DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

Thursday, November 28, is the date in 1895 designated for Thanksgiving Day—a national institution in the United States for the last third of a century. In a few of the states other dates have been adopted for the time of special thanksgiving, but in most of the states and territories, including Utah, this is the day which receives general observance. Truly in the year 1895 these United States have cause to render praise and gratitude to the Giver of all good for mercies and benefits richly bestowed upon the nation. Taken all in all, the tranquility and progress which characterize all phases of national life give abundant evidence that the hand of the Almighty has been over the country for good and has showered rich blessings upon the people.

It may be also said that in no part of the nation is there greater cause for praise and gratitude to the Divine Ruler than in Utah and those adjacent sections of country so closely related with her people as to be included in any reference to them. These valleys have teemed with the rich fruits of toil, health and comfort have been the lot of their inhabitants, and union, peace and good will have dwelt in the hearts of the sons and daughters of this intermountain region. Wherever Utah has taken part, whenever in the past year there has been a movement in which the welfare of her people has been concerned, the outcome has been for truth and progress; and though at times there have been clouds which threatened to obscure the bright sun of prosperity and to raise a thrill of anxiety in the bosoms of her people, in every instance the Divine Power has overruled circumstances for the most satisfactory results. Hence in this year of our Lord the dwellers in these mountain vales may raise to the Great Creator the voice of praise from hearts filled to overflowing with gratitude for protecting care given in time of need and for the good that has been poured out in unstinted measure.

Thanksgiving Day is a time of praise to the Almighty for His blessings, and of rejoicing in being recipients of the same; as was said by President George Washington in the first thanksgiving proclamation issued after the Republic came into existence, and the first made by a general authority which named an autumn date for such a purpose—Thursday, Nov. 26, 1789—it is a day "to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all that was, or is, or that will be." Herein is set forth the design of the day: that it be devoted to the service of a Father who seeks the welfare and happiness of all His children. Hence in its proper observance the people of Utah should perform those acts which bring good to all, whatever their walk in life; they may meet in places of worship, or around the firesides, and render up songs and words of prayer, praise and thanksgiving to the Author of their being; they may ennoble that Life which is set for an example to them by comforting the afflicted, succoring the needy, cheering those who are filled with sorrow, and extending the hand of love and fellowship to all who will receive; and they may manifest their own rejoicing in seasonable indulgence in pastimes or in partaking of bountiful repasts wherein compliance with the laws of their being receives due regard.

Thus may our Thanksgiving observance partake of many different forms, in all of which, however, there should be the leading idea of thanksgiving to the Almighty for His blessings and of conforming to His will by blessing others. He has circumscribed our actions by no "blue laws" to limit the legitimate rejoicings of our hearts. The Voice which said "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day" suggests that those actions that bring peace, purity, health, rejoicing, whether in the house of worship, the dining hall, or on the playground, may be designed in His service, according to the proper desires and requirements of the individual.

Upon this, the eve of Thanksgiving, the News wishes all its readers, and the people generally, a right joyous time. May cause and plenty be their portion, and a realization of their duty to God and to their fellowmen find a permanent abode in their hearts, as shown by the practical illustrations daily lived. And comfortable with this desire, that its employes may have full opportunity to engage in profit and rejoicing upon this Thanksgiving Day, the News will say adieu to its patrons until Friday evening.

BRING IT HERE!

The telegram from President George Q. Cannon, now at the Transmississippi Congress at Omaha, to Mayor-elect James Glendinning, shows that it will be an easy matter for Salt Lake City to secure the next meeting of the congress, by prompt appropriate action. Hence, the question of the moment is, What will Salt Lake do? The response should be given at once and should be in line with the favorable intimation in Mr. Glendinning's reply. Every impulse of patriotism in our municipality demands that all reasonable effort should be put forth to secure the 1896 meeting of the Transmississippi Congress for Salt Lake City. To us as a community and to the locality whose commercial interests they represent, the business men of Salt Lake should make such quick and hearty response that the delegates now assembled in Omaha may have no occasion to give thought to another meeting point than here.

There is no necessity for argument among those interested in Salt Lake's welfare to demonstrate that the bringing of the next congress here is a material advantage which should not be lost sight of. By the time it is held it is more than probable that Utah will have assumed the roses of State sovereignty, with this city as the seat of its government. In national affairs the State will have taken a position of such importance as never before realized in its history, and seldom in the history of any new state of the Union. Considerations related to these events, and many more, might be urged as special reasons why the Transmississippi Congress of 1896 should be sought for this place; but every intelligent citizen will recognize, without prolonged discussion, that we ought to have the congress. The fates now are favorable; there is no occasion for entering into a scramble for the post of honor. The congress is offered to Salt Lake City for next season, and it should not require a second day for the business men of this city to pledge themselves to meet the required expense, which is comparatively so small as to rest lightly upon any popular movement in favor of the plan. At this juncture the material question is, What will the business men do for the general credit and welfare of the city? On the response to this inquiry, we have no hesitancy in expressing the opinion that the Transmississippi Congress of 1896 will meet in the capital of the new State of Utah. Bring it along!

