

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

ICRENZ SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, - - Editor
Horace G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
One Year, in advance, \$5.00
Six Months, " " 2.50
Three Months, " " 1.25
One Month, " " .75
One Week, " " .25
Semi-Weekly, " " .25
Semi-Weekly, " " .25Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.Address all business communications
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.
R. A. Craig, - - 41 Times Building.CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.
Craig & Woodward, - - 57 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 27, 1899.

CAPTAIN CODMAN SPEAKS.

Our old friend, Capt. John Codman, who spent a considerable time in Utah, and knows a good deal about the "Mormon" people but understands very little concerning the principles of their faith, notwithstanding his opportunities for learning them, has once more appeared in print on "Mormon Problems." The old gentleman is no doubt thoroughly honest and sincere in his opinions and in his statements of facts, so far as they have come under his observation. It is only when he attempts to explain "Mormon" doctrines that he shoots wide of the mark. For instance, he appears, even at this late date, to be under the impression that the Solomon Spaulding story, which has been so thoroughly exploded, accounts for the origin of the Book of Mormon.

In a long article over his signature which appears in the Boston Herald of Nov. 20th, he tells the Spaulding story with all the old details, apparently ignorant of the fact that "The Manuscript Found," as the story was entitled, is indeed a manuscript found, that it is now in the library of Oberlin College, Ohio, and that it bears no more resemblance to the Book of Mormon than a ten cent novel does to a standard work on navigation. The Boston Herald, however, adopts the Captain's statement and enlarges upon it editorially, not knowing any better, of course.

We notice also that in the general attack upon "Mormonism" recently made from the pulpits of the various Christian denominations, this same old fiction has been used as one of the principal weapons. What connection there is between it and the election of the Congressman from Utah, which is the main subject of the arguments both of the Captain, the newspapers and the preachers, it is rather difficult to perceive. But, nevertheless, the Spaulding story is still regarded as a bombshell against "Mormonism," and is therefore fired from numerous pulpits and many public journals.

Captain Codman views the election of B. H. Roberts as a mistake or worse, but he puts that down to the debt of the Democratic party of which he is a member, and he takes issue with the preachers and editors who regard that election as an attack on the institutions of the country. He also is of the opinion that the future now raised will have the effect of spreading the very system and doctrines which anti-"Mormonism" desire to suppress. Here are a few paragraphs from his very interesting though lengthy article:

"An opportunity has been given to excitable persons to make use of this election for inveighing against 'Mormonism' generally. The clergy of the land are receiving circulars urging them to preach against the 'Mormon' religion, as is evident from half a dozen tracts sent to them by the 'League for Social Service.' Most of them are the productions of harangues in Salt Lake City. There is only one of these which bears any relation to this election, and that is entitled 'Reasons Why Brigham H. Roberts Should Be Expelled From the United States Congress.' That is really the only point at issue, and the matter lies wholly in the hands of congressmen, who are the best judges of the action their body can take in accordance with the Constitution.

"It is true that, according to the provisions of acts of Congress in 1852 and 1857, a polygamist was disqualified from holding office as an American citizen, in the Territories, the District of Columbia, and in all other places where the United States government had supreme control. How far the admission of Utah to Statehood since that time contravenes this legislation may be a question, but it is not to be decided by the impudently haranguing of orators, either at Tremont Temple or the temple in Salt Lake. All that there is left for us to do is to hope and pray, if we please, that Roberts should be deprived of his seat, and that a proper republic should be administered by the Democrats and the religious fanatics of Utah.

"At the same time, it must be confessed that, so far from stopping the spread of 'Mormonism,' such action on the part of Congress might be welcomed by the Priesthood, as all antagonistic federal laws in times past have been. They have always thrived on 'persecutions,' on the principle that 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.' Every meeting like that in Boston, every attack on their missionaries, and every newspaper blast, is fully repaid in their church organ, with the purpose of binding the people more firmly together in the maintenance of their faith."

