

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 27, 1906.

## PERMANENTLY ORGANIZED.

The "See America First" convention, after the splendid addresses were delivered and considered, got down to practical work and effected a permanent organization. Its name is the "See America League," with headquarters in Salt Lake City. Fisher Harris is made the Executive Secretary, and with him six other gentlemen, representing large interests in different States, compose the Executive Committee. They will have charge of the campaign to induce Americans to see and become acquainted with America. The burden of the work will, of course, rest upon the Executive Secretary, and a better choice for the position and the labor could not have been made. The place for the headquarters of the League is undoubtedly the spot where the movement originated. If circumstances require a change, it can be made, but this is the most central point in the Great West for the purpose, and the selection is just right.

Fisher Harris, Heber M. Wells and Tom Richardson are entitled to special mention in the working up of this project, which means so much to the country, and particularly to that part of it west of the Rocky mountains. The governors of Utah, Oregon and Washington are deserving of praise for their earnest efforts to make the plan successful, and this does not ignore the good work of other state officials and commercial organizations. All the brains and influential men who composed the convention and aided by their presence and suggestions in the organization of the League, are entitled to great credit for their work.

We congratulate all who took part in this important conference on that which was said and that which was done, and we feel confident that funds will flow in and energy will be kept up to push the movement forward to the accomplishment of the end in view. Success and honor and praise to the "See America League"! It is bound to bring benefit and glory to the land that we love.

## THE TRUE "MORMON" SPIRIT.

The religious organization that is commonly called "The Mormon Church" has a mission of its own, to which it is devoted and which demands its full faith and utmost energies. Its propaganda is to all the world without exception. Its gospel, which is the original Christian gospel restored in its completeness, is to be preached to all nations, and all classes, and all other denominations. Its authority has been received by direct divine revelation and its principles are of divine origin.

This gives color to the idea that it is no exclusive as to deny that there is good in anything outside of its creed and fellowship. That, however, is entirely untrue. While it asserts that there can be but one Church that is established, recognized and directed by Christ Himself, because He is one and is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, it does not ignore the good that is in the various conflicting sects of Christianity and Heathendom, nor the efforts of good men and women anywhere.

The "Mormon" Church, so-called, accepts truth from whatever source it comes, whether it be called religious or secular. To the Latter-day Saints all truth is divine and proceeds from Deity, whether it is promulgated by a professed "Christian" or a pronounced Pagan. "Mormonism" embraces everything that science has demonstrated or nature has developed, as well as that which God has revealed. It recognizes the Hand of Providence in the progress of the material world. Steam, force in mechanics and locomotion; electric energy by way of light, or heat, or sound or power; the mighty works of the world's great planners and executors; the intelligence exhibited in the statesman's measures for human benefit and general liberty; the painter's, sculptor's or musician's art; every production of brain and brawn that is for the welfare of mankind, it accepts as proceeding from the Divine mind through human channels, and is ready to adopt in theory and in practice.

It rejects no proven fact in history, no truth in any form of religion. It refuses only error and deception. It makes no aggressive war upon other faiths, but stands on the defensive as to its own doctrines. It admires the good and the true among Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Gentiles, heathens and infidels. It does not attack any of them, but has been constantly put upon the defensive from its beginning. It tolerates all creeds, but does not respect or fellowship hypocrites, bearers of false witness, traitors to their own consciences and haters of the upright. It holds in contempt the pretended servant of God who is only a hireling, preaching for pay anything that will suit his hearers, and ready to sell his talents to the highest bidder. But it has no quarrel with other pastors or congregations because of methods for ministerial support, when the purpose is the promulgation of their own faith and not assaults upon our people and our leaders.

We regard all the human family as the sons or daughters of the living God, and desire their welfare in time and in eternity. We recognize their right to worship what they choose or to refrain from worship, and claim the same right for ourselves, no less and no more. Just so as to the privileges of citizenship under the Constitution of our country and our state. And we expect to stand up for this equality and to maintain it with all our powers. We do not wish to injure any living soul, but desire the welfare of all humanity, and are ready to aid in the promotion of any good work for the progress of the world, materially, intellectually or spiritually. That is the real spirit of "Mormonism" and it burns fervently in the souls of its true disciples.

