

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 9, 1909.

LECTURES ON GENEALOGY.

We beg to call attention to the fact that Prof. A. B. Christensen will deliver the next lecture on genealogy next Wednesday evening at 7:30 at room 30, N. Y. Memorial Building. This lecture is intended, primarily, for the benefit of the missionary class but all interested in genealogy or Temple work are cordially invited to attend.

This is the first lecture on the subject proper, the previous ones having been in the nature of an introduction. Prof. Christensen in this lecture, will discuss the genealogy from Adam to Abraham, and the subject will be followed up in a series of ten lectures. This series will be given in all the Church schools. The first lecture has been given at the B. Y. College, Logan, by Mrs. Susa Young Gates, and the rest at the B. Y. University, Provo, will be delivered on the 15th of this month. Some of these lectures will be devoted to Temple work and recording.

This is probably the first time that the science of genealogy has been made part of regular school work. It may be only a small beginning, but it is none the less important. And the time will possibly come when students will devote years to that study at the most eminent seats of learning. When that time comes the name of the Prophet Joseph will be familiar to scholars of all countries, as the man who, in our age first recognized the importance of tracing back to the beginning the connecting links between the children and

the parents.

FISHER HARRIS.

With the death of Fisher Harris, the community loses one of its most enterprising citizens. His place will not easily be filled. Whatever he did, he did with all his might. He put his entire soul into his work and made a success of whatever he undertook, and the community was immensely benefited thereby.

To all who knew Fisher Harris, his departure is a distinct loss. For he was a friend who spread brightness and cheer around him as naturally as does the sun. His friends—and they are legion—will miss him, as they would a dearly beloved brother.

Fisher Harris was a man of peace. He did what he could to bring unity and harmony into the relations between the citizens of this community. And for this he will long be remembered. If there is a special blessing pronounced upon the peace-makers, Mr. Harris will not lose his reward. For he was a mission of peace.

The Commercial Club is the greatest loser by this, as it seems, untimely death. He devoted all his energies to the building up of that organization, and he was eminently successful in that work. He made the Club a factor in the business and social life of the city. It will be difficult to fill his place.

The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the family in their bereavement. Words of consolation are needed when overwhelming grief comes. May the loved ones who are left on this side of the veil find comfort in that sublime faith which sees death conquered and a glorious resurrection on the other side of the grave!

WHY CORRUPTION PREVAILS.

The last municipal elections are not encouraging to the friends of good government. In Philadelphia, San Francisco, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Albany, Jersey City, and many other places, including Salt Lake, corrupt politicians prevailed.

In Philadelphia the old gang, headed by McNichols, won a signal victory by re-electing Rotan and defeating Gibbons for district attorney. Once more at the New York World puts it the voters have rendered the familiar verdict that the city is "corrupt and contented." In San Francisco, Heney, the prosecutor of Schmidt and Ruef, and the anti-graft ticket were routed. In Cincinnati, Mr. Cox, whom Mr. Taft several years ago in a public speech repudiated as a Republican, reassured his control of the city government.

In New York, however, Tammany utterly failed this time. In Indianapolis the Republicans carried the day over Tom Taggart and his machine, who were in open alliance with the saloon and brewing elements. Mayor Johnson's picturesque career in Cleveland has been brought to a close after eight years of continuous office-holding.

The New York Evening Sun considers it strange that the "new idea" was defeated in so many cities in an "off year." That, the Sun thinks, "is one of the puzzles on which the sociological experts must bring their wits to bear."

If they do, they will find that the citizens often are too busy to watch and foil every scoundrel that plots and schemes for control of public offices. They are, sometimes, entirely ignorant of the vital issues because they do not care to read more than one side to any controversy that may be going on. They go to the polls, therefore, woefully ignorant. They cast their votes, not as intelligence but as prejudice dictates. If, for instance, in this city it had been clear to the

ticket was a vote for the re-opening of the infamous "stockade" and the inundation of the City by a flood of vice and infamy, thousands, who thoughtlessly voted for that ticket would have cast their vote against it; they would not knowingly have voted to open the floodgates of hell or to bring mortal ruin to the youth of this City.