Concerning the discontinuance of polygamous or plural marriages by the "Mormons," Captain Codman expresses his confidence in the action taken by the people, who, in conference assembled, endorsed the manifesto of the President of the Church in 1890, and he says:

"Knowing the late President Woodruff as well as I did, I have full faith in his assurances that the Church will not violate its agreement with the government, and President Snow, who has succeeded him, is an equally honorable man. Whether the few old polygamists who are left should retain their extra wives may be a question, but it is not an important one, and to breed up their families of long standing would certainly be a hardship to many old men and women. Nothing could be more senseless than the attempt which is now being made to scare us with the fear that the Mormons are not only about to re-establish polygamy in Utah, but that they propose to make its practice universal in the United States. On the contrary, if the Church should be allowed to retract its solemn obligation to perform no more plural marriages, I doubt if the liberty to avail themselves

of the permission would induce any considerable number of men in Utah to make use of the opportunity to enlarge their families in that way."

In regard to the character of the Latter-day Saints, the captain, who had for years ample opportunities of learning their conduct, their disposition, and their spirit, makes these remarks:

"My intimate acquaintance with them for so many years has led me to the firm belief that over and above all their superstitious and religious oddities they are the most conscientious, industrious, contented, temperate and Christian people of whom I know."

We are pleased to see that our old friend retains the good impressions which were made upon his mind in years gone by, and that he is still ready to speak the truth as he understands it. The people of Utah he knows. He has lived among them, had business relations with them, has seen their manner of life, and he speaks of them as he found them. As to their faith, it is not to be expected that he will utter words of approval. Such investigations as he may have made commenced on the basis that the system was a delusion, and, like many others, he looked rather for evidences to support his own suppositions than for proofs of divinity in the work, and, as is common, he regarded the Book of Mormon as a fable written by Solomon Spaulding, and therefore took no special pains to examine it with the idea that it might be a divine revelation. But we believe that Capt. Codman is a fair-minded, honest gentleman, and we appreciate the good words he has been ever ready to speak for a malignant and misrepresented people.

GOOD WILL SURELY RESULT.

The Boston Herald, commenting on the letter of Captain John Codman on the day following its publication, editorially expresses the opinion that the importance of the entrance into Congress of a polygamist is greatly overrated. It also thinks that under the circumstances and considering the progress of events in Utah, the present crusade against polygamy is unnecessary. It recognizes the fact that as an institution that system of marriage is in its decadence, and never was as powerful an element as has been generally supposed. The Herald makes these remarks in reference to that question:

"Our impression is that a crusade against polygamy in the 'Mormon' Church would be a waste of effort, and perhaps worse. If left alone, polygamy is sure to die of itself, as it is lying out already. If the House of Representatives exerts its authority to turn a man out of his seat on this ground, the natural cry in Utah will be that it is a case of persecution, and it is to be remembered that the 'Mormon' Church has in the past thrived on persecution and may find it convenient to use acts of persecution to sustain its power in the future. There is not enough to be gained in expelling the present member to risk giving that Church this advantage. We find in the 'Mormon' Church the worst feature of Mormonism, and the most formidable embarrassment to the success of republican institutions in Utah and to the harmony with her sister states of the Union as a member of the United States confederacy. If a public sentiment is to be created in this country to operate upon 'Mormonism,' this is the point, as it strikes us, against which it should be directed."

We understand that by "the worst feature" of "Mormonism," the Herald means the alleged interference by the Church in the affairs of the State. If that paper and others which still harp on that mistaken string would investigate with a real desire to find out the truth, they would learn that there is no more danger of a union of Church and State in Utah or of the domination of any Church in political affairs here, than there is in Boston. Church and State are expressly separated in the Constitution of Utah, and in the tenets and practice of the so-called "Mormon Church." The supposed amalgamation of the twain is as much of a myth as the story about Solomon Spaulding being the author of the Book of Mormon.

It is strange that so many writers and public speakers who are interested enough in "Mormonism" to dilate upon it for public instruction, will not take the pains to find out what it is for themselves, but depend upon the statements and sentiments of others and echo, in parrot-like phrases, the errors and mis-statements of pronounced opponents of the "Mormon" people and the "Mormon" Church. Some day, perhaps, they will wake up to the fact that they have been misled and hoodwinked and made tools of by wilful deceivers.

