

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sunday excepted.)Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose - - - - Editor.
Horace G. Whitney - - - - Business Manager.SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance.)

One Year	\$10.00
Six Months	5.00
Three Months	2.50
One Month	.50
Saturday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	1.50

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.

Address all business communications and all remittances to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 27, 1906.

AGE OF THE WORLD.

The age of the world is a subject upon which scientists have spent a great deal of thought. It presents insuperable difficulties, but that has not prevented the human mind from pursuing the investigation along different lines. What are the conclusions arrived at by masters in the realm of intelligence and reasoning?

One theory argues from calculations based on the contraction of the sun and radiation of heat. It is estimated that if all the matter in the solar system had been moving towards the center of the sun, that would furnish heat at the present rate for only 18,000,000 years. One authority claims that "the balance of causes which would result in the sun radiating heat just fast enough to preserve the earth in its present state has probably not existed more than ten million years," and that this, therefore, is very near the extreme limit of time that we can suppose water to have existed on the earth. In a fluid state, the supposition being that before that time, the heat of the sun was so intense that the water on the earth was only vapor.

Another estimate is based upon geological facts. Alfred Russell Wallace obtains 28,000,000 years as necessary for the life of the earth. Taking the thickness of the sedimentary rocks at 117,000 feet and reckoning the coast line on the globe at 100,000 miles, he finds that at the present rate the total thickness of rocks would be formed within the length of time mentioned. According to this estimate the whole land surface of the earth is lowered one foot in 5,000 years and the sediment deposited along the shores of the continent. Nineteen feet, he says, are deposited in 5,000 years over a belt stretching thirty miles out from the 100,000 miles of shore line, and this gives him the 28,000,000 years.

Another calculation is based on the relation of the moon and the earth to each other. It is claimed that the moon was originally thrown off from the earth by the centrifugal motion of the globe, as water is thrown off from a grindstone. This, it is thought, could not have occurred less than 50,000,000 years ago. All geologic time must therefore, it is thought, be brought within this limit, for after the birth of the moon an immensely long period must have elapsed before the conditions upon the earth were such that life could exist.

The question of the date of the appearance of man upon this earth is different from that of the birth of the globe itself, since the earth necessarily was formed long before the appearance of human beings upon its surface. Archbishop Usher's chronology, which is the one most generally accepted among Bible students, fixes the date of the beginning of human history at 4004 B. C. The archbishop was a learned scholar who lived in the first part of the seventeenth century, and according to his figures it is now 5,910 years since the creation of man. He based his calculations upon the biblical genealogies. Of late years his conclusions have been considered very unreliable, by a certain class of scholars. But accumulating facts concerning the rapidity of the action of geological forces seem to be pointing toward the lower estimates of the actual age of the globe itself, and if these estimates are accepted, it follows that it is entirely credible that the earth has not been suitable for a human habitation for very many thousands of years. The estimates in which hundreds of thousands of years are assigned to the existence of the human race will, we think, be deemed inaccurate when viewed in the light of modern discoveries in the domain of science.

PROGRESS OF LIBERTY.

The progress of religious liberty throughout the world is rather slow, but there is no doubt that the general sentiment is moving in the right direction. A short time ago the constitution of Bolivia was amended so as to give freedom of public worship to all churches in that country. This is a concession that had long been demanded by the denominations conducting missionary work there. The text of the new law was sent to the State Department at Washington, and it caused great satisfaction among those who are interested in the case of religious liberty everywhere. The true benefit of the change in the law will, of course, depend on whether the people are in full harmony with it, for religious persecution is very often carried on in spite of law, when the people are narrow-minded and bigoted. But the promise of protection of various religious interests by law, is nevertheless a step forward. A liberal law is likely to have an educational influence upon the citizens living under that law.

There are several countries in the world where religious liberty is as yet practically unknown. In Spain for instance, Protestant churches are not permitted to show themselves publicly. They cannot have a cross or any other religious emblem upon their houses of worship, and the doors must remain closed so as not to attract attention to their services. The Spanish law provides that no ceremonies or manifestations in public, except those of the religion of the state, will be permitted.