Others are utterly indifferent to the manner in which their money is expended by the corrupt manipulators of political machines, because they do not realize that they are personally interested in the public funds. They do not realize that every cent taken from the public is extracted from their own pockets. They have a vague idea that the taxes are paid by the wealthy class, not realizing that the business man, the butcher, the baker, the banker, the landlord, necessarily collects those taxes from the public. And so they are indifferent as to whether they have an honest administration or not. They are like the fellow who, on being told that the ship on which he crossed the ocean was sinking, philosophically exclaimed, "Let it sink; it is not my ship." They do not realize that the City is their city, or that they float, or sink, with it. And so they are indifferent. And between ignorance and indifference, conspirators sometimes succeed.

But not forever. Some time, suddenly the people wake up, and then comes the day of reckoning. When the public conscience is aroused, things are generally set right. It was Tweed who at one time asked the people what they were going to do about it. The people answered that question. Rich and powerful though he was, he died in jail. That was the answer.

THE MARTYRDOM.

After an interval of a few weeks the anti-Mormon organ has again returned to its old statement, somewhat revised, concerning the martyrdom at Carthage.

The sheet, ever eager to make a point against the people it hates, savagely attacked Elder Orson Whitney and asserted that the Prophet and Patriarch were murdered by Latter-day Saints with blackened faces. In support of this falsehood it pretended to quote prominent "Mormon" speakers and writers.

We pointed out that none of these say that the dastardly deed was committed by Church members, but that apostates and false friends were responsible for it—a proposition that is not disputed and not in controversy. Apostates and false friends were very largely responsible for that tragedy, just as the Salt Lake Tribune was responsible for the murder of "Mormon" missionaries in Tennessee. There is no question about that.

The sheet now pretends to quote, from the Contributor of 1884, an article in which the author tells of secret meetings held in the spring of 1844, at the house of William Law, Nauvoo, at which the Prophet was accused of all sorts of crimes, and a conspiracy was matured to effect his destruction. But there is not one word in the entire article that proves that these conspirators constituted the mob that fired the fatal shots at Carthage, as the Tribune asserted. That charge stands unsupported.

Governor Ford, in his History of Illinois, explains the situation at the time of the tragedy. He says:

"A system of excitement and agitation was artfully planned and executed with taste. It consisted in spreading reports and rumors of the most fearful character. As example: On the morning before my arrival at Carthage, I was awakened at an early hour by the frightful report, which was asserted with confidence and apparent consternation, that the Mormons had already commenced the work of burning, destruction, and murder, and that every man capable of bearing arms was instantly wanted at Carthage for the protection of the county. We lost no time in starting; but when we arrived at Carthage we could hear no more concerning this story. Again, during the few days that the militia were encamped at Carthage, frequent applications were made to me to send a force here, and a force there all about the country, to put down disorders, robberies and lawlessness, which it was said, were threatened by the Mormons. No such forces were sent; nor were such offenses committed at that time, except the stealing of some provisions, and there was never the least proof that this was done by a Mormon. Again: On my late visit to Hancock County, I was informed by some of the stoutest enemies that the Mormons had become unusually numerous and unmanageable. They indeed admitted that but had been done in this way in their immediate vicinity. But they insisted that sixteen horses had been stolen by the Mormons in one night, near Lima, in the County of Adams. At the close of the expedition, I called at this same town in Lima, and upon inquiry was made what horses had been stolen in that neighborhood. They said that sixteen horses had been stolen in one night in Hancock County. This has, unfortunately, been told of the Hancock story again changed the venue to another distant settlement in the northern edge of Adams."

In this statement of Governor Ford we find an indication of the weapons wielded by the apostate Nauvoo conspirators, and the other enemies of the Prophet. They are essentially the methods resorted to by apostates of our own day, and the Salt Lake Tribune in this way carried out their conspiracy and became the murderers of the martyrs, even though others pulled the trigger.

Some of the names of the Nauvoo conspirators are found in the very article quoted by the Tribune. The leading members were William and Wilson Law, Austin A. Cowles, Francis and Chauncey Higbee, Robert Foster and his brother, two Hicks brothers, and two merchants, Finche and Rollinson. Now, what the Tribune has to prove is that these, or any of these, were members of the murderous Cartago mob. For that, however, there is, as far as we know, no historic evidence. The evidence is to the contrary.

