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# THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, 1904, and continue until Wednesday, April 6. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested and expected.

> JOSEPH F. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

UTTERLY DEPRAVED.

bune. The Associated Press reports are in the main correct and such mistakes as occur are mostly of minor importance. They are not wilfully untrue and therefore differ from the utter-

#### THAT"TACIT UNDERSTANDING

There was a sentiment, sometimes strongly expressed by broadminded men and public journals when Utah was admitted into the Union, that under the pledge of the State further polygamous marriages being prohibited, there should be no interference with people who were and had been for years involved in plural family relations. Denials of this come either from misinformation, or ignorance, or wilful perversion of the facts. We recur to this matter because of the following acknowledgment of the existence of that sentiment, which appeared in the

"President Smith, of the Mormon Church has publicly declared he has a plurality of wives and he proposes to protect them. He says he has taken no new ones since the Anti-Polygamy law went into effect. Before the Congressional committee on Wednesday he said:

'I married my first wife more than thirty-eight years ago, and my last wife more than twenty years ago. By those wives I have had children and I have preferred to take my own chances with the law and suffer any consequences the law might visit upon me rather than abandon those children nd their mothers.'

"The Bee has always held that our polygamy laws should severely punish any future disregard of the doctrine of monogamy, but should not seek to hunillate the wives of the past nor bastardize their children. About the meanest thing old Abra-

ham did was to turn Hagar out into the wilderness.

"In one respect at least, Smith of Utah is a better man than was Abraham of Ur.

Touching on the question of the course to be pursued in relation to the families of men who contracted plural marriages before the issuance of the "manifesto," the Worcester Spy

of March 5 has this timely editorial; "The frankness with which the head of the Mormon Church explains his private life is amazing. While there is no sympathy in the east for a polygamist, ve can understand this man's position

toward his five wives. He believes, of course, that his first duty is to his wives and children. Just what duty the state has to perform in a case like this

it is pretty hard to state. "If a man is telling the exact truth about the abandonment of polygamy, it is quite possible that the conditions will cure themselves in time and so-ciety will be better off, perhaps, than to persecute men and women who entered the state of polygamy before 1890.

"The effectual divorcing of polygamous wives would work extreme hard-ship on innocent women and children more than upon the men. The investigation of Senator Smoot has justified itself and it has apparently turned into an investigation of polygamy in Utah. Apparently the Mormon Church is not afraid of explaining its position.

Congress has hardly the right to in-United vestigate any church. The United States guarantees religious indepen-

## DESERET EVENING NEWS: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1904.

#### cidedly international complexion, inasmuch as representatives of other nations also are expected to be present. It is safe to say that never before has the land so dear to Christian faith and in which so many notable scenes have been enacted, witnessed such a demonstration as this world's gathering of Sunday school workers must prove to

The trip will undoubtedly be one of memorable interest to the "pilgrims" themeselves, and they will learn many things of special value to Sunday school teachers, relative to the correct exegesis of the sacred text. The hope is also expressed that by their great number they will impress the Jews and Mohammedans with the "strength" of the "Christianity" of western nations. In this they will be disappointed, though. Thousands of pllgrims visit the Holy Land every year, some from Russia, some from France, Italy, and other countries, but the "numbers" do not overwhelm the stoic Arab or the mercenary Hebrew. If the "pilgrinis" come prepared to spend large sums of } money on "guides" and on all kinds of relics and mementoes, as well as on beggars of every description, they will

make a favorable impression, but not otherwise. The Sunday school laborers will have a chance of visiting places held by Christians, Jews, and Mohammedans alike, as well places revered by only one of these great divisions. The will visit the ancient home of Abraham. They will see what is called the tomb of

David, and the ruins of structures reared by Solomon. They will walk upon fields where once the feet of the Savior trod, and where His ancestors lived and labored. It is to be hoped that their history will not fail to bring to the visitors the lessons they carry for the benefit of the present time.

Just now March seems to be a mixture of lion and lamb.