Russia is another country in which reform is very much needed. By imperial law, religious liberty has been proclaimed, but promises of that kind

have so often been broken that no reliance is placed in them. Some privileges have been granted to Roman Catholics of Poland, but the Jews, it seems, were expressly excepted from the advantages expected by others. Now another ukase is expected granting concessions to the Hebrews, but it is feared that the benefits will be rather nominal than real. It is supposed that there will be some relaxing of the restrictions that now oppress the Jews. The pale within it may be allowed to move to certain districts in designated provinces; ownership of land is to be permitted on a small scale and increased educational facilities are also looked for.

This is better than no liberty at all, but the Jews are still left to the caprices of the mob, and the massacres will be repeated as long as unscrupulous agitators can successfully appeal to ignorance and prejudices, and the law refuses to protect the victims by punishing the persecutors.

MONGOLIANS UNITED.

Interesting disclosures as to the part played by the Chinese in Manchuria in the late war between Japan and Russia, prove that they were secretly aiding the Japanese, although the country was declared neutral. The facts are stated in a report by Col. Walter S. Schuyler to the War Department.

The Colonel says it was difficult to determine the true attitude of the Chinese, although they professed friendship for the Russians, when speaking to them. It became known, however, to the Russian commander-in-chief that the Chinese general, Ma, had arranged to attack the Russians with a force of 20,000 Chinese soldiers in the vicinity of Mukden, and the Russians, in making plans for advance, had to consider this threat.

The Chinese generally were afraid of outbreaks of their own race, who took advantage of the chaos caused by the war. They knew that whenever they were left unprotected they would be unmercifully robbed by their own people, and it was reported on good authority in Liaoyang that in anticipation of the withdrawal of the Russians the organized bands of Hunhuzes had made elaborate plans for the looting of the city.

Many Chinese served as spies, but the Russian commanders, the report says, were frequently misled by their own spies, who were evidently prompted by the Japanese to make certain reports. On one occasion the Russian officer in charge was harried by a series of contradictory reports regarding the Japanese advance, the information coming from his Chinese spies, who had evidently been carefully coached for the purpose of provoking the Russian commander by keeping him up to unnecessary alarm, and so contributing to the fatigue and discouragement of his forces. More than this, the Russians discovered that their screened positions were revealed to the Japanese by the Chinese spies, and it was of report that the Chinese, apparently working in the fields, indicated to the Japanese the position of the Russian troops, and in this way aided the Japanese gunners.

"There was," adds Col. Schuyler, "at least one authentic case in which this was true, and I have a copy of a picture made from an actual photograph of the Chinese caught in the act of signaling with a flag to the Japanese batteries."

The fact is interesting, as proving that the Japanese and the Chinese, notwithstanding the war in which the latter were so badly beaten, stand together against a Western foe. Japan supported by China is in a position to become one of the strongest nations of the earth, from a military point of view, but she also equipped, intellectually or morally, for leadership?

Strange, but rooming houses are never roomy.

Unlike the rolling stone the rolling cars gather the moss.

Unless all signs fail, a serious outbreak is preparing in Cuba.

And this is the kind of weather the weather bureau furnishes for Christmas!

The Colorado continues to do the "break, break on thy cold grey stones" act.

Don't be too severe on the street department. See how splendidly the dust is kept down.

It will be some months before there will be heard through the land the cry, "See America first."

The moral support of the United States will not do much to better conditions in the Congo Free State.

The price of downtown meals is to be materially advanced. Patrons will get neither a square deal nor a square meal.

Senator Hale says the United States has no enemies. A fine saying for a public speech but not a good guide for a public policy.

Count Boni's creditors are losing all their suits against Madame Anna Gould. They are getting their just deserts.

France protests that she hasn't protested against the Vatican's protest. It looks as though La Belle was becoming protestant instead of Catholic.

Mr. Rockefeller believes that if he takes care of the minutes the hours will take care of themselves. His income is said to be a hundred and twenty dollars a minute.

Grand Master Neill charges the Southern Pacific with peonage. If it is true, and it will take very strong evidence to prove the charge, why didn't he make it before and not wait until he had a quarrel with the road? He shows a woeful lack of judgment or good citizenship.

"In her declaration that 'Mormonism' is a greater curse to this country than was slavery," the wife of

United States Senator Dubois of Idaho displays more religious fanaticism than knowledge or sound judgment," says the Sacramento Bee. Just as a display it beat a millinery store opening.

