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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 9, 1908

TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Dear Brethren: "It is by no means improbable that some future text-book for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: JOSEPH SMITH, THE MORMON PROPHET."

Such was the opinion of Josiah Quincy in 1844, the year of the martyrdom. The intervening sixty-four years have tended to prove not only the greatness of Joseph Smith as a man, but also the divinity of the work he was instrumental in establishing. To every member of the Church, Joseph Smith is not only the most "historical American of the ninetcenth century" but a true prophet of God.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1908, will be the one hundred and third anniversary of his birth, and it is suggested that on Sunday Dec. 19, appropriate services be held in every Sunday school in the Church. As a means to this end, the General Sunday School Union Board suggests the following program. It is only suggestive, the purpose being to have every officer of the Sunday School Union put forth his best thought and effort to make the exercises so impressive that the children will realize the true greatness of the Latter-day prophet.

Omit regular class exercises. 1-Roll.

Song-"Joseph Smith's First Prayer.

Prayer." 3-Prayer. 4-Minutes of previous session. 5-Song, "One Hundred Years." 6-Administration of the Sacrament. 7-Song, "Joseph the Blest." 7-Articles of Faith in concert by the entire school. 9-Song, "Joseph Smith." 10-Brief anecdotes concerning say-ing of or avtracts from the life and

ings of, or extracts from the life and writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith; or extracts from the Doctrine and Covenants. (See Life of Joseph Smith by Geo. Q. Cannon). These may be given by classes in concert or by a represenagainst disabilities incurred while serving. It recommends employers' liabilities laws and old age pensions. On this subject the message has some excellent suggestions. The message recommends the in-

rease of the salaries of judges and the doing away with "the law's delays." It criticizes certain injunction proceedings as doing an injustice to employes. "The power of injunction," the message says, "is a great equitable remedy which should on no account be destroyed. But safeguards should be erected against its abuse. I believe that ome such provisions as those I advocated a year ago for checking the ubuse of the issuance of temporary injunctions should be adopted. In substance, provision should be made that no injunction or temporary restraining order issue otherwise than on notice, xcept where irreparable injury would otherwise result, and in such case a hearing on the merits of the order should be had within a short fixed veriod, and if not then continued after hearing it should forthwith lapse Decisions shoutd be rendered mimedi-

ately and the chance of delay minimized in every way. Moreover, I believe that the procedure should be sharply defined and the judge required minutely to state the particulars both of his action and of his reasons therefor, so that the Congress can, if it desires, examine and investigate the some." The message pleads for the preservation of the forests, and points to the conditions obtaining in the Medlter ranean countries of Europe, Africa and a warning example. It de-

scribes the dangers of deforestation and urges a wise forest economy. The message recommends immediate

action for the improvement of our inland waterways, and the placing of our national parks under the control of the forest service: it recommends nost. al savings banks and the extension of the parcels post on the rural routes: more ample appropriations for the national bureau of education are urged: ulso that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law. It recommends the passage of a bill authorizing the concentration of the existing health bureaus into one department, and the placing of the government printing office under the direction of the department of commerce and labor. It recommends statehood for New Mexico and Arizona. and the protection by mutual agreement of interstate fisheries and seal catching.

Foreign affairs are briefly reviewed. and the Message ends with some recommendations concerning military matters.

RELIGION IN THE STATE

What religion has done for the state, and what it always will do when it is a living force and not a dead form, is best seen in the influence of Puritanism upon public morals, and we are reminded of this by the anniversary of the birth of Milton, who became one of the most potent exponents of that movement. In. a recent article in the Specta-

tor, the author sets forth what Engand owes to Milton. He says few realize the nature and extent of the carnal life of the mass of Englishmen until the Puritan movement had begun seriously to take hold of their minds. The Anglo-Saxon was descended from sensual marauders, whose conversion to Christianity was largely nominal, given to gorging and drinking, filled, to use the apostolic words, with "desires of the flesh and of the mind." It was necessary that a powerful antidote to this animalism should be found, and it was found in Puritanism. The beginning of serious thought is traced to the Lollards, who became so numerous in England that a chronicler claims that, shortly after Wickliffe's death, every other man belonged to that sect. Religious earnestness, social reform and intellectual freedom characterized Lollardism Persecution could not kill it. When the court and aristocracy showed themselves unwilling to reform, the common people became all the more determined to purify the atmosphere, and under Charles I. Puritanism was the political palladium and moral salvation of England. No doubt there are those who would surround the state by a Chinese wall against every religious influence. In their narrow minds they cannot conceive of the mission of true religion in the state. Every time religion is mentioned they are approhensive lest there should be an encroachment upon the prerogatives of politicians. But their fears are unfounded. The real dangers to the state come from unbridled immorality, crass materialism and selfish lawlessness. Against these evils the state needs the influence of a living religious force. The nations that desire to become factors for good in the world must go back to the old ideals. They must alm at the building of a commonwealth in which neither mobs under the leadership of agitators, nor tyrants, have any influence, but in which free men and women live right-