Of one thing we are sure, and that is, that out of the present astonishing and absurd commotion over the election of a Representative from Utah to Congress, will come that inquiry which the Latter-day Saints desire, from many thousands of people, into the facts in the case and ultimately into the truth of the doctrines and principles which God has revealed from Heaven in the nineteenth century, to usher in the great and last dispensation. Thus, good will come out of apparent evil, and truth will eventually be victorious and triumphant.

FOOLISH SUGGESTIONS.

Someone is said to have suggested that the methods of naturalization in this country be changed. It is recommended that every immigrant be requested to bring with him a certificate of character, and that he, or she, besides, be examined by a "board of resolute men." After that, one year's residence would be sufficient as a prerequisite to naturalization, provided the applicant could pass another "thorough examination," presumably by another "board of resolute men."

There should be "witnesses to tell of his life since he came to these shores," and everything should be done in a formal way, so as to convince the applicant "that we, as a people, hold citizenship as something most sacred." How would it be to add to these suggestions another, that the "board of resolute men" furnish the subject of their thorough examination a certificate as to what their own lives have been, politically or otherwise, so as to inspire confidence in their qualifications as judges of character? Or, would it not be practicable to build around the entire country a Chinese wall with only one little gate, on the principle of the traditional needle's eye?

There is an impression that the great

number of United States citizens who formerly owed allegiance to the governments of Great Britain, of Germany, of the Scandinavian countries, are among the most moral, intellectual, industrious and loyal within the boundaries of the Union, and that their arrival here has been in every way a boon to the country. It is thought that there are still millions of acres of land to cultivate, and great industries to build up. But perhaps it would be better now to close the country against the self-respecting class of immigrants that most likely, on account of their refinement and sense of personal liberty, would object to a "thorough examination by resolute men," entire strangers to them? Perhaps another class is to be encouraged. There are foreigners as well as Americans who would submit to almost anything, even the bartering away of their souls, for the prospect of some little temporal gain.

To the others South America is opening her gates. Africa is being brought into shape for extensive colonization. A Chinese wall, or a cordon of hunters for prospective recruits for partisan schemes, would not bar desirable home-seekers from finding their opportunities elsewhere in the wide, wide world.

COLOR IN THE WAR.

The question of what effect on the South African situation a rising among the colored natives would have, has often been discussed in the press. The London Mail gives some statistics, showing the seriousness of such a rising, should it take place. The figures may be presumed to be approximately correct, and are interesting although there are no present indications of a general native insurrection.

In Transvaal, according to The Mail, there are 850,000 natives to 250,000 whites. It is not believed that the republic is threatened by a general hostile movement among the blacks, but one tribe, the Swazies, may make trouble, as they have always resented the annexation of their country by the Boers.

In Cape Colony the whole population is given as 400,000 whites to 1,600,000 blacks. In these figures are included a number of Malays and so-called "Cape Boys," the former being considered "white," and the latter half-castes. The Malays, by the way, are said to form an integral, reliable and considerable portion of the population of Cape Town and its suburbs. In religion they are Mohammedans, worshipping in their own mosques. Notwithstanding their peculiar customs and habits, they are considered among the most excellent of her majesty's subjects in that part of the world.

In Basuto land, on the border of the Orange Free State, there are 250,000 natives to only 600 whites. The Basutos are an agricultural people, well developed physically. It may be inferred that the relation between them and the whites are cordial, for otherwise it would have been very little of an effort for them to wipe out the handful of settlers that have taken up their residence among them.

In Rhodesia, which embraces Matabeleland, Mashonaland, Manicaland and Linchwe's country, there are over one million natives to 5,000 whites. In British Central Africa, there are 850,000 blacks to 500 whites. Bechuanaland, now formally annexed to Cape Colony, has 250,000 natives and 5,000 whites. Natal contains 520,000 natives and 60,000 white settlers. The natives are mostly Zulus, and these are described as a healthy, upstanding race, and, when not contaminated by European influence, customs, and vices (for the Zulu is very imitative), they are reliable, trustworthy, honorable, and, in short, a tribe of nature's noblemen. Unfortunately, they easily deteriorate, but when isolated in their own locations they keep up all the traditions of a fearless independence. Great Britain does not fear a hostile rising among these natives.