## FORGETTING THE BIBLE.

Voltaire, vastly overestimating his own importance and influence, as men of his calibre generally do, flattered himself with the thought that, as a result of his literary activity in the service of atheism, the Bible would become an obsolete book. But he deceived himself. Bible societies, Bible houses, etc., flourished after his time as never before, and millions of copies were distributed, where before his bitter criticism, thousands would satisfy the demand.

But, what open infidelity was unable to accomplish, the spirit of indifference characteristic of our age threatens to bring about. The Scriptures are no longer read as generally as used to be the custom. President G. Stanley Hall of Clark university has recently called attention to this fact. Speaking of that subject, he said to a representative of the New York Sun that it has been found by practical tests, that school students are amazingly defective in their knowledge of the Bible, especially the Old Testament. The reason was, according to President Hall, that the Bible is less read in the home than it was a few years ago, and the number of children who have a fair knowledge of it is growing less and less. This, he said, shows the Bible is becoming obsolete. He further stated that professors of literature, even in colleges, have complained that students who have matriculated show an amazing lack of knowledge of the Bible. In his opinion, he said, a knowledge of the Bible should be made a requirement in English of all colleges.

That ignorance of the contents of the Scriptures is growing to an alarming extent is made evident in many ways, but perhaps never more so than in the case of a United States official, appointed for the purpose of looking after evil-doers. He did not know that murder was an offense against the Decalogue. In a controversy with a friend on the subject he maintained that although the law of the land pronounced death upon the slayer of human beings, there was no Scripture that proved that God had prohibited murder. When shown the commandment against murder in the Decalogue, he was quite surprised.

Yes, the Bible is, as Dr. Hall says, becoming obsolete to many. Religion is laid aside as a worn out garment. Hypocrites unable to endure sacred doctrine, "heap to themselves teachers," "after their own lusts," and pet those that suit them, as they do their horses and their dogs. And the worst of it is that, notwithstanding their profound ignorance of the word of God, and their freeing indifference to all that does not stimulate their vanity and pride, they consider themselves infallible judges of the faith and morals of fellow men! Ignorance and arrogance are twins, dangerous when let loose together.

## A LESSON FROM HISTORY.

A magazine writer, quoted in the New York Mail, argues, from history, for the proposition that nations differ most widely in the character of their women, and that their ultimate fate depends chiefly on what the women make it. The teaching of history, he says, is that where woman is not dominant in her own sphere, there you will not have great heroes or great thinkers.

Speaking of the women of our time, this author finds that the French woman has intense energy, always going to extremes, and will carry her point "through thick and thin." British women, he claims, are too cold to take their rightful place, to perform their proper part in the inspiration of heroes. The German woman comes in for a rather severe criticism. He says she is a mixture of the English and the French. The Berlin "new woman" is, he claims, "the society lady." She tries to be charming, but cannot succeed; she does not please man nor woman. In Germany they think their greatest character is woman. There they have everything in perfect order—their army, their navy, their education; but the woman is the center in Prussian life. And it is through woman that Prussia will go to rack and ruin.

The author illustrates his proposition by reference to history. The Spartans, he says, were bent on conquering Greece. The Spartan woman, however, was more like some of the American women of today. She was an athlete. She did not think of man except as a fellow-athlete. A boy, when he was seven years old, was taken away from his mother; and when married, at twenty, he was frequently not allowed to see his bride for two years. If he did see her it was by stealth. These women, our author says, wrestled with the men in a state of nudity. There was no womanhood in them, no more than in so many sticks.

To this degeneracy of the feminine woman, the writer quoted ascribes the final downfall of Sparta. The fine physique developed by the most careful physical training, could not save the republic. Aristotle predicted that the Spartan woman was sure to ruin Sparta quickly. And so she did, for we find Sparta trying to rule Greece in the fourth century, B. C.; in the third century she was sinking; in the second century she had ceased to exist.