Governor Ford appeared anxious to bring the murderers to justice, and six names of men were presented to the grand jury as implicated in the crime. Nine were indicted. They were: Levi Williams, Mark Aldrich, Jacob C. Davis, William N. Gruber, Thomas C. Sharp, John Wiles, William Voorhees, William Gallagher, and one Allen. They were tried on the testimony of Brackenbury and Daniels, two youths who had accompanied the expedition from

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Warsaw to Carthage. Another witness was a girl, Eliza Jane Graham. As will be seen none of the names that appear as those of the leading conspirators at Nauvoo appear among those indicted for the murder, and that itself is fatal to the assertion of the Tribune, that Governor Ford and the assassins had been able to fasten the guilt on any of the Nauvoo men, or even apostates, they would gladly have done so, at that time and not left the startling discovery in a Utah sheet. The proceedings against the men accused furnish the strongest evidence of their guilt. The trial took place at Carthage, beginning on the 18th of May, 1846. One of the men indicted was a Baptist preacher and a colonel of militia. He was not a Nauvoo man. Judge Richard Young presided, and James H. Balston and Josiah Lamborn prosecuted. The defendants were William A. Richardson, O. H. Browning, Calhoun A. Arrell, Archibald Williams, O. C. Skinner, and Thomas Morrison. The panel of the trial jury was as follows: Jessie Griffis, Joseph Jones, William Robertson, William Smith, Joseph May, Elias Griffis, Jonathan Foy, Solomon J. Hill, James Gitting, V. M. Walton, Jabez A. Beebe, and Gilmore Callison. The trial lasted until the 26th of May. It does not appear that the defense claimed that the crime was committed by Nauvoo conspirators. And yet, what a powerful plea that would have been! During the trial Mr. Warren, of counsel for the defense, argued, it is said, in the course of his plea, that if the prisoners were guilty of murder, then he himself was guilty; that it was the public opinion that the Smiths ought to be killed, and public opinion made the law; consequently it was not murder to kill them. And such miserable sophistry was enough for the jury. Governor Ford, commenting on the verdict, says: "The judge was compelled to admit the presence of armed bands to browbeat and overawe the administration of justice." The judge himself was in distress, and informed us that he did not consider his life secure any part of the time." The consequence was that the crowd had everything their own way.

In this connection it must be stated that the jury itself was composed for the occasion. When the defendants appeared they began by filing their affidavits that the county commissioners who selected the array of jurors for the week were prejudiced against them; that the sheriff and his deputies were unfitted by prejudice to select the talesmen that might be required. They therefore entered a motion to quash the array of jurors, to set aside the sheriff and his deputies, and to appoint jurors to select a jury for the case. After argument, this was done. The jurors presented ninety-six men, before twelve were found ignorant enough and indifferent enough to act as jurors. Undoubtedly this jury very soon became aware of the fact that they were selected by their friends. They may have been "ignorant" and "indifferent" in the first place, as alleged; if the judge was in distress, the jurors doubtless became well enough informed as to the fate that would befall them if their findings failed to please the mob, and were sufficiently interested to provide against the perilous contingency. What need of such precautions regarding both judge and jury, if the actual murderers had been Nauvoo men and not those under indictment! One of the witnesses, Miss Graham, had assisted in feeding the hungry mob at the Warsaw house, as they came straggling in from Carthage.

As we have said before, the assertion that the actual murderers were Nauvoo men has not been proved; still less that they were Church members. That apostates were largely responsible is not disputed. They attacked the Prophet by spreading falsehoods about him and the Saints; just as the Tribune is doing today, and by such means the purposes of the Devil one were accomplished. Editor William Robinson of New Mexico has declined the governorship of the Territory, and for the strange and inexplicable reason that he does not feel that he is competent to hold the position. That man is not an honor to his craft, and is the only editor in the United States who does not feel competent to fill any position within the gift of the people or of the president of the United States.

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This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each week it presents a new chapter in the history of the nation, and in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, gathered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

This story of the mysterious disappearance that made a president was told to me by the late Judge Noah H. Davis a year or two before his death. Judge Davis, whose name became well known throughout the country in the seventies as that of the Tweed trial Judge, knew the story from personal connection with it, and gave it to me as a bit of hitherto unrelated "inside" national political history.

You probably have read," began the judge, and told me of their national convention in Philadelphia, in 1848, the leaders of the Whig party had decided upon Gen. Zachary Taylor as their presidential candidate.

Editorial: The Anderson Piano With its singing soul
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