In the Orange Free State the population is estimated at 200,000 natives to 80,000 whites. There is no other South African state in which the proportion on either side of the color line is as nearly equal as in this State.

This gives in round numbers a black population of five and a half millions to 500,000 whites, and of the latter about half, or 432,000 are classed as Dutch, while the remaining half are thought to be English in sympathy, if not by birth.

These figures give a tolerably clear idea of the situation. There may be no immediate danger of a black demonstration, but even without this element of danger, the war may become one of vast proportions. The Boers seem to have changed tactics, their object now being to simultaneously threaten so many points, that the reinforcements under General Buller will have to scatter over a large area, and if the Boers in Natal are not joining General Joubert's columns on their onward march, it is difficult to understand where he gets men enough to overrun so much territory.

Great Britain, it seems, has notified the foreign governments that a state of war now exists in South Africa. This is a departure from the previous policy of regarding the disturbance as an insurrection. This change of front may be an intimation that friendly interference in behalf of peace will not be resorted to; or it may be a recognition of the seriousness of the enterprise in which the empire is engaged. At all events it insures the strict observance of the civilized rules of warfare, and will render the struggle less revolting than it otherwise might become.

The advance in the cost of lumber, reported from Tacoma, Wash., appears to have raised the roof on prices.

Gen. Joubert says the fighting of the war is yet to begin. Evidently he counts on a hot time about Christmas.

It is said in Washington that Gen. Otis needs a rest. There is no reason why he should not have one when he wants it, even if he did refuse Aguinaldo the luxury.

The striking dissimilarity between northern and southern Africa is graphically pictured by a comparison of the British victories over the Boers and the Dervishes.

France and the Catholics are said to

be at outs again. Since the disputation there is much like quarreling with one's self, the disputants are likely to come to amicable terms without serious delay.

Pope Aguinado has not yet expressed to the public his appreciation of Foster Wheeler. Meanwhile Aguinado, father probably enjoys getting acquainted with his American soldier-playmates.

The notice of Great Britain to the European powers of a state of war in South Africa is a concession of the independence of the two republics which, if it had been made two months ago, probably would have prevented the war altogether.

The Free Staters are finding the trained British soldiery altogether too much for them, on the line of the Kimberley relief column. The advance of Gen. Methuen, and the forward movement of Gen. Buller from Pietermaritzburg, seem to open on a series of British successes.

The London Chronicle editorship incident related in today's dispatches shows that independent newspaperdom in England is of a decidedly dependent character. Adverse criticism of the South African war is not to be permitted at present by officials conducting government affairs.

The bubonic plague in Manchuria is slaughtering more people than meet death in any of the big battles reported from South Africa; but it does not attract a hundredth part of the attention. The way the plague is spreading may yet prove a very serious question to Russia and Britain as well as to China.

Mr. George Carpenter, who has been connected for some time with the editorial staff of the Deseret News, will take a change to night work on the Salt Lake Herald. The gentleman carries with him the esteem of the editor and all his associates, appreciation for his able and conscientious labors, and wishes for his continued and increased success. An revoir, George.

Now that the Filipino rebels have resorted to banditti methods of murdering non-combatants who welcome the Americans, there will be a marked change in the treatment accorded these bands of Aguinado's army. Heretofore the captured insurgent soldiers have been allowed to go at liberty, but their robber policy renders them liable to immediate execution when caught. Should Aguinado be caught in the bandit deceptions there will be little need to discuss what disposal to make of him.

To make the matter clear to confused editorial minds, we will briefly state that the Roberts case is made a Church matter by thousands of preachers—40,000 according to the New York Journal. It is and has been a partisan political matter with our morning contemporary that tries to muddle the question. The Deseret News has taken up the Church bearing of the subject and showed conclusively that the "Mormon" Church is not responsible for it in any way. Quantum sufficit?