The comparison between our own time and the days of old, in the light of history, is very interesting, and should

be instructive. But to lay the blame for the decay of the ancient Greek states entirely on the women of that period, is hardly fair, though. The standard of living, for which Sparta became famous, was raised by the lawgivers, and the citizens naturally carried out the ideals held out to them in their laws. If the women loyally adopted the regular ideals of those laws, even to the annihilation of their own womanly instincts, and thereby brought injury to the state, the lawgivers were at fault, and no one else.

But this is clear from the history of Sparta, that neither physical culture nor asceticism can save a nation from extinction, unless the moral life is maintained. And this is a lesson for our own age, in which athletic exercises sometimes are given the preference over both intellect and conscience. That is wrong. A nation needs something more than the careful attention to the body.

Sparta fell through thirst for power over the other Greeks. Even Xenophon declares that the Spartans sought to obtain a sovereignty they were not entitled to, instead of making themselves worthy of retaining the leadership. The result was that the Greeks combined against her, to prevent usurpation, and this, says Xenophon, is no wonder, since the Spartans no more live according to the laws Lycurgus gave them.

This indicates the fatal trouble. One of the rules of Spartan life was that citizens could have no private property in money. This law became a dead letter, and the inevitable result was that some became wealthy and others poor. The latter became more and more disinclined to have children, and the population diminished. Prizes were offered for children, but without result. At the time of their highest power the Spartans had numbered 10,000, or more. At the time of Aristotle, there were about 1,000, and a hundred years later, only 700, of which not more than one hundred were land owners. There were 600 poor Spartans and 100 very rich! The old Lycurgus rules of life could, under the circumstances, no longer be maintained. The wealthy led a life of luxury, and the offices were monopolized by them. The poorer classes became virtually slaves; they were reduced to the level of the helots.

These are some historical facts of special interest to our time. We should learn to avoid the pitfalls in which earlier nations perished.

## AN EXCELLENT WORK.

There is about to issue from the press of the Deseret News, a second edition of that excellent work on "The Lesser Priesthood and Church Government," prepared by Elder Joseph B. Keeler, the contents of which were favorably mentioned in these columns when it first came out, several months ago. Its reception by Priesthood quorums and by the members of the Church generally has been most hearty and cordial. The demand for the book from the first has been so brisk that the first edition is entirely disposed of, and orders are now waiting to be filled. The Deseret News Book Store has made arrangements to publish a large edition, and all who desire copies may be supplied.

Some little revising has been done for this issue, and some additions have been made; however, the order of the paging and paragraphing of both editions is the same. The author has received many letters from leading authorities and educators attesting the merits and usefulness of the book as an aid to quorums and for private study. As a few of these we insert the following:

The Presiding Bishopric conclude a letter to Professor Keeler with this paragraph:

We carefully looked through this work and consider it one of the best text books on the subject that we have. There is any subject that suggests itself to you, that you would like us to consider, we will be pleased to do so but as far as we are now aware, the work is very satisfactory indeed.

Very truly yours,  
WM. H. PRESTON,  
O. P. MILLER.

The President of the Onida Stake of Zion says:

I regard your little work on the Lesser Priesthood as the very best that has ever been published on the subjects treated, and was anxious to see it in the hands of every student and teacher of this Stake of Zion.

Sincerely your Brother,  
GEO. C. PARKINSON.

The President of the South Sanpete Stake writes:

I purchased one of your books on Priesthood and Church Government from the Deseret News Book Store as soon as it was out. I have read some carefully and find it a most excellent work, and should be in the house of every Latter-day Saint. It is just such a work that I have hoped to see placed in the hands of every person holding the Priesthood. I have recommended it in our Priesthood meetings of the stake, and used the brethren to provide themselves each with a copy.

Your Brother in the Gospel,  
LEWIS ANDERSON.