SAVED CLOTHES, ABANDONED CASH

An interesting bit of civil war history that the books do not contain has just come to light in the form of a personal reminiscence about a serious blunder made by the Library Digest. That journal in its issue for November 9, alluding to John Ericsson's monument in Sweden, said that the ironclad Monitor, built by him for the United States, "sunk the Confederate Merrimac in Hampton Roads, March 9, 1862." Of course every student of history knows that such was not the case. The Monitor whipped the Merrimac, but did not sink her; the latter drew off after the fight, reaching Norfolk navy yard about noon of the 9th of March, 1862. A little over thirty-six hours later, that is, before daylight on the morning of the 11th, she was blown up by the Confederates, and there are many people still living who heard the explosion.

One of these, N. B. Webster, of New Jersey, in writing to the Literary Digest and pointing out its error in the statement above quoted, narrates an incident that has probably never appeared in print before. He says that the last man to leave the Merrimac (by order of Commander Tatnall) was Captain White. The latter officer had just procured a new Confederate uniform. Uniforms were very costly then, and just as he was about to light the fuse and leave the ship, he thought of his new uniform. He hastily changed his old for the new, but he forgot the contents of his pockets and did not think of several thousand dollars in his old clothes until the ship blew up!

If Confederate bills had been as sadly depreciated at that stage of the war as they were a couple of years later, the loss would not have been so serious; they did have a purchasing power at that time, however, as is shown by the fact that though uniforms came high, rebel money would buy them. In addition to the inconvenience of the incident itself, the funny part now is that at a little later date almost any of his fellow-Confederates would have done as he did—parted more for clothes than for cash.

SABBATH'S BAR.

The announcement that Sabbath, generally called the American pope, is to be rewarded with the cardinalatial berets is the subject of newspaper comments varying in tone according to the views and sympathies of the writers. But all agree that the papal abigaile has filled a difficult mission in this country with remarkable tact and skill and that he has earned the honor.

He came to America only three years ago and commenced his career here at a time when storm was brewing in the Catholic church. The discussions on matters pertaining to ecclesiastical policy were marked and the controversies assumed a bitter character. Even the papal decree by which Sabatti was invested with extraordinary authority threatened to become a cause of dissension, because it was loudly whispered in some quarters that Cardinal Gibbons had been slighted by the substitution of his authority to that of a stranger, supposed to be unacquainted with the conditions he was sent to adjust. There was no precedent to follow, no landmarks to go by in this new field of mission, but he was entirely left to his own genius. Notwithstanding the difficulties, however, he has accomplished his purpose and brought harmony into the ranks, and it seems, moreover, that he has gained the admiration of friends and opponents alike, within the Catholic church in America. He will shortly return to Rome and it appears that his official mission at the papal court will be to represent the American Catholics, as he in this country has been the personal representative of the pope.

There seems to be a notable departure in this instance from rules previously observed. Twice cardinals have been installed in this country, but this will be the first time in which the scarlet cap is conferred by a prelate of the same ecclesiastical rank as the candidate. The ceremony, which is to take place in Washington is sure to be one of the most gorgeous nature.

The cardinal's hat is a large affair. It is several feet in diameter and not intended as a covering for the head. It is a reminder that the owner is to be prepared at all times to defend the causes of the church, even if this involves the shedding of his own blood. Hence its color.

ANSWERING THE late charge as to a large sum of money made by him in dealing in South African gold stocks, ex-President Harrison blushingly admits that he did speculate once upon a time, and once only; but it was in Montana, not Africa; and in cattle, not Kaffirs. From his tone and manner, it is evident that whatever may be his reckless daring in political ventures, he knows when he has enough of stock speculation.

IF THE next Republican convention is to be held in San Francisco, the famous Lick telescope may be put to early use in scanning the political sky for the coming nominee.

THE NEW minister for minister to Switzerland is a Missourian, by name Mr. Peak, and he is said to stand high. He is going to a land where he will find plenty of high peaks for company.

AMONG THE few who are making money these hard times we note the enterprising counterfeiter—and even he complains.

IT LOOKS as though winter were really here; the mercury in the thermometer has dropped to the fact.

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