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THE FIRST CHURCH MEMBERS.

We have been requested to explain whether Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were members of the Church when baptized, as recorded in the Church history, or whether they had to wait until April 6, 1830. Also whether they were Elders before that date. It appears that the questions have been under consideration at different places and a settlement concerning them is desirable.

It is evident, on rational grounds, that the brethren named, and others who were baptized previous to the date of the organization of the Church, could not be members of it until it was organized. They were baptized for the "remission of sins," in accordance with the instructions given of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph. In a certain sense, being "baptized into Christ" they were united with His spiritual church, but they could not be members of an organized body until the organization took place. That needs no argument.

Section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants answers both questions propounded by our correspondent, in paragraphs one to four. But to make the matter still clearer, we refer our readers to the first volume of the History of the Church, chapters five and seven. On page 76 of the same volume a statement is given, signed by Joseph Knight, in the presence of four witnesses, to the effect that the names of the six members of the Church who attended to its legal organization were given to him by Oliver Cowdery, with the further information that "some of these had been baptized previously; but were all baptized on the day of organization."

It will be seen, then, that Joseph and Oliver and the others who had been baptized previous to the organization of the Church, were baptized again, so that they became members of the Church at the date of its organization. They did not become Elders in the Church until its organization, and until their names had been presented to the organized body to be accepted in that capacity, according to the doctrine of common consent, which is a fundamental principle of Church discipline.

When Joseph and Oliver received their ordination under the hands of John the Baptist, in May, 1829, they were ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood, but not to any special office therein. When they were ordained by Peter, James and John, the higher or Melchisedek Priesthood was conferred upon them. But it was on the sixth of April, 1830, that they were called of God to be Apostles, and Joseph was so ordained, to be the First Elder of the Church and Oliver Cowdery the Second Elder of the Church. The particulars concerning this are to be found in Chapter eight of the History of the Church.

FICTION VS. TRUTH.

San Francisco has a new weekly for which no name has as yet been decided upon. The managers announce that they are willing to pay a prize for the best name suggested by any of its readers. It will, therefore, not be without a name for any considerable length of time.

The paper pays its respects to the Munchausens who have been busy circulating fabulous tales concerning San Francisco's earthquake and fire. First of all, there is the sea captain who saw the famous Cliff House tumble into the bay. This truthful tale, according to his own story, witnessed the big building away and totter as a reed before the wind, until it was rent in twain and precipitated into the sea, while the sea lions on seal rock, roaring and barking in their terror, diving amid the floating wreckage. Curiously enough this tale, without the slightest foundation in fact, found full credence and was believed and circulated for several days after the earthquake.

Another famous falsehood was that concerning the burning of the Mechanics' Pavilion, where, it was said, two thousand helpless invalids perished. One version of the horror was that the sick people had to be abandoned to the flames just as they were, while another avers that they were first chloroformed by a corps of humane surgeons, after which they were left to their certain death. As a matter of fact, the San Francisco magazine says, not a single invalid was left in the Mechanics' Pavilion when it had to be vacated before the onrushing flames.

Then there are the stories of ghastly murder and other foul deeds that were published during the trying days of fire. One gruesome tale in particular has been widely circulated. It tells of a woman, who was caught cutting the ring finger from a helpless victim pinned down under some masks of wreckage. When they dragged her before a drum-head court-martial they found in her blood-soaked pockets nearly half a hundred

such fingers with the rings still sticking on them. Of course, this human hyena was stood up against a wall and shot.

Another yarn shows what the lively imagination of a newspaper reporter can produce in an emergency. It was published, we are told, in Paris journals under scare headlines. According to this story, "The Chinese and Japanese daimios of Chinatown immediately after the earthquake formed a procession, under the leadership of a heathen soothsayer, and carrying a huge dragon, with great beating of tom toms, clangor of cymbals and burning of incense, marched down to Portsmouth Square. Meanwhile a host of Mexicans and Portuguese, in the Latin quarter, formed a similar procession, rallying behind an image of St. Francis, taken from the Church of San Francisco d'Assisi, and poured down Telegraph Hill. The two processions came together head on in Portsmouth Square. The Spanish and the heathen soothsayer addressed each other of having brought upon them the wrath of God. Immediately the two rival factions engaged in a fierce battle which waxed so furious that President Roosevelt had to send the American army to take a hand in the fight." The result was, of course, that the streets of the city were soon turned into "rivers of blood."