The Deseret News cordially recommends Brother Keeler's work to the consideration of the Latter-day Saints, as a valuable epitome of the order of the Priesthood and the discipline of the Church, well fortified by reference to recognized Church authorities. It does not indulge in speculation or private theorizing, but can be relied upon as a guide to a proper understanding of the important subjects on which it treats. It gives evidence of close study and earnest endeavor to be right on every point presented. As a class book and a work of reference for the various organizations of the Church it will be found invaluable. We are gratified at the success which has attended its publication, and hope that the new edition will receive as wide appreciation as that which attended the first edition. Early application should be made for it to the Deseret News Book Store, as it will no doubt be eagerly sought for everywhere.

"See America first." Then see Paris and die.

Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

The English elections are still going

on. The fact is they suffer from the poll evil.

No Fads and Fancies for President Roosevelt! Just plain, unadorned facts.

In Arizona and New Mexico the times are out of joint because of the joint staidhood bill.

The arbiter of rebates gets a much greater salary than the arbiter eleazarism does.

"I have lived my life and face the end," writes a poetess. Why doesn't she about, face?

Town Topics will be for some time to come Justice Daniel's chagrin and Editor Hagood's triumph.

The number of swine in the country is small. There is a distinction between swine and hogs.

A queer people with antiquated notions are the Moors! They think Morocco should be for the Moors.

How can one see America or any other place first or at all when the atmosphere is full of fog and smoke?

Russell Sage says if he could do it over again he would make charity a life study. It is never too late to mend.

Gaul was divided into three parts. The Algerias conference is divided into four. This shows how much more gall the conference has.

Lillian Russell must wonder why so much comment is made on Viola Allen's marriage, who has only been married once. That is the reason.

Emperor William firmly believes in the divine right of kings. He has sent a man to German Southwestern Africa to find water with a divining rod.

Chairman Shonts must be a good draughtsman to draw a salary of \$12,000 from the clover leaf and one of \$30,000 from the government, concurrently.

Showkio Tamura, one of Japan's best known novelists, expects to be graduated from the Indiana university with the class of 1907. Indiana is the land from which great novelists hail.

District Attorney Jerome in the near future will move against officers of the various insurance companies which were under investigation by the legislative committee. A special grand jury is to be called to consider the cases, but the date for the assembling of the jury has not yet been set. Good luck to him!

Secretary Bonaparte's anti-bazing bill makes the offense hinge on "any unauthorized assumption of authority by one midshipman over another midshipman, whereby the last mentioned midshipman shall or may suffer or be exposed to suffer any cruelty, indignity or oppression or the deprivation or abridgement of any right to which he shall be legally entitled." It is very good so far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough, making no provision for punishing bazing of the plain, every day kind, so familiar in most colleges and in which there is no assumption of authority of any kind. In the secretary's measure the assumption of authority is made the great offense.

## ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Watchman.  
Plus X continues to make it evident that he proposes to pursue a policy of reconciliation in shaping the attitude of the Roman Catholic church toward peoples and governments. In the very difficult position in which the church is placed in France by the abolition of the Concordat, and against the advice of some of the French cardinals, he commands the devising of measures which will avoid further complications with the French government. The same policy is indicated by the act of the organ of the Vatican in urging Roman Catholics in Italy to register and take an active part in the elections. The attitude of sullen aloofness to political matters in Italy which has been the policy of the head of the Roman church in the past is not to prevail under the present pope. In the same direction also is the advice of the Roman authorities to give laymen in Roman Catholic parishes in the United States a majority on boards of trustees. Hitherto the power of administering the church properties has been in the hands of the priests in charge. The new directions will give the people who erect the buildings and pay the expenses a controlling voice in the management. This conciliatory and reasonable attitude of the head of the Roman church will have a powerful effect in promoting peaceful and happy conditions throughout the world.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.  
It has somehow got into the heads of a number of people that it is possible to have a sort of multiple personality, so that what one does in one capacity is not to be counted against him in another relationship. There are many examples of this habit. Here is a man who is usually regarded as a good if not model citizen; yet he permits himself to be elected a member of a board of directors of a company that practices the code of the freebooter rather than of a Christian civilization, and your good man defends himself with the statement that in the latter case he is simply acting as a business man and not as a citizen or as a member of a Christian church. A certain archbishop of Cologne, who was also a prince, was overheard, by a peasant of the country, so indulge in profanity. Noticing the look of surprise on the peasant's face, the archbishop asked him what it meant. "I am surprised," the peasant said, "to hear an archbishop swear." "But I swear," replied the churchman, "not as an archbishop, but as a prince." "And when the prince goes to the devil what will become of the archbishop?" was the suggestive question of the peasant.

