitation is extended to all the Saints to attend the Tabernacle meetings.

Special rates on all railroads. Sec announcement in newspapers for detalls.

JOSEPH F. SMITH, General Supt., Y. M. M. I. A. THOMAS HULL. General Secy., Y. M. M. I. A. ELMINA S. TAYLOR, General Prest., Y. L. M. I. A. ANN M. CANNON,

General Secy., Y. L. M. I. A.

DID HE CONVERT A MORMON?

Reference has been made in these columns to a little pamphlet entitled "Conversion of a Mormon Priest," by D. J. McMillan, D.D., and published by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, New York City, Its contents, however, we have not hitherto reviewed. We pay some attention to it now because of the statements

and that no other man on the face o he earth ever did, but that when he ooked through the huge spectacles called the Urim and Thummin, the English words stood out before his eyes clear and plain, and that all he did was to read them to the amanuensis and that the words remained before his eves until they were correctly writ-ten by the amanuensis, thus securing an absolutely correct copy of the book verbatim and literatim." Next, that in the later edition of the

Book of Mormon a large number of changes were made from the text of the first edition and therefore, as "according to Mormon bellef the carliest edition was the work of God Himself and therefore perfect; every change was a departure from the divine translation, and so must be an insult to God and absolutely untrustworthy and the editions now in use fraudulent."

Then, that Brigham Young, in a sermon published in the Journal of Disourses, stated that Adam was our father and God, that he was Michael the Archangel, the Ancient of Days, etc.; that this address was delivered in Salt Lake City, April 9, 1852.

And these are the alleged arguments by which the mythical "Mormon Priest" was turned away and taken into the Presbyterian fold. Let us examine them briefly: The name of Joseph Smith was placed on the title page of the first edition of the Book of Mormon as author by the printer, in whose office the proofreading was attended to. The object of the printer was to secure the proprietorship of the book to Joseph Smith. But the testimony of the witnesses to the divine origin of the book was also published in its preface, in which they declared: "We also know that they [the plates] have been translated the gift and power of God by for His voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true," Thus the first edition showed unmistakably that it was a 'translation," and therefore the subsequent statements that it was translated by Joseph Smith are no contradiction of that which is set forth in the first

edition. Nor were the so-called changes that were made by more correct proof-reading of the second edition any contradiction whatever of the text of the first edition. Critical comparison will show that the purport and meaning of the anguage of the book are not affected by the corrections of little words such as "in" for "on" and vice versa, and other small verbal changes, and that in no way has there been any substitution of sentences, differing in any important manner or altering the sense of any statement or paragraph in the first edltion. The objection raised by Mr. Mc. Millan is so childish that we would be surprised at its use, were it not for the fact that he has merely plaglarised the statement of an apostate "Mormon" as to those alleged changes, a copy of which, as published years ago, we have in our possession, and which has been regarded as too puerile for extended notice.

The next assertion made by Mr. Mc-Millan that, at a later date Joseph Smith declared he did not trans. late the plates at all, and all the 'rest of the story he tells about the manner in which the words stood out efore his eyes, is all fiction so far as It relates to the alleged statement of the ator Hoar is said to have declared that Prophet Joseph Smith. He never ashis state papers, of which he made a serted anything of the kind. Neither Mr. McMillan nor any other anti-'Mormon" writer or plagiarist ever found such a declaration in the history of Join the native councils, is not clear, but seph Smith, or in any of his discourses he it was who conducted the corresor the revelations from God to him. pondence of the patriots, and it is ac-Something of the kind was told by Martin Harris, when he was an old and decripit man, to one of our Elders, after he had been for many years out of the Church from which he had been ex-His name will ever be connected with communicated. It is not looked upon as the struggle of the islanders for auany authority, nor is it believed by any of the leaders of the Church. In stating that Joseph Smith gave that explanation, Mr. McMillan asserts a posi-

tleship under the hands of Peter, James and John in these last times, that the great reformers of Protestantism were all impostors? Did they ever claim that they were endowed with the apostleship? Did they ever profess that they received revelations from Almighty God? Did they ever testify that they received authority from Jesus Christ Himself? Not at all. They performed the work of reforming error and making plain some truth, and preparing the way for the restoration of the Gospel in its fulness in the last dispensation. They will receive their full reward, as will all good and true men and women who lived according to the light they enjoyed and sought to benefit their fel. low creatures. There are places for them in the "many mansions" of the Father, in glory beyond their highest conception.

