

**DESERET EVENING NEWS**  
Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.  
(Sundays excepted.)  
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Charles W. Penrose, Editor.  
Morris G. Whitney, Business Manager.  
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES  
(In Advance)  
One Year, \$2.00  
Six Months, \$1.25  
Three Months, \$0.75  
One Month, \$0.25  
Saturday edition, per year, \$2.00  
Semi-Weekly, per year, \$1.00  
NEW YORK OFFICE.  
In charge of R. P. Cummings, Manager.  
Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 117 Park Row Building, New York.  
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.  
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 26 Geary St.  
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.

# IT IS TRULY "A PLAIN CASE"

The Salt Lake paper that makes a specialty of attacking and misrepresenting the city Board of Education, persists in its assertion that the school board blundered. In making its estimate of the amount required for school expenses for the coming year, that paper says:

"It should have certified \$250,000, say, instead of \$150,000. It did certify, then, all would have been plain sailing and the \$50,000 would have been allowed."

Indeed! Well, the board certified that the sum of \$250,000 would be required for the year's expenses. There was no "blunder" in that, and this certification has not been changed either by "another blunder," as charged, or in any way at all. The board expected to receive \$100,000 from the county school tax on the rate of levy requested. On that basis, \$150,000 was all that would be necessary from the city school tax, considering the amounts from other sources. Why then should the board have asked for \$250,000, as now absurdly suggested by our contemporary?

When the commissioners decided not to levy the rate for the county requested by the school board, but a percentage that would yield for it only \$57,000 instead of \$100,000, the board then asked for an increase on the city rate to make up the deficiency as far as possible. The limit allowed by law is \$40 mills. The commissioners thought that five and two-tenths mills would be enough to net the \$100,000, which would have been all right if the \$100,000 from the county had been allowed. But the shortage of \$25,000 caused, not from the estimate made by the board, but from the rate fixed by the county commissioners.

But suppose the would-be wise but belated suggestion of our contemporary had been carried out, and the school board had asked for \$250,000, when but \$150,000 was needed on the basis of its other requests; would all have been "plain sailing" then? Not by any means. That would have yielded but \$15,000 against the deficiency of \$25,000 caused by the action of the county board in furnishing \$57,000 instead of \$100,000 asked for from the county tax. Now as to the change of the city rate requested by the school board. The additional three-tenths of a mill demanded, would not make up the deficiency occasioned by the shortage explained, but it was all the law permitted. And that the call for the increase came too late, was occasioned by the fact that the levy by the county board was delayed so that legal procedure failed to effect the partial remedy desired.

We are not defending the action of the school board in trying by mandamus to compel the commissioners to raise the city rate, nor in dividing up the amounts among the different sources of revenue as a guide for the commissioners. But we want the facts to be known, so that the Board of Education may not be unjustly censured or placed in a false light before the public, when it is evident that it made a straight and economic estimate as possible at the date required by law, and when the shortage which now stares that body in the face, was not occasioned by its certification of the sum required. The truth ought not to be perverted by partisanship, by spite, or by mistakes of reporters. Fair play is the right thing, every time.

## "HONOR TO WHOM," ETC.

A respected friend who belongs to the G. A. R. makes some comments, not however for publication, on a statement in this paper about the general sentiment here respecting that organization. We mention it for the benefit of others, and to emphasize our denial of the charge that the "Mormons" are or have been unfriendly to the members of the G. A. R.

Our friend replies that when he returned to Utah in 1887 after serving in the Civil war, he found a number of persons who gave him "the cold shoulder" and manifested considerable feeling against the G. A. R. He asserts, too, that there are some people, now, at the place where he lives, who claim that the "rebel generals should be recognized and honored in history," and that the statue of Lee ought to have a place in the capitol at Washington. He says: "Now that kind of stuff does not strike a G. A. R. man very pleasantly."

From these and other remarks he makes, it is easy to see that he is pretty radical in his own views as a Union soldier, and can only see one side of the controversy. He says he asked the defender of the South, "if he thought there was no difference between treason and loyalty, between the traitor and the patriot." This shows that his own words are likely to provoke antagonism, and that he does not feel much inclination to "shake hands over the bloody chasm," or to promote fraternity between "the blue and the gray."