### They are leading a strenuous life in Springfield, Ohio, just now.

The attack on Vladivostok seems to have been a sort of shell-ry compound. If the Smoot Investigation is to run all summer, why not hold the sessions

at the St. Louis exposition? The Czar wants to take the field. He also wants to take Korea and Man-

churia. One trouble with a big navy is that it is apt to give the nation possessing it the big head.

Whose sympathy does not go out to Mrs. Kennedy because of the severely trying ordeal through which she had to pass! Poor woman!

It is very evident that the witnesses in the Senator Smoot investigation are not going to make a fortune out of

should be punished, not for the sins of others, but solely for his own. St. Paul Globe.

The investigation into the charges made against Heed Smoot affecting his right to sit in the senate of the United States has been so diverged from its original object that it is not simply an inquiry into the secrets of the Mormon Church. It would appear that the reverend senators naving the matter in charge were inspired by the idea that the Mormon Church was

applying for a seat in the senate. So far not a thing has been done during the progress of the investiga-tion to indicate that the committee desires information in the matter of Mr. Smoot's eligibility. Nothing has transpired to show that he is in theory or practice a polygamist. It has been proved, upon his own admission, that Joseph Smith believes in and practices polygamy. But Smith is not on trial. We have been told all about the revelations upon which "Mormonism" is based; we have been let into the secrets of the makeup of the angels which have taken on the work, from time to time, of telling the prophets of Mor-monism what to do. We have had the status of the Mormon women explained. But we have not been en-lightened at all as to the eligibility of Smoot-and this, we take it, was the real object of the investigation originally.

have no care what shall become W of the Mormon Church so long as its members are law-abiding citizens. have, however, some interest in the case of Lir. Smoot, and it appears to us that it is not fair to try him by put-ting the Mormon Church on the stand. It is not fair to a man who has not been shown to have any disqualifica-tions to parade an objectionable institution and make him responsible for

#### Helena Record. \*

This has nothing to do with Senator Smoot. If a leading official of any other denomination should be guilty of immorality, or should admit that he had broken the 'ws of the land, would that affect ) title of any other senator who might happen to be a member of that church or denomination? Manifestly not. And yet, this is the same question presented in the case of Senator Smoot and President Smith.

#### Silver City Nugget.

investigation of Senator The Smoot's status as an Apostle in affect his right to a seat in the United States senate is now going on before a committee in that body, with a dozen or more of the leaders of the Church summoned as witnesses. Mr Smoot is not charged with being a polygamist and the only question which may or can deprive him of his right to his seat is, has he taken an obliga-tion to his Church which in the keeping of it would bar him from support-ing the Constitution of the United States and the integrity of its laws? This we venture to say will not be proven. All the sentimental stuff which thousands of American women and men have charged against the "Mormon" Church, without direct proof on this one question will not weigh one iota with the senate. Senator Smoot will keep his seat.

#### Portland Oregonian. Senator Reed Smoot, though an ad-

herent of the Mormon faith and a member in good standing of the Mor-mon Church, is the self-proclaimed husband of one wife and otherwise a law-abiding citizen of the State of Utah. He has never been a polygamist in practice, whatever he has been or is in theory. He has never sought to evade the law that forbids plural mar-It will possibly be difficult to lage. riage. It will possibly be difficult to find what his private opinion is upon this question. Or if he admits that he believes in polygamy, it will be difficult to unseat him by means of this passive, inoperative belief. The blind beliefs of the Mormon faith, and the inapplicability of some of them to modern community life, are no greater than are those of many others. It is granted that the practice of polygamy has been prohibited by wise and wholsesome legislation. Civilized society has made a demand in this matter that is generally accepted as necessary to secure stability of its institutions the basis of which is the orderly, harmonious home. If a man respects this law in order-ing his personal conduct, it is not easy



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Embroideries, Edgings, and Insertions, prices from 5c the piece to \$1.50 the piece, Thursday, Friday and Saturday,

136-138

MAIN ST.