We have the greatest regard for all the grand souls who, in the ages of the past, have stood forward in the cause of human enlightenment and redemption. It is only the plous hypocrite, the falsifier, the clerical plagiarist, the aceuser of the just, the hireling who for money distorts facts, perverts history, and stirs up persecution against his fellow men because they differ with him in religious faith, that we despise and regard as contemptible in the eyes of God and man. But even they we would not injure in the least. We leave them in the hands of the Eternal Judge, At the same time, when they attack that which we regard as sacred, we hold it to be our duty to stand up in its defense, and when they utter direct falsehood to expose their duplicity and show it up to the world. Any "Mormon" who could be turned from the testimony of Jesus and the light of the Lord to any of the discordant isms of modern Christendom, is not and never was a Latter-day Saint.

MABINI, THE PATRIOT.

The death of the Filipino insurgent Mabini, removes from the field of action one who has been regarded as the chief intellectual power in the organized opposition to the United States government in the islands. He was one of the irreconcilables. He refused stubbornly to accept the changed conditions, and was therefore deported to Guam. Recently, however, he relented and was taken to Manila to take the oath of allegiance to the United States. But his career as a United States citizen, or subject, was not to be long. He fell a victim to cholera, having seen the Filipino republic of which he dreamed, dissolve before real facts. He was irreconcilable. But this must be said of him, he stood fearlessly by his convictions, even in the face of cap-

tivity and exile. Many of his countrymen have professed friendship for the United States, but remained bitter enemies at heart. Mabini was not one of these "amigos." He was open and honest in his enmity. He would have been a valuable friend, had he been able to see the things pertaining to his country in a practical light, instead of that of an enthusiast.

Comparatively little is known of this interesting figure in the Filipino struggle for independence, but it is evident from all reports, that he was a man of remarkable ability and learning. Sen-

those of any statesman of modern

times. Just how far his influence went

knowledged that in argumentation, he

could hold his own against statesmen of

History will deal justly with him.

"The Durango girl is working eight

much experience.

miles, in ten hours, actual traveling time, though a record was established. The roads are excellent and over the mountains the grades are easy. The trouble with the drive is the dust, which is fearful. The ordinary tourist is exploited, while Mr. Roosevelt was not. The drive could be made every day of the season, were the company that owns the toll road and hotels so minded, in the time that the President made it. But then there would be no overnight stop at Wawona as now. The item does not equal by thirty miles the regular daily schedule made by the overland stage in the days of Ben Holliday. But there never was but one Ben, which explains much.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. Gov. Pennypacker had no sooner signed the new Pennsylvania libel law than the newspapers of Philadelphia, without exception, deliberately defied

Ledger to the sensational North Amer-ican they all announced the intention to go right along their old ways with-out regard to the law.

Kansas City Star.

That the Governor of Pennsylvania and its Legislature have sanctioned a scheme to estop criticism and discussion in the newspapers of acts and poliles that are of the greatest importance to the people is the fullest confession that has yet been made of the odious political immorality that pervades the Keystone state.

Milwaukee Wisconsin,

Under the Pennsylvania libel law,men charged with libel are presumed to be guilty until they prove their innocence. Therefore it is no surprise that the law has created a great commotion in a republican country, and before the ques-tion is finally disposed of it will be no surprise if it changes the politics of Pennsylvania.

New York Evening Fost. Gov. Pennypacker might well have been warned, as the lords and com-been warned, as the lords and commons of England were by Milton, to "consider what nation it is whereof ye consider what nation it is whereof ye are governors; a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious, and plercing spirit." Can such a people be kept from freeing their minds about solemn absurdities in high office? If they are prevented in one way, they will surely find vent in another.

Baltimore Sun.