Now the Deseret News takes the ground, that the utterances of our

putes of a few individuals are not to be taken for an expression of the views and sentiments of the "Mormons" or of the majority of the people of Utah. Nor is the intense partisanship and devotion to the side of the North, displayed by some old Union soldiers, to be taken as the sense of the loyal people of the United States today. That we appreciate the great achievements of the Union army and the grand results of the war of emancipation, need not be repeated. That has been expressed times enough. On the other hand, we do not close our eyes to the valor and sacrifice of the mistaken warriors of the South, who fought for a principle and most of whom were as sincere for independence as were their antagonists for the maintenance of the Union. To call them traitors and their cause treason, is not in accord with the spirit of the period, nor likely to create cordiality or good feeling towards those who use such terms, even if they are members of the G. A. R. and worthy of esteem for their services to the nation.

Those harsh epithets were used towards the grand souls who fought for freedom against the government of Great Britain. If they had failed, in the conflict, the foul brands would still be applied. But under Divine Providence they conquered, and the whilom "traitors" are now heroes, and their "treason" is counted as patriotism. We do not justify secession nor apologize for rebellion. But we desire to judge fairly the acts of brave men, and to give credit for courage and sincerity, even to those who are in error, when they struggle for that which they believe to be right.

"This kind of stuff" may not be pleasant to our G. A. R. friend, who evidently retains the animosities of the civil strife and also strong partisan prejudices. But there are hosts of our country's defenders who have divested themselves of the bitterness of "the late unpleasantness," and are ready to acknowledge the virtues of many of their former enemies. Let us be thankful that the Union has been preserved, despite that it may be perpetuated, honor or the valiant soldiers who fought in its defense, and see that none of them are neglected in their old age.

But now that the "crucial war is over," and the motives and acts of the conquered shine out in the light of fairness and charity, let us drop the hard words and rasping tones of the time of the conflict, and be willing to acknowledge the lofty intent and high endeavor which animated the chivalry of the South, in the valiant but abortive endeavor to divide that Union which was meant to be indivisible. We should be "brothers all!"

## INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

A recent discovery in Egypt is thought to throw some light upon the so-called star of Bethlehem. It consists of an astronomical document containing a list of the positions of the planets during the years 17 B. C. to 10 A. D.

It will be remembered that Matthew says that a star of uncommon magnitude, or brilliancy, appeared at the time of the birth of our Lord, and that astrologers (Magi) from the east were, by this, led to go to Jerusalem to inquire for the newborn King. The star also guided them to the house in which the child was found.

According to Kepler's calculations, Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction in the constellation of the Fishes (a fish being the astrological symbol of Judea) in the latter half of the year of Rome 747, and were joined by Mars in 748. The two planets went past each other three times, came very near together, and showed themselves for months in conjunction. This unusual phenomenon is by some thought to be the star of Matthew. Others have not given much credit to this view. They regard the story of the star rather as an allegory than history.

The astronomical list now found in Egypt confirms Kepler's calculations as correct. An account in the Literary Digest says: "In this list the conjunctio maxima, which the mathematical calculations of Kepler had worked out, is mentioned as a fact, and is described with all possible details as a phenomenon that had on this occasion appeared for the first time since the days of Alexander the Great. A demotic description accompanies this conjunctio maxima, which agrees throughout with the main facts as reported in the second chapter of Matthew. In fact, the agreement is surprising in its extent. It is said, for example, that the star stood over Bethlehem—a statement which commentators, and among them the latest, Holzmann, declare to be poetical; but in this Egyptian account it appears that the expression 'stood' is the astronomical technical term used to designate the conjunctio maxima of Jupiter that occurred on the 26th of December, 8 B. C. This latter fact explains, too, why the primitive Church appointed December as the Christmas month."

The discovery is interesting as confirming the calculations of Kepler, but it is doubtful whether it is important as fixing the date of the birth of Christ. The year of Rome 747 is six years before our era. Generally it is supposed that the nativity occurred four years before our era. Doubt and uncertainty remain.

## POOR PREACHING.

The Providence Journal thinks that "poor preaching" is one of the great causes of modern religious indifference. The Journal points out that many preachers denounce where they should encourage, sneer where they should soothe, plant fear instead of hope in the hearts of the timid, or are scornful where they should be infinitely patient. Many preachers have no other aim in life than to do good to their fellows—those excellent men who can not preach—but undo in the pulpit all they accomplish elsewhere because of "slipped English," "disjointed arguments," "trivial anecdotes," and "strings of conventional catchwords." As a remedy against this the Journal proposes:

"Men are no worse than they need to be, nor is Christian charity any rarer under the sun. But if the officials of the church would insist upon a higher intellectual and educational standard of admission to the clergy, or at least would select with the care practiced in other professions those who are commissioned to expound the principles of philosophy to a world that nowadays does more of its own thinking than ever

before, the influence of the clergy upon our daily lives would be vastly greater than it is, and there would be many less sinners in the seat of the scornful, and far fewer sinners outside the fold."