The writer in the magazine from which we have quoted is very indignant at the circulation of falsehoods concerning San Francisco's calamity. He ought to be. The facts must have been gruesome enough without the addition of hair-raising fiction. Still, there may be a natural, if not a sufficient, justification for many of the stories sent out about San Francisco, at times of great general excitement, the testimony of the outward senses is not always reliable. Events and incidents appear different to what they are when viewed calmly, in the light of reason. People are apt to accept the distorted pictures of their own imagination for realities. Thus stories originate and are eagerly believed, as they seem to rest on evidence. Then, the unscrupulous newspaper reporter, instructed to write something racy, and eager to earn his salary, helps the matter along by stating for facts what is only fiction, and embellishing the stories to the very limit of public credulity.

There is not even this poor justification for the infamous falsehoods that have been circulated concerning the majority of the people of Utah. Here they have originated with a clique of conspirators, whose aim is, on the one hand, the overthrow of the Church of Christ, which is as impossible as to stay the sun in its course in the heavens; and on the other hand, the seizure of the government machinery of the community and the state, for purposes of loot and graft. The falsehoods are all deliberately invented and told for the purpose of furnishing a reasonable pretext for the un-American plots. Some of them are made as plausible as untruth can be made by mixing a little truth with it, but they are none the less falsehoods—half truths being equivalent to lies. To some it seems strange that anyone can be deceived into believing malicious fiction, circulated by more or less notorious characters, who are known to be strangers to truth, honesty, and honor; or, by persons who, professing religion, form an unholy alliance with such characters. But it is no more strange than the credit given to the San Francisco yarns, by people who would know better, were they to use a little discrimination. It is strange that the human soul does not revolt at the acceptance of a lie, when presented to it. One would think the divine instinct should assert itself. That it does not, proves the depravity of man. Still, there is no occasion for pessimism. The prevalence of falsehood is but temporary. Truth will come out victorious.

WASHINGTON HERALD.

A new daily has found its way to our exchange table. It is the Washington Herald, which is to be published every morning at Washington, D. C. The initial number promises well for the future of this journalistic enterprise. It is full of interesting news, tersely told. Its editorials are strong, and it starts with a fair amount of business patronage.

The Herald promises to be a "clean newspaper." It will deal, we are told, with the cleanly affairs of life, and there will be no partisan politics in either its news or editorials. Speaking of the "responsibility of journalism," our new contemporary says:

"It has for many years been a matter of speculation among intelligent people as to why newspapers devoted so much space to crime and wrongdoing of every description. The reason commonly given is that these matters possess a dramatic or human interest which attracts the majority of readers; that the same themes lend their interest to the work of the great masters of literature in its several departments. It is true that many of the most powerful novels, some of the most affecting tragedies, revolve about crimes or deal with grave faults of character. But these considerations would hardly seem to justify the wholesale exploitation of crime, and especially of the misdoings of women, which characterizes certain American newspapers."

"There are misdeeds which form a legitimate subject of news and which the most reputable newspaper feels bound to describe because of their tragic or local interest or indirectly to the sensational exploitation of wrongdoing, the constant presentation to an innumerable public of the suggestion of crime, never will be known. That it must be considerable and lead to be indicated by the influence of the press in other and known directions. It is this consideration which greatly enlarges the responsibility of journalism in our day."

harmony among men, instead of partitioning them. We hope the Herald may live long and prosper.

THE RACE PROBLEM.

It is a grave question whether the negro problem was finally settled by the war that brought death and misery upon so many souls. Senator Tillman of South Carolina does not seem to regard it as settled. He has recently predicted that in less than 10 years, possibly less than five, there "will be an immense number of bloody race riots north and south," besides which the Atlanta disturbance will be as nothing. The Charleston News and Courier holds that there is no other solution of the problem than the exodus of the colored race. "All of the elements involved in this settlement of the race question," that journal says, "have been fully considered. We have already tampered with it to long. It is growing more distressing and terrible every year. The government, which freed the negro and turned him loose to shift for himself should now come to his relief and provide for him a place of residence in the land of his fathers, where he would be able to turn the lessons taught him here in his slavery and in his freedom to his own best account."