Presbyterian Banner.  
A few years ago we shared an evangelistic campaign. An evangelist was engaged and the question of his compensation and the method of obtaining it were considered by the ministers united in the campaign. It was resolved that the evangelist should be paid a definite sum which was fixed at a large and liberal figure, but when he was corresponded with on the subject he utterly declined the arrangement on the ground that he never worked for money. The Lord would provide for him, and all he would take would be a free-will offering from the people. We had to accede to his demand, and the result was that toward the end of his meeting was made prominent, and collection envelopes were in conspicuous evidence. These envelopes were always taken by the evangelist himself, and no one knew

what he was getting. But the pastors knew that he was getting considerably sums, and it was believed that he went away with a large sum of money. The final result of the meetings was that every pastor engaged in them said he would never enter into such an arrangement again.

New York Mail.  
According to President Roosevelt, "spirituality without priggishness" is the secret of power and wholesome popularity for a preacher. So he told the Virginia theological students the other day. A prig, if we mistake not, is a conceited, fussy and formal person, who thinks that all things must be "just so," and whose attitude of piety and superior knowledge is essentially narrow and unfounded upon real culture. The word has gone somewhat out of fashion in this country, so that few persons could give the genealogy or describe the attributes of the Perfect Prig, but unfortunately the thing itself survives. With his customary insight, President Roosevelt has perceived that the pulpit already has so full a supply of prigs that it really does not need any more.

## SALT LAKE THEATRE

TONIGHT! The Henry W. Savage Offers His Bird Rhapsody and Forest Fantasia.

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THE GREAT STEEPLE CHASE BY THE KINODROME.

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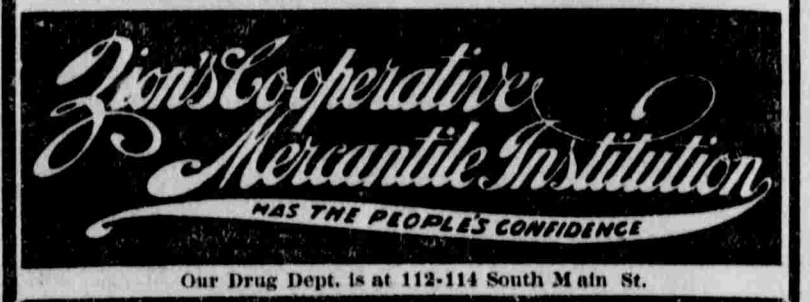
Swiss Taffeta Ribbon 4 1/2 inches wide, all silk, with a beautiful, brilliant finish, sold regularly at 25c a yard For 15c a yard.

Swiss Taffeta Ribbon 5 1/2 inches wide, all silk, lustrous finish, all new shades; bought to sell at 30c a yard; during this sale At 20c a yard.

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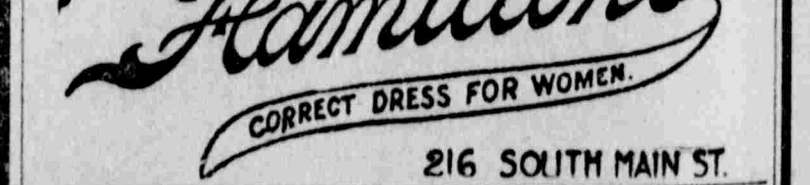
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