There may be something in this, but it does not tell more than half of the story, why religious indifference is so general. The other side of it is this, that the religious denominations are becoming more and more secularized. Preaching is but a means of making a living. "Churches" are but social clubs, or they conduct commercial enterprises. The spiritual is swallowed up by the material.

The facts are very well set forth in the following which a contemporary gives as "the diary of a church member." It is well worth serious study:

"Monday, Just returned from the Guild of Teachers' convention in New York. Trip so expensive I won't be able to subscribe a cent to church work here for twelve months."

"Tuesday afternoon. Attended picnic of Holy Strugglers' Society. Excellent athletic sports. Evening. Meeting of the Church Literary Club. Read paper on Bible Study a Handicap to Novelists."

"Wednesday. Daughters of Royalty and fair this afternoon. Bought paper for \$3.75. Most successful event, as all society leaders were present."

"Thursday. Birthplace League social good fun. Church well decorated for event. Won first prize in cakewalk open to members of all church societies."

"Friday. The Bibles Brotherhood refused my proposition to hold a Fall carnival. Would bring in big money and be splendid ad for the church, but they are all dead ones."

"Saturday. Yappers' Union held a most successful debate on the advisability of separating the Union from the Church. Evening. Attended social and concert by the Young Gushers' Auxiliary and Church Aid Society. Lasted until daylight."

"Sunday. Rested. Too tired to go to church."

That tells its own story. Human capacity is but limited, and when so much attention is demanded for conventions, picnics, fairs, sports, carnivals, societies, unions, etc., there will be little opportunity for spiritual improvement, and no time to serve God. One affliction drives another out.

## MACEDONIAN REVOLT.

It is evident that the rebellion in Macedonia has broken out, and that it threatens to assume rather serious proportions. The rising appears to be general in Monastir, Salonica, and Adrianople, thus embracing a large part of European Turkey. The preparations for this rising have been going on for seven years, and it is thought the patriots are well prepared for a long struggle. Hitherto the conflicts between Turks and insurgents have occurred while the former were searching for arms and ammunition, and torturing the inhabitants to make them reveal the hiding places of the forbidden implements of war. Now the insurgents have taken to the offensive, and with some success. Will their success continue? Single-handed they can certainly not free themselves from the Turkish yoke. But if they have anything of the Boer quality in them, they may be able to fight long enough to compel the interested powers to interfere, and then they may gain liberty. It has recently been said that "the danger of a European conflagration is real, and it is near," and the prediction seems about to be verified.

Turkish rule in Europe is an anomaly, and can be accounted for on no other supposition than this, that it is a punishment for the gross idolatry, and other abominations, that were perpetrated under the name of divine worship. It commenced in the 14th century, when the Ottomans first crossed over the Dardanelles, and soon spread all over southern Europe, devastated kingdoms and principalities, and planted the heel of oppression upon millions of so-called Christians. Then followed the crusades and other efforts at hurling back the unpeppable Turk to the regions whence he came. It was a contest that lasted for centuries. During the last century the Turk has slowly been driven out of Europe, and if this revolt succeeds, practically his last stronghold there is gone. One by one the Greeks, Roumanians, Servians, Bulgarians, and Cretans have been liberated. It is but to be sincerely hoped that the remaining unfortunate may succeed in gaining liberty.

The atrocities committed by Turks in the "governed" provinces are a matter of record. It has been estimated that in normal years two thousand Macedonians are annually murdered by the systematic and regular exercise of the Mohammedan religion. When there is excitement as in 1870, the number of victims goes up to twenty, fifty or one hundred thousand. The men are tortured and killed, or put in prison to rot; the women and even little girls suffer shame and horrors and are killed or dragged into harems. The houses are looted and the villages burned. In ordinary times when there are no foreign correspondents around, when there is peace in Turkey, the same regime is equally invariable. Only at such times, the "Christians" are done to death singly or by families. Such is the unanimous testimony of all who have studied the Turkish question. A correspondent of the Boston Transcript, evidently well acquainted with the subject says:

"Perhaps these Christians would stand it all were one exception made, were only the honor of the women held inviolate. Upon this the vital point of the question, however, details would be indicated. But the condition must be understood. Upon the Christian womanhood of Macedonia Turkish brutality is wreaked unchecked. There is a land of tears, and that is Macedonia, where a woman's beauty is a woman's curse, and where wide crosses are branded upon the fair foreheads of thousands of Christian girls, to save them at any rate from the harem and to drag them out if they are once dragged in. Hundreds of homes are every year dishonored. There is no justice, there is no defender of the law except the hidden rifle, which may afford redress. A chance shot at the ghoul and then a bitter life among the revolutionary bands on the hills. Does anyone wonder that the announcement of two dispatches, that the Macedonians are joining the revolutionists?"