If the people of Pennsylvania care less for their own feelings than the feelings of their servants in office and their political bosses, they will accept the press-muziling law without a mur-mur. If they believe, however, that no man in public office ought to be im-mune from criticism if he deserves it, they will not be satisfied until the new libel statute is repealed. The honesty and courage of the people of Pennsylvania are as deeply involved as the rights of the press.

New York Mail and Express.

The principle embodied in the Pennsylvania libel bill, which Gov, Penny-packer has now signed, is bad and in-quisitorial, and very likely will be found to be unconstitutional. The bill ought not to have been signed. But now that it has been signed it is just as well to say that the yellow press, not only of Philadelphia but of this cly and the country at large, has brought on itself and the press in general lust sylvania libel bill, which Gov. Pennyon itself and the press in general just such exercises of the lawmaking power, and will probably bring on still others of the same kind.

Springfield Republican.

Gov. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania,

after a month's deliberation, has signed the "press gag" bill, and it is now a

law of the state. It may be that news-



All Lines of Goods.

OF FRAME MARTER AND A STATE AND A STATE AND A STATE OF A STATE OF



made in this city by its author, who is also the author and repeater of the Sanpete fable about McMillan's appearance at a "Mormon" meeting with a Bible in one hand and a pistol in the other, to protect himself against the "Mormons" who had threatened his life. We regard the story about the conversion of a "Mormon Priest," in New York, in much about the same light as we view the Sanpete story, but whether the "Mormon Priest was converted or not is of very little consequence in this connection, for if such a person was turned from the truths of "Mormonism" by such arguments as are contained in the pamphlet, he must have been a very weak disciple and never truly a Latter-day Saint. The opening paragraph of the pamphlet is in these words:

"'Once a Mormon always a Mormon' was an apothegm of Brigham Young."

That, to begin with, is an invention, not perhaps of the writer's, because we find nothing in his pretended converting assertions that is not a plagiarism. Such a sentence as that ascribed to President Young cannot be found in any of his published sayings or discourses. It is used by the pretended converter to place our late President in a false light, and to form a contrast to the untruthful assertion which follows, that,

"Hundreds and thousands have discarded Mormonism and become as other men, and thousands of them have turned to the Saviour and become de-vout and consistent Christians."

It is a well known and admitted fact by the numerous sectarian preachers who have tried to turn the "Mormons' to the various conflicting creeds of modern Christendom, that such a conversion is of very rare occurrence, and even then the "convert" seldom if ever becomes entirely disimbued of the faith from which he was apparently turned away, and which in Itself attaches him to the Savior of mankind.

But according to the claim of Mr. Mc-Millan, he succeeded in so working upon the mind and feelings of the unnamed many years. Individual in New York City, whom he designates as a "Mormon" Priest, that pamphlet, and we have done with it for he was melted down so that he wanted to put his arms around him as "a father or older brother whom he could love and trust." Mr. McMillan says:

"Brother, let us pray," said I. We Brother, let us pray," said I. We knelt in prayer and arose with stream-ing eyes. He threw his arms around my neck and laid his head upon my shoulder. I need not give the con-versation which followed. He after-ward went to the 'Mormon' headquar-ters in this city and demanded that his stame he eased 'com their records." same be erased from their records.

Now let us see what were the wonderful arguments by which this melting and saving process was effected Summed up it amounts to these points:

The first edition of the Book of Mormon has on the title page, Joseph Smith, Author and Proprietor. In subsequent editions that is omitted, and instead thereof it is stated that it was "Translated by Joseph Smith, Jr." Further, that

"Then in a fuller and explicit state-ment Joseph Smith said he dil not translate the plates at all that he never read a word that was on the plates and aid not understand a single character,

tive untruth. but good of the dead, but it is no viola-Thus, all the fabric based upon altion of this rule to say that the demise leged contradictions either in or about of Mabini removes from the Philippines the Book of Mormon falls to the one source of danger to the peace and ground, and disappears before a breath prosperity of those islands. of common sense and a ray of the light of truth. They are old objections with men," says the La Plata, Colo., Miner. which every experienced "Mormon" Eldar or Priest is familiar, and could have For ice cream or strawberries, or both? no effect in perverting any one rooted

administered." He says:

On this Mr. McMillan strikes an atti-

tude and vociferates about "conflicting

righteousness.