It is fearful to contemplate that this country has a race problem, which seems impossible of a satisfactory solution. During the last 25 years about 4,000 negroes have been murdered by mobs, by hanging, shooting, flogging, burning. Surely, such crimes cannot continue without grave consequences. What will the harvest be? The statesmen, philanthropists, and "reformers" should look to other sections of the country than the West for perils to the home and the government. The negro question must be answered in the spirit of righteousness and fairness, lest Senator Tillman's prophecy come true.

It doesn't speak well for a politician to always be talking.

When the leaves begin to fall it is a sure sign that the fall has begun.

The Mexican who declares that he was "plucked" by the city jailer is plucky.

Many men are too busy preaching what to practise to practise what they preach.

In Cuba Secretary Taft was compelled to be non-partisan. Bipartisanship has no chance there.

Has it come to this in San Francisco that eternal vigilance committee is the price of liberty?

It is quite apparent that neither the Moderates nor the Liberals want a square deal for the other.

The going back to the Utah reservation of the Ute Indians will be the true return of the native.

The Southern Pacific has bought a steamship line. Throwing out an anchor to windward, as it were.

Silveira is said to have financed the recent Cuban revolt. His imitation of Robert Morris was a very poor one.

"Credit is better than money," says James J. Hill. Still money will get credit where credit will not get money.

Many who are now running for office will have to be content to see their names not among the successful ones, but in the "also ran" class.

A dog has succeeded in swimming the English channel. Of course it was an English bull dog, no other kind having enough tenacity of purpose to do it.

The Garland millions are to become a trust fund for old, needy and deserving students of Harvard university. Such a Garland will adorn Harvard's classic brow.

Maxim Gorky has gone. He will write his farewell impressions of America on the Atlantic. Thus they will be written in water as they deserve to be.

Senator Hitchcock says that the Utah Indians now in Wyoming must return to their reservation, even if troops have to accompany them. He makes the declaration without any reservation.

Eleven plumbing concerns of Lima, Ohio, have been indicted for "conspiracy against trade." A Salt Lake plumbing concern would never think of doing such a thing. It would only think of "doing" the people.

According to an order just issued by the war department, the fish and game laws of a state are not operative on a military reservation over which the United States has acquired jurisdiction. This may or may not be good law, and if it is then it should be so modified that state game laws may be enforced on military reservations. As a rule little game is found upon them.

Governor Taft has made it plain to the American people that the Isle of Pines that the island is a part of the republic of Cuba. Of course it is and the attempt of these residents to make it appear otherwise was really unworthy of them. They have been impudent in the extreme and now they should subside. If they do not they will become a public nuisance.

The death of Mrs. Emma Shaplof was recorded recently in the New York Mail. She had the distinction—rare in this age and generation—of being the mother of nineteen children, ten of whom, six boys and four girls, are still living. She was married in Austria 25 years ago, and came to this country five years later with her husband. The oldest of the children is Julius Shaplof, 24 years of age, who lives in Yonkers. The eighteenth child, now four years old, was baptized Theodore Roosevelt Shaplof.

BOILING WATER KILLS IT.

Washington Post.
It is a well-known fact that all water loses two-thirds or more of its life-giving properties when it is boiled; still the authorities here are advocating the boiling of the water. Those who urge this remedy lose sight of the fact that water has life-giving as well as life-destroying germs. When you boil it you kill both germs and

have a dead water. This applies to all bottled waters, mineral or otherwise, as every chemist knows the minute water is separated from the earth it becomes stale. We drink water in bottles that has been corked up months at a time, and those who buy and use it think they are bettering themselves, but not one of them would think of drinking a glass of Potomac water that had stood over night. Yet the one is as good as the other, so far as any life-giving property is concerned. These bottled waters are charged with gas to make them sparkle, but nothing that can be done to them can keep them "alive." The typhoid-fever germ may be in the Potomac water, and if it is boiled the germ probably will be killed, but drinking boiled water does the system absolutely no good, and what the system wants and craves is water that refresher and revives.