PRIZE-WINNING GIRLS.

New York Mail.
It is the turn of the girls to crow-in these "suffragette" days the verb is used advisedly. Statistics of the schools of America and prize awards of the Royal Academy in London show that in the three "Rs" and in art, girls beat the boys as students. Pictorial painters and modelers nearly monopolize the honors of the Royal Academy school this year. Prizes for landscape, figure composition, cartoon of the draped figure, painting from the nude and clay bust from life all fall to the share of girl students. Never before have the London "Little Billies" been so badly beaten.

A CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY.

Cardinal Gibbons in the Century.
Voluntary self-murder is not only a violation of the best law, but is also a crime against society. We are social beings. We owe a duty to the commonwealth as well as to ourselves. We mutually depend on one another, like the members of our physical body. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Human society may be compared to a grand army, every member of which has a special place and mission assigned to him by his sovereign commander. To abandon the post of duty intrusted to a sentinel is regarded by the military code as a most cowardly act, which is punished with extreme rigor. When a soldier deserts from his post in the warfare of life? And there is no vice more contagious than cowardly desertion. It is often followed by a general mutiny. The same is true of suicide. When a few deeds of self-murder are widely circulated by the press, they are not infrequently followed by numerous voluntary slaughters. A suicidal wave rolls over the land.

FRENCH ECONOMY.

In connection with its much-discussed series of papers, "How to Meet the Increased Cost of Living," Harper's Bazar gives, this month, some inside information as to the far-famed economy of the Frenchwoman. It says: "No pains are spared by the French to teach the people how to save and how to take care of their money. Famous economists, like Paul Leroy-Baulieu, write books on the subject for the instruction of the people. I have read a number of these books designed especially for women, and I have often wished that some of them might be reproduced in English for American consumption. They are a revelation to the American woman; first as they indicate how seriously woman is taken for her money, and secondly because of the marvellously thorough analysis they present of the position of woman in the social and business order, and because of the disclosures they make of the authority and responsibility which women carry as women—as wives and as mothers of families—possess in money affairs. The title of one of these books is very pertinent: 'La Femme Raisonnable et Chrétienne.' This book, written by a well-known ecclesiastic, in a most simple and exhaustive manner, instructs women on how to economize and how to take care of their economies. The business principles set forth are constantly reinforced by Christian doctrine, that the whole lesson is—'which Frenchwomen in general apply—if a woman would be happy in this world and be saved for the next, she must look after the money after her husband's as she looks after her immortal soul.'

JUST FOR FUN.

Wrong Man.
While Dooley was holding court in Washington county, Ga., a certain Gen. Hanson came in and sat down at the side of the judge, and began to tell him about the vast amounts of property he owned.
"Stop just a moment, general," said Dooley. "Mr. Sheriff, call in Jones, the receiver of tax returns."
In a few moments that worthy appeared.
"Mr. Receiver," said the judge, "come up here and make an inventory of Gen. Hanson's property. He has mistaken me for you."—Sunday Magazine.

Annual Privileges.
"I'm always glad when Christmas is over."
"I'm not."
"Why not?"
"Because I do anything I please for a month before Christmas, and my wife doesn't dare to scold me."—BX.

Two View Points.
"What's the shortest day in the year?"
"That depends."
"Depends upon what?"
"Well, as far as daylight goes Dec. 21 is the shortest, but most people find Dec. 24 the shortest, financially."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Good Advice.
De Boose—What shall I take to remove the redness from my nose, doctor?
Doctor—Take nothing for six months. Two dollars, please.—Epokyn Eagle.

Married for Money.
"Here is an interesting item about a man who has married 1,400 times."
"Gracious! He must be some eastern potentate!"
"No, the item says he is an Indiana justice of the peace."—Houston Post.

Self Help.
The Vicar's Wife—I'm sorry to see you're not paying into our club this year, Goodenough.
Goodenough—Well, mum, you see, well, it's like this, I live right behind the coal yard now!—From Punch.

Too Attentive for a Husband.
Nell—See how attentive he is to her. Of course, they are husband and wife. Belle—I dare say, but I'll bet he isn't her husband or she isn't his wife.—Philadelphia Record.