"An aged American missionary, who has spent his life among the Bulgarians in Macedonia, said: 'Europe blames these people for using dynamite. If I were a Macedonian, I would throw bombs myself.'"

We have no prejudices against Turks, or against any other nation or race. Each has a mission in this world, and a place in which to work it out. And the Turks are no worse than other Asiatic nations that have failed to fall in line with the march of civilization. It is a question whether the Turks are, in any sense, worse than their Russian neighbors, though the latter are looked up to as liberators of the oppressed races. But we believe the mission of the Turk in Europe is about ended. We believe the countries over which he has so long held the sharpened scimitar, is about to be given to other peoples, who will redeem them, and bless the world through a new era of civilization. We look forward to great changes, contingent upon the redemption of those countries. All who view the present occurrences as preludes to greater historical events will eagerly watch for the development of the Macedonian revolt.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A contributor to an English paper has been looking up the history of the popes, who have reigned under the name of Plus, and he finds that they all have been extremely unfortunate. It is well that the present incumbent of the papal throne is not superstitious. If he were, the thought of the misfortunes of his predecessors and namesakes might haunt him, and make life miserable. This is the record:

"The first Plus, who ruled in the second century, was martyred. No pope took the name again for 1,200 years. The second Plus was somewhat of an adventurer in his lay days, and was post laureate at Vienna. On becoming pope he had to face a rebellion in Rome. Plus III ruled for a few days in 1503, and is said to have died from poison. Plus IV and V followed each other in the middle of the sixteenth century, and it was the latter who, with the use of abominable language excommunicated Queen Elizabeth."

"The name of Plus was not again heard of until the close of the eighteenth century. Plus VI ruled in Rome when the storm of the French revolution burst. Bonaparte drove him from his city, and ordered the papacy to be abolished. The aged pope was treated with indignity, his private property was confiscated, and he died in exile, at Valence, in 1799."

"His successor also took the name of Plus when he was elected at Venice, the conclave being under the protection of Russia. It suited Napoleon's purposes to recognize the temporal power of Plus VII, and the pope came to Paris to crown Napoleon. But in 1809 Napoleon again abolished the temporal power, and deposed Plus, who was not restored till 1814."

"The next pope but one was Plus VIII, and he had an uneventful reign from 1829 to 1831. Another pope now intervened. Plus IX was elected in 1846. Within him the misfortunes that seemed to attend the name culminated in the total abolition of the temporal power."

In the Balkans the plot seems to thicken.

The Sultan cannot do too much for the Czar.

Mr. Schwab is neither out of the Steel trust nor out by it.

May the broken back of the hot weather not be mended this year?

No lyncher was ever known to say: "Lead us not into temptation."

The Sultan will keep an eye on those Russian ships that pass in the night.

The highest powered lamp in the world is the lamp of experience.

The eple of the prospector should be written in the miner key.

"Could Turkey fight long?" asks an exchange. Doubtless she could fight longer than any other sick man.

A million dollars' worth of water has been stolen in New York. "Stolen waters are sweet."

And Utah is to furnish radium. Already light from Utah radiates throughout the world.

A whole host of prize-fighters is coming to our city. They should be treated as parting guests and speeded.

The "History of the Carnegie Steel Company" by James Howard Bridge is the great modern Bridge of signs.

How often men will sacrifice their friends to advance their own interests, and do it all under the name and style of the public welfare!

The Macedonian revolution is spreading. And contrary to the general rule, the more it spreads the deeper it gets.

"A lath painted to look like iron," was Biemarch's characterization of Salisbury. But the world never accepted it as correct.

Civilian visitors to the military encampment at Timpanogos are learning that "none but the brave deserve the fair."

Mrs. Hodge got mad when it was intimated that she had big feet. Yet the song says: "All the angels have big feet."

"Mustard plasters come under the head of drawing instruments," says the Chicago News. Wrong. They come under the head of man.

Had he not lived so long near slaughter houses, perhaps that Chicago professor would never have justified the ways of cannibals.

Professor Barnard Moses would have the Filipino youth taught English. It is much better than to teach the young Filipino idea how to shoot.

A Missouri woman seeks a divorce on the ground that she was hypnotized when she was married. Of course she was. That's how Cupid gets in his work.

The Marconi wireless telegraph was recently used to transmit money to a vessel in midocean. This will encourage hot air schemers to think they can collect money the same way.