QUAIL GETTING SCARCE.

Country Life in America.
Quail starved to death by thousands in the winter of 1904-1905, but last winter they had an easy time except in February and March. From Massachusetts to Indiana the quail are so scarce that restocking has become necessary. The birds for this purpose are hard to find. More than 100,000 have been captured in Alabama and the Southwest, where they still occur in abundance, and have been shipped north for breeding. Even this supply is quite inadequate and may not last long. The quail is perhaps our most popular game bird, and a market will be found for all that can be produced. Complete success has been had in raising them on a small scale. Why should not some one go into the business and make a scale that he could turn out 100,000 quail per year?

SHE GOT A JOB.

Charles Belmont Davis in Outing.
There is a true story of one young woman who had devoted almost a year to pulling wires and using all possible influence to gain an interview with a certain theatrical manager. At last her hopes were realized; she got her appointment and she was finally ushered into the manager's private office. He received her most cordially and offered her a chair. "Thank you," she said, gratefully. "I think I will sit down. I've been just ten months getting here and I'm a little tired. And the manager, who is really a great man and hence has a sense of humor, promptly engaged her.

A COSTLY MONUMENT.

Paris Journal.
Twenty years ago the Italian Parliament authorized the erection of a monument in Rome to Victor Emmanuel II. The work has been proceeding since that time and has already cost \$4,000,000. At least \$1,000,000 more will be required to complete it. The monument, which is being erected between the Forum and the Capitol, will be the largest in the world, and will include seventy groups of statues by the most renowned sculptors of modern Italy.

JUST FOR FUN.

Some Scheming.

"I see Gayley had to pay Miss Lorne \$20,000 for breach of promise."

"Yes, and now he wants to marry her for her money."—Exchange.

Little drops of water.

Little grains of sand.
Make the seas and landlord.
Charge to beat the band.
—Baltimore American.

"Poor Little Kid."

Apparently, Susy was born with humane feelings for the animals, and humane feelings for her troubles. This enabled her to see a new point in an old story, once, when she was only six years old—a point which had been overlooked by older, and perhaps duller, people for many ages. Her mother told her the moving story of the sale of Joseph by his brethren, the staining of his coat with the blood of the slaughtered kid, and the rest of it. She dwelt upon the inhumanity of her brothers; their cruelty to their helpless young brother; and the unbrotherly treachery which they practised upon him; for she hoped to teach the child a lesson in gentle remembrance. Apparently, her desire was accomplished, for the tears came into Susy's eyes and she was deeply moved. Then she said:

"Poor little kid!"—Mark Twain's Autobiography in the North American Review.

Miss Gaysett (after every other means has failed—"I've named my new saddle horse after you, Mr. Ankerd." Mr. Ankerd—"Hah—Ah—Deuced flattered—really." Miss Gaysett—"Yes; it's so dreadfully hard to make him go."—Puck.

"Well, Willie, I suppose your nose is completely out of joint since your little brother came." "No, it hasn't made any difference with mine; but pa's is. He bumped it against the door when he got up in the dark to hunt for the catnip, right before last."—Chicago Record-Herald.

De Long—"So you didn't get anything out of your rich uncle's estate, eh?" Shortleigh—"Not yet, but I expect to get the most of it some day; I am engaged to the daughter of the attorney for the estate." De Long—"Good! Let me congratulate you."—Chicago Daily News.

Punter—"I tell you, doctor, old Casburn is business clear through." Rev. Howland Yale—"On the contrary, I know him to be a most charitable man." Punter—"Maybe; but he would examine the balance sheet if all the directors were bishops and Providence in the chair."—Town and Country.

Attorney—"Have you formed any opinion on this case?" Prospective Juror—"No, sir." Attorney—"After the evidence on both sides is all in, do you think you will be able to form an opinion?" Prospective Juror—"No, sir." Attorney—"Good! You'll do."—Chicago Daily News.

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Men Are Too

"Conservative."

If a farmer concluded not to plant seed, but to "conserve" it, because crops sometimes fail, he would be as wise as the merchant who "conserves" the money which should be invested in publicity, because he has it in bank, and because he fears that publicity may not be completely profitable.