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the facts in the case, dismisses the complaint. The report says:

"The Louisville & Nashville ins'sts that, owing to competition by river be-tween Louisville and Nashville and to other competitive conditions at Nash-ville, it is forced to charge a lower rate between those points than it otherwise reasonably might. The testimony in the record before us tends to sup-port this contention, and this situation port this contention, and this situation has been fully developed in previous investigations before, this commission. We find that these competitive condi-tions exist, and this being so, we must hold that the rate to Nashville is not of necessity a standard by which the rate to Gallatin can be measured; nor is the Louisville & Nashville necessarily in violation of the fourth section in charging a higher rate to Gallatin, the intermediate point, than is charged to Nashville, the more distant point."

The Commission, however, though admitting the necessity of taking competitive conditions into consideration

makes this important ruling: "The carrier may not, however, pro-perly actively a higher rate at Gallatin than it applies at Nashville, the more distant point, unless the rate to Gallatin is a reasonable one, and we think that in complaints of this kind the reason-ableness of the rate to the intermedi-ate point is of necessity involved."

The report concludes as follows: "There is no claim in the record be-"There is no claim in the record be-fore us that this commolity is unduly burdened by the payment of this trans-portation charge. No competitive con-dition is shown. The only ground on which the complainant claimed an overcharge was because of the higher rate to the intermediate point. The reasonableness of this rate is only in-cidentally drawn in question. We do not feel that the commission should in not feel that the commission should in this case and at this time attempt to pass upon that question. Without, therefore, expressing any opinion upon the correctness of the classification of this commodity or the inherent reason-ableness of the rates involved, either the locals or the through rate, the complaint will be dismissed."

We quote from the Traffic Bulletin of Nov. 28, for the information of readers interested in the present rate discussion. From the report it appears that if the complainant had proved that the commodity was unduly burdened by the payment of the transportation charge made; or if he had proved the existence of competitive conditions, or in some other way shown that the rate was unreasonable, the findings of the Commission might have been different. Railroad rates, the Commission says in substance, must be reasonable, and in all complaints of this kind the reasonableness of the rate is of necessity involved

May be Xanthippe was a suffragette. The divorce "habit" is generally

tailor-made. A good typewriter is always light

fingered, but honest.

too.

Mr. Carnegie says that he has more than he deserves. Others think so,

Hayti is very much afraid of interwontion. It do always the culprit who most fears the lash.

The world's population is composed mostly of tiresome and tired people.

All the world being a stage, anybody is entitled to make a spectacle of himself if he chooses to.

If Mr. Roosevelt ever fires one of his messages at the king of beasts

servers of the situation there since the first National assembly was dispersed and the shah's recent wrigglings over the question do not tend to increase confidence in the speedy triumph of constitutional methods. His majesty made bold, indeed, to declare an end o the business and attempted the restor-ntion of personal rule, but the protests of the British and Russian ministers caused a quick reversal of his posi-tion. The present British government has done its utmost to encourage these constitutional movements in the near

constitutional movements in the nea East, Premier Asquith even going so far in his recent Guildhall speech as to make specific mention of the Persian to make specific mention of the Persian reform movement as worthy of British approval. The shah has now heard about the bad impression he made abroad by his shifty attitude and his emphatic assertions of devotion to con-stitutionalism in Persia are clearly in-dicative of the British pressure.

SCIENCE MORE MODEST.

New York Evening Post.

Arguing against science at the pres-ent day would be acting like the farm-er who saw an elephant for the first time and declared that he didn't believe there was such a beast. But to protest against the exaggerated claims of the scientists is not only legitimate, but useful. For it is certain that reaction will otherwise carry us to the opposito extreme of mysticism, spiritualism, and plain claritatone. Bumptions fighting plain clarlatanry. Bumptions fighting about electrons and cons will make an opening for the discovery of "psychom-eres" or soul-atoms. Evolution itself is eres" or soul-atoms. Evolution itself is growing more modest, as it should. If may be true that biology has piled up millions of facts in its support. But now and then it stands revealed that all the million facts hang one upon the other, and that no one of them is al-together beyond question. Twenty years ago the extreme Darwinians could easily have told us why women have long hair. Primitive marriage was always marriage by capture. The long-haired women could be easily long-haired women could be easily scized and dragged away in the for-est. The short-haired women failed to get husbands, and in the course of time died out. But nowadays we time died out. But nowadays we should look twice at such an explana-

tion.