King Peter has threatened twice within ten days to abdicate. Apparently he dare not carry out his threats to abdicate any more than he dare carry out his proposed reforms.

Lieutenant Commander Takeshira



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UTAH'S GREATEST DEPARTMENT STORE.

says that the next America's cup winner will fly the flag of Japan. Japan will have quite enough to do to look after matters in Korea without undertaking such a task as capturing the America's cup.

The Southern Pacific had made an offer to furnish money to the United States government to build a tobacco warehouse at Nacogdoches, Texas, says a New Orleans dispatch. Does the S. P. expect to get a mortgage on the U. S. and then foreclose it?

## ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS

Chicago Post.  
No matter at what time we take a backward view, we may see that most of our troubles never happened. There is no specific like comparison for the cure of that dread malady, worry. No trouble is as great as our fretting makes it and this ought to admonish us to let fretting alone. The old man in the book is the counterpart of many an old man of flesh and blood, and also of many an aged woman. All of them have had lots of trouble, and most of it never happened. Even the experience of those who have gone through the length of the journey the young man and the young woman might say: "I am young; I expect to have lots of trouble; but as most of it will never happen, I won't worry about any of it."

Mexican Herald.  
The intense pursuit of material objects, the mad passion to be rich, the turning of the minds of millions of men to one sordid object, to the neglect of spiritual thoughts and the cultivation of noble ideals—these, we must believe, are the causes of the fierce outbreaks of mob violence, and the bringing back into our times of the tortures employed in the middle ages. The crowd sees men of superior mental force solely intent, by any means, on acquiring vast fortunes; it sees legislation attacked by the wealthy briber, and force in all its naked brutality successful, and the populace reasons that religion is a farce and the piety of the preachers a wretched mockery. The ideals of a whole people are sensibly lowered, and as sure as fate, the dikes once down, in comes the roaring sea of sensuality, hot hatreds and fierce brutality.

Boston Transcript.  
The growth of the Christian Science movement in Great Britain is such that leaders of the church have begun to preach upon it and to wage against it. There are here there are those who view the matter in the large and those who view it in the small, who confound personal idiosyncrasies with abiding principles, who see the movement in which they realize that it could not have come into being, thriven and entrenched itself unless it benefited adherents spiritually as well as leaders pecuniarily.

Bessemer Indicator.  
It is gratifying to see that a more liberal spirit is taking possession of the various religious denominations throughout this country. The narrowness of intolerance is passing away and in its stead there comes broader views, the one great common cause of Christianity being recognized by all, of which the various creeds, and sects, and religious denominations are only branches. The two great wings of Catholicism and Protestantism are closer together now than ever before. The long illness and the final death of the late Pope Leo XIII in which Protestantism took so keen an interest, did a great deal toward bringing about a more sincere cordiality and better understanding between the two great branches of Christianity. The old spirit of bigotry and intolerance is fast giving way to one of liberality and enlightenment, for which all Americans should feel grateful.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.  
We can never do our best work in any department of human endeavor, and particularly in the church, until we learn how to get along with the petty annoyances which are pretty sure to meet us daily. Perhaps the best way to deal with these annoyances is to ignore them so far as possible, for if we try to deal with them seriously we will be pretty apt to give up all our time to them or make so much of them that the more serious concerns of life will be put aside. The well-known Dr. Benjamin Rush once said to a graduating class of his medical students: "Young gentlemen, have two pockets—a small pocket and a big pocket, a small pocket in which to put your keys and a big pocket in which to put your annoyances." It might be better to advise everyone, instead of having a pocket in which to put his annoyances, to carry a paper bag and at night burn the bag. Either have that or see that there is a hole in the pocket, so that the annoyances may slip through and be lost.

## Big Sale! Sale! Sale!!!

Ladies' Summer Vests, worth 50c, now 25c.

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Ladies' Summer Vests, worth 25c, now 15c.

Ladies' Embroidered Waists, worth \$1.25, now 75c.

Boys' long pant School Suits, ages 11 to 16 years, \$5.00, now \$4.00.

Boys' School Suits, age 8 to 15, worth \$3.50, now \$2.00.

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Ladies' Hosiery thread knitted garments, \$1.00.

Gentlemen's Hosiery thread knitted garments, \$1.25.

Knitted Garments, Wool and cotton, \$1.75 and \$2.00.

We have just received a lot of Men's fancy worsted suits that sell at \$15.00, which we offer as a special bargain at \$10.00 a suit. We are now getting in a big stock of New Shawls, Blankets and Flannels from the Provo Mills, of which we have been Agents for the last 27 years.

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