Once again it is up to Russia to exand grounded in the faith. plain her conduct in Manchuria. That As to the isolated excerpt from Presshe can and will do it, no one doubts. ident Brigham Young's discourse about our father Adam, the explanation has Uncle Sam might say to Adam Zad: been given time and time again, show-The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as ing that the great progenitor of our it stands; we should only spoil it by race will stand at the head of his postrying to explain it." terity in the eternal worlds, as each pa-

triarch will be honored in his own "London has a saloon for every 416 place, and that in his pre-existent state inhabitants," says an exchange. Wrong. Adam was Michael the Prince the Arch. London has no saloons, only public angel, and that he will appear at the houses. time appointed as the Ancient of Days spoken of by the Prophet Daniel. The Governor Pennypacker of Pennsyl-Being who is worshipped by the Lattervania has made himself famous if not day Saints is the same Delty who gave popular. And it is fame that the great

commandments to our father Adam and seek. Mother Eve, and who was as greatly revered by President Brigham Young The Venezuelan revolutionists are as by any devout worshipper. Christian not only holding their own but are or Pagan. It suited Mr. McMillan's purmaking headway. But no one knows pose to quote a few words from the diswhich way they are headed. couse mentioned in his pamphlet, as it

The American invasion of Europe has been used by scores of other antigoes on. It has been charged that 'Mormon" preachers and writers for American butter has been put in Irish firkins and sold as Irish butter. One more reference to Mr. McMillan's

Edgar Allan Poe has been appointed the present. He offers the following bit state's attorney for Maryland. This is of specious reasoning on the testimony a genuine "Gold Bug" appointment, but that apostolic authority has been rethe most ardent white metallist will ofstored in the last days "by which alone" fer no objection to it. sacraments and ordinances are to be

A girl in New York has recovered three thousand dollars from a young "Then Luther, Calvin, Baxter, Bunvan, Knox, the Wesleys, Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, the missionaries man who stole 1,223 kisses from her. Truly this was a case, as the lawyers Cary, Judson and Paten, and the pas-tors Spurgeon, Beecher, Phillips Brooks, Storrs and John Hall were all imposters, would say, damnum absque injuria,

It was as certain to come as the night. while Joseph Smith was the sole repre-sentative of virtue and apostle of is to follow the day. Argentina has notified Sweden of her intention to equip an expedition in August to search for the Nordenskjold expedition in the Antarctic.

and contradictory testimony, which the whole catalogue of 'Mormon' apostles Russian officials feel deeply hurt behas never succeeded in reconciling." ause of the criticism of the American Well, the Presbyterian divine has press on Russia's course in Manchuria. jumped to a conclusion entirely unwar-It is really too bad. Let them cheer up fanted by the testimony which he reand wipe the crocodile tears from their jects, and which he claims to be so convodka swollen eyes. fileting with the good lives of the noted

It was no very great feat to bring the ref. mers whose names he mentions. Doe, it follow, because Joseph Smith President from Yosemite Valley to was chosen of God to receive the apos- Raymond, a distance of sixty-nine

papers, owing to their interested posi-tion, cannot easily take an impart i view of this affair; and doubtless it is true that there are papers in Pennsyl careful study, ranked in ability with vania-many of them-that neglect to take their own failings into account when criticising the Legislature and the governor for the enactment of this new and drastic legislation. Still, since the days of Junius the press has had to discuss the question of its own freedom, trusting to the justice of its cause to win the sympathy and support of the people.

Louisville Herald.

Kentucky's supreme need is a com-plete and radical change of state gov-ernment. A change involving merely a nominal transference of the state from the Democratic to the Republican tonomy. Aguinaldo and Mabini are the two names that will stand forth prominent in the history of that strugcolumn is not enough. No change of men will suffice, though that is a very vital and important necessity. There gle. It is a good rule to say nothing vital and important necessity. There must be a turn over, which shall for-ever do away with all the vicious prac-tices, precedents and traditions that for a generation have fastened themselves on Kentucky state politics.