JUST FOR FUN.

That Midnight Ride. The iconoclasts are now trying to de molish Paul Revere's midnight ride They will not succeed. Longfellow imnortalized Paul Revere, and he will

stay among the immortals when all the iconoclasts are forgotten. But suppose he had lived nowadays! Imagine a deathless lyric beginning: Listen, my children, and you shall hear

The midnight honk of the "mobileer." Albany Argus

Taking It in Sections.

"Forgive and forget," said the generous man. "That's my motto." "I don't know about forgiving," answered Mr. Dustin Stax. "But it would be hard to get through these investi-gations without knowing how to forget."-Washington Star.

Art for Art's Sake.

"I like to see a man take an interest in his work "So do I. I once knew a policeman who was so enthusiastic that it positively pained him to see anybody out of jail."-Louisville Courier- Journal.

Must Have Meant Him.

"I wish I knew," said Cholly saphead "if I have any show of winning Miss Roxie Swellman." "Well," remarked Miss Pepprey, "from a remark of hers I think you're her cholce." "Aw! really? What did she say?"

"She said nobody was good enough to be her husband."-St, Louis Post-Dispatch.

Disguised. Two suffragettes the other evening



tative from each department 11-ftemarks (preferably by those who knew the Prophet). 12-Song, "Sing, Sing the Wondrous Story." 13-Benediction.

Sincerely your brethren, JOSEPH F. SMITH. GEORGE REYNOLDS, DAVID O, MCKAY. General Superintendency. GEO. D. PYPER, Gen. Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's message is a document well worth reading. It gives the views of the Chief Executive upon many of the questions to which public attention has been called and suggests necessary legislation. All citizens who care about the affairs of the Republic will read it thoughtfully.

The message very properly starts with a brief financial review, the gist of which is that the past seven years and three months there have been a net surplus of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama canal and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charge. There have been no new taxes and no increases of taxes. On the contrary, some taxes have been taken off. The currency system, however, is imperfect and reform is recommended.

On the question of corporations, the message emphasizes the right of the Federal government to control all agencies of interstate commerce, but it points out that this power must be exercised with wisdom so that justice may be done to all parties. "There must be no defrauding of investors, oppression of the farmers and business men who ship freight, or callous disregard of the rights and needs of the employes. In addition to this, the interests of the shareholders, of the employes and of the shippers should all be guarded as against one another To give any one of them undue and improper consideration is to do injustice to the others. Rates must be made as low as is compatible with ville. Ind., to Gallatin, Tenn. The shipgiving proper returns to all the employes of the railroad, from the highest to the lowest, and proper returns to the shareholders, but they must not. for in time, be reduced in such fash-Ion a- to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employee or the abolition of the proper and legitimate profits of arch ider

The massage deals at length with the labor question. It recommends the prohibition of child labor, the diminution of woman labor and the shortening of the hours of all mechanical labor. and recommends that Congress take up in earnest the question of protection of laborers, as far as possible,

RAILROAD RATES.

eous lives under just laws.

without any comment.

A case involving railroad rates was decided by the Interstate Commerce board on Nov. 10. As the question inwhat they do, and so should be forvolved is of general interest, a brief account of the controversy is here given,

The complainant, the Flint & Walling Manufacturing company, shippel a carload of tanks, etc., from Kendallment was made via the Grand Rapids & Indiana railway and the Pittsbu g. Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis railway to Louisville, and from Louisville via the Louisville & Nashville railroad to Gallatin. A freight of 46 cents per 100 pounds was charged made up of the joint rate of the various roads-16 cents from Kendallville to Louisville and 30 cents from Louisville to Gallatin. The complainant points out that the rate from Louisville to Nashville, a distance

of 187 miles, is only 15 cents, and he therefore claims that the rate from Louisville to Gallatin, a distance of only 159 miles, should not be 30 cents.

will bring him down sure A man with a large and growing family always feels 'that he would like o have an overgrown fortune.

The Panther is at Colombo. Will it call on any of its cousins, the tigers? Ceylon is a great place for them.

The Saragossa Sea has completely disappeared. It seems to have sunk unknelled, uncoffined and unknown,

The "red light" district seems to be about the only bright and shining light in the Pseudo-American administration.

The City Council has raised the salary of the city engineer twelve hundreddollars at a single jump. As Puck said, What, etc., etc.