Drinks It.
"Does your husband keep liquor in the house?"
"Not very long."—Philadelphia Press.

"I'm looking for that new novel," said the customer. "I can't think of the name of it, but it's all about war and—"

"Here's one, ma'am," said the new clerk in the book store, "that's called 'When a Man's Married.' Maybe that's it."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Lola—Young Huggins must have an awful lot of money in the bank.
Goodenough—What reason have you for thinking that?
Lola—He showed me a book containing nearly a hundred checks that had never been written on.—Illustrated News.

Fate.
"I have never yet seen the girl I wanted to marry."
"When you do see her she's sure to

be the girl who doesn't want to marry you."—Exchange.

A Jealous Job.
Tess—She takes a very small shoe, doesn't she?
Jess—O' yes, indeed.
Tess—What size?
Jess—Two sizes smaller than her foot.—Philadelphia Press.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Annie's for January is more entertaining, more sparkling, and brighter than ever. The novelette by Edith Maevane, entitled "The Matchmaker," while a story of great dramatic power, is a very human, tender, low-story, by E. M. Sinclair has a picturesque story of the west in "The Red Ink Maid." Anne Warner's story, "The Bride's Prevision," is a humorous tale of very unusual quality. "The Stowaway Service," by Churchill Williams, is a story of a quasi-mystery type, and, although not a conventional detective story, has an interest much the same. Henry C. Rowland has the same. Jordan, is a thrilling tale of an American woman's adventure in Russia. Martha McCulloch Williams tells, in "A Pull at the Weights," a racing incident in her very best vein. "Yesterday's Reckoning," by Jane W. Guthrie, is a remarkable story of intellectual conflict between a man and a woman, of course with a keen love-interest. Henry C. Rowland has the same. "The Font of Speech," a story notable for its strength and originality. A humorous automobile story is "The Diabolical Tom-Cat," by F. W. Wadsworth Brown. Johnson Morton's "Mrs. Mainwaring Assists Fate" has a full measure of entertainment. "The Mistletoe" is a reasonable child story by George Hubbard. The two series of essays under the titles "Visions of an Optimist" and "Character and Consequences," by Margaret Sutton Briscoe and Mary Munroe respectively, are represented by exceptionally good essays—seventy-seven, and Fifteenth street, New York.

The North American Review for December 7th contains an unusually interesting and striking table of contents. The seventh instalment of Mark Twain's Autobiography contains some lively incidents in the acquaintance of Mr. Clemens and Grover Cleveland. In an article entitled "The Gospel of Wealth," Andrew Carnegie makes a plea for inheritance and corporation taxation. "Is the United States a World Power?" is the subject of inquiry by a very statesmanlike mind in connection with our recent experience with the San Francisco School Board. Professor Robert De C. Ward, of Harvard, an authority on immigration, contributes an article on "Pending Immigration Bills." "The Newfoundland Fishery Dispute," which has again become a subject of interest for England and America, is succinctly discussed by P. T. McGrath, a student of the history of that subject. In "The Case of Esperanto," Professor George Macloskie, of Princeton, points out the great desirability of Esperanto as an auxiliary international language. "Aspiration of Esperantists" is the title of an eloquent plea by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto, for faith in the ideal and ultimate aim of Esperanto, namely, the promotion of universal brotherhood and justice. Louis Collier Wilcox contributes a vivid article on the life and work of "Maxime Gorky." A. B. Hepburn, president of the Chase National Bank, New York, outlines the plan for a "Credit Currency" in order to relieve the money stringency that has of late checked our commercial history. In the literary department Alfred Noyes' "Poems" is reviewed by Richard Le Gallienne. Barrett Wendell's "Liberty, Union and Democracy," and Henry Cabot Lodge's "A Frontier Town and Other Essays," by H. W. Benson, and William de Morgan's "Joseph Vance," by Olivia H. Dunbar. The department of World-Politics contains communications from London and Paris. Among the topics dealt with in the Editor's Diary are "Races cannot Mingle," "Broader Aspects of Esperanto," "Why Girls are Uninteresting," "Of Modern Educational Methods," "The Sogamous Privilege of Widows," and "Woman Suffrage in Colorado."—Franklin Square, New York.

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