To characterize the members of the Utah Volunteers as "Mormon" and "Gentile" is a glaring violation of the rules of classification. A list showing the religious beliefs of the boys, ought to give the number of Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, etc., as well as "Mormons." To be of any value at all, except for purposes of deception, it ought to show how many of them were residents of Utah, and how many were transients, at the time of enlistment. If the terms used are proper in any sense the number of sons of "Mormon" stock ought to have also been designated.

The Latter-day Saints' college in this city is doing excellent work and is adding to its departments such features as will render it fully equal to the needs of the people. It has now opened a kindergarten. This is for children between the ages of three and six years. It will be conducted by Miss Mabel McBride, a thorough, systematic, successful teacher in that line. The class will be conducted in the Social Hall, commencing today. The tuition fee for five days per week will be but 25 cents for each week for each student. The kindergarten method of teaching little children has proved the very best ever adopted for the training of the tender juvenile mind, and we believe that under the direction of Miss McBride and the general superintendency of Prof. J. H. Paul, this department of the Latter-day Saints' college will be found one of its most successful branches of education.

VICE PRESIDENT HOBART.

Sacramento Record-Union.

His death will be sincerely mourned throughout the Union, but in the State of his nativity which he loved so well, and in which he developed all his powers, the mourning for his untimely death will take the form of profoundest grief.

Los Angeles Express.

Vice President Hobart, after his long struggle for life, has at last succumbed to the inevitable and is numbered with the dead. A man of rare ability and spotless character, the country has lost one of its best citizens; his family a devoted and loving husband and father. What higher tribute to a man can there be given than that.

Omaha World-Herald.

As presiding officer of the Senate Mr. Hobart was fair and courteous, and senators of all parties admired him for his ability to rise above party when occasion required. Mr. Hobart made a great sacrifice when he accepted the nomination. For months he has desired to lay down the burden, but could not. Finally the grim reaper appeared to settle all questions for him. In his death the nation loses a representative citizen and his family a kind and loving father.

Kansas City Star.

Vice President Hobart, who died this morning, will be remembered as a man who filled, with singular acceptability, an office which does not, as a rule, distinguish its occupant. He gave to the position much social prestige, and enjoyed the confidence and friendship of the President to a degree which is unusual between the chief executive and his lieutenant. The law which provides for the presidential succession relieves the situation of the anxiety which might otherwise have been created by Mr. Hobart's death.

San Francisco Call.

Notwithstanding his success in the office he found it uncongenial, and it is

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well known he would not have been a candidate for re-election. He was virtually out of politics before his long illness began, and his death, therefore, makes no change whatever in the political situation. The nation mourns the loss not of an office-holder, but of a citizen of the highest rank and the truest patriotism. Such duties, public or private, as devolved upon him were fulfilled with a fidelity that entitles him to the honor of his countrymen, and it is with that feeling the people receive the news of his death and extend their sympathies to all who were near and dear to him.

Chicago Record.

In the death of Garret A. Hobart the nation loses one of the few men who in recent years have administered the office of Vice President with distinction. Perhaps no Vice President since Hannibal Hamlin's time played a larger or more useful part in the affairs of the contemporary administration than did Mr. Hobart. He went into office holding the confidence of the political leaders of the east, and he soon succeeded in winning similar esteem not only from the members of his party but throughout the country. Entirely apart from the discharge of his routine duties as Vice President he was in reality a valued and influential adviser in the important undertakings of the administration. The position he held as one of the active forces in affairs at Washington testifies to his positive character, his large abilities and his faculty for securing and holding confidence.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The death of Vice President Hobart creates no hiatus in the presidential succession. Contingencies of this kind have been amply provided for. If there be no secretary of state, then the secretary of the treasury will act; and the remainder of the order of succession is: The secretary of war, attorney general, postmaster general, secretary of the navy and secretary of the interior. The establishment of this line of succession, it will be observed, preserves the political integrity of the administration and avoids the repetition of what happened through the death of Lincoln, as it is reasonable to suppose that the President, when forming his cabinet, will choose men who are in perfect political accord with himself.

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