The New York World wants Congress to investigate the Panama canal deal. Has it so soon forgotten Its Emperor William interview?

No food and butter trust? Certainly there is not. Neither is there any Standard Oil or beef or other trust; in fact there never was a trust of any kind.

In the cloicter of the cathedral at Toledo, hang chains with which Christians were once manacled by the Moors. Some day there may hang in the cloister of Westminster Abbey the chains with which the suffragettes were chained to their seats in the Commons and Albert Hall, and their names linked to enduring fame.

"Pat" Crowe is going on the lecture platform under the auspices of the Woman's Christian Temperance union of Chicago. This is the ne plus ultra of soft and silly sentimentalism. Of the worthy and well meaning women who are responsible for his forthcoming appearance on the lecture platform it may be said that they know not

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worth Huntington, of the department of geography, Yale university, de-scribes his travels in Chinese Turkes-

tan; and William W. Lord, Jr., gives an are eight copiously illustrated short stories, including a decidedly humorous

tale by Margaret Cameron entitled, "The Thing That Couldn't." Van Tas-

sel Sutphen's story. "The Written Word, is a love affair full of amusing tangles which are finally unravelled to

the happiness of all involved. Other stories are by Mary E. Wilkins Free-man. Olivia Howard Dunbar, Forrest Crissey, Philip Verrill Mighels, and Emma Bell Miles.—Harner & Bro., New York

given. Speaking of the new "red light" district Mayor Bransford says: never talked to the parties who are building the stockade, but I told a

third party who sold them some property that if the establishments were properly erected and the business properly carried out there would be no trouble. The stockade was built, the persons interested in the proposition have put their money into it, and I am going to keep my word as far as lies within my power." And if burglaries and hold-ups, assaults and murders were "properly carried out" probably there "would be no trouble." "Thank God for the American party!"

PERSIAN CONSTITUTION. Springfield . Republican.

Constitutionalism is Persia has not The Commission after considering all been taken very seriously by many ob- | York.

made their way into a private house where a reception was being given in honor of Mr. Asquith, and created an unpleasant scene. They were disguised as ladles.—London Punch.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Current Literature for December fea-tures several articles appropriate to the Phones Bell, Exc. 35. Ind., 2600. Christmas season. One is a description of Jessie Wilcox Smith's Mother-and-Child pictures illustrated by beautiful reproductions. The child-note, if not the Christmas note, is emphasized in an account of the victory of Judge Ben D. Lindsey of the juvenile court in Ben D. Lindsey of the juvenile court in Denver, over both the old-party organ-izations. There is also an article on that rustic and Christmasy melodrama, "The Old Homestead," which has been played in this country 7,000 times, and has earned \$3,000,000. Other striking features of the month are articles as features of the month are articles on "The Tafts," with characterizations and portraits of Mrs. Taft, soon to be the first lady of the land, and of Judge Taft's brothers and children. An ar-ticle that will make a wide popular appeal deals with recent efforts to abolish the comic supplements of the Sun-day newspapers. Portraits of all the leading comic artists are given. Arthur leading comic artists are given. Arthur Stringer's arraignment of the "Canada Fakers" is treated at length. Under "Religion and Ethics" are featured "The Religion of Helen Keller" and "The Remarkable Growth of the Em-manuel Movement;" and under "Sci-ence and Discovery" the following sub-jects: "The Physiological Price of Al-coholic Stimulation" and "A Typewrit-er Driven by Compressed Air," The story of the month is by Mary Heaton Vorse.-41-43 West 25th St., New York. A mysterious, humorous tale of adventure, opens the rich and gloving Christmas number of Harpers Maga-zine. The story is by Howard Pyle; and the seventeen paintings in color which he has made for it are probably the most successful work of the kind yet done by this famous artist. There are a great many other illustrations in this genuinely holiday number, in color, in duotone, and in black and white-eighty in all. A new, very dramatic, and absorbing serial story is begun, whose scenes open in Paris and are soon transferred to New York, revolving around a young woman of a pe-culiar fascination. The articles in the number include many interesting sub-jects. Dr. Punnett, of Cambridge uni-versity, writes of "Applied Heredity," showing the human value of the new experiments in animal breeding: Nor-man Duncan contributes a picturesque account of "One Day's Adventures" in account of One Day's Adventures' in Damascus, full of oriental color and mystery; Thomas A. Janvier writes an-other group of "Legends of the City of Mexico," in which his fine style is at its best; Charles H. Caffin, the art critic, tells of the "Leaders of the New Salon," the most recent successful French artists and their work; Ells-