Fonght and fold

With its accustomed perversity and sophistry, the Salt Lake Tribune has quoted part of a sentence in the Descret News, concerning unpunished common vices in Christian cities, that are both unlawful and brutal, and then asks:

"Are we to understand, then, that polygamy is merely the Mormon substi-tute for that sort of thing? If not, where does the parallel come in?"

The answer is, No, you are not to understand anything of the kind, for the reason that in the same article that the Tribune has garbled, the "News" said: "Mark this, We make no comparison between the evils that abound in this 'Christian' land that are winked at and condoned, and the system of wedlock revealed through the 'Mormon' Prophet. God forbid!'

Therefore there is no "parallel to come in," as none was drawn. We made the distinction clear because we anticipated some such deviltry as that now resorted to by the Tribune, for that is one of its old tricks. It was never known to state an opponent's position fairly, particularly if he was a "Mormon" or touched on any question relating to "Mormonism:" That paper is utterly reprobate and contemptible in its course and pollcy, and cannot be depended upon in any statement of fact or argument in controversy.

As a case in point as to its re-lleability, read the statement it published. on first page of Tuesday's dally issue in reference to the testimony of Mrs. Mabel B. Kennedy; it said:

"Her description of Apostle Young, who performed the ceremony, was exact, every effort of Attorney Worthington for Senator Smoot failing to shake her on cross-examination."

Then read the following, which is to the regular report from Washington published in the same paper of the same date on the second page:

She could not identify a picture of Brigham Young.

The witness became confused several times under cross-examination and made some contradictory statements, which for the most part she corrected later when her attention was called to them by the attorney for the prosecu-She was unable to give a description of Brigham Young."

Now, notice the annexed paragraph which appears in the Tribune's double column, first page, displayed leading statement of the Smoot case this, Wednesday, morning:

From the testimony of Mrs. Matthews it would seem that Mrs. Ken nedy was forced into becoming a plural She had asked to be allowed to wait until she was 18 years old, but Johnson and her mother would not consent, and she was sent to Arizona and 'sealed' to Johnson."

Read the press report of the case in all the local papers, Tribune's Included, and see if there is anything that justifles the statement we have copied. It will be seen that it is a falsehood "out of whole cloth." The exact contrary appears in the press report, which shows that both the girl and her mother desired the marriage, that Apostle Teasdale refused to perform it when asked to do so by the mother, under the plea that "such marriages were done away." That the girl went into Mexico with Johnson and his wife, voluntarily, planned the marriage with them, and that nothing was told to the person who performed the ceremony to inform him that it was a plural marriage.

If the public want to know the truth in relation to the present controversy they should pay no attention to either

A man's religious views must dence. be protected by Congress and not interfered with. Of course the publicity of this investigation affords the Mor-mon Church an opportunity to explain itself frankly and efficiently."

## GOOD FOR THE "MORMONS."

The following tribute to the good qualities of the "Mormons" in Arizona, was contributed by a prominent citizen of that Territory, and published in the Phoenix Republican and has been reproduced in other Arizona papers with cordial endorsement:

"There are Mormons in many localities in beautiful Arizona. They have been among our best, bravest and thriftiest pioneers. And wherever you and them, there industry is everywhere apparent, energy and thought and vigor are everywhere visible in fruitful and tangible form. In the Salt River valley, in particular, one will find the in-evitable signs of the many qualities evidenced in beautiful homes, luxuriant orchards and fields. No race or sect can beat them as farmers. No one un-derstands better the soil or the science of irrigation than they. Nowhere will one find kindller hospitality-genuine, come-in-and-make-yourself - perfectlyat-home hospitality than among them "The writer knows many of these estimable people personally and admires He has sampled their hospitalithem.

ty and esteems it highly. "Thatcher, in the Gila valley, is a charming little berg-a veritable gem in a beautiful setting. The settlement in a beautiful setting. The settlement is purely Mormon. There you will find every farmer owning his ranch, comfortable, prosperous, with money in the There you may find a splendid onnk. academy of learning, for the Mormons believe in education. They believe in the very best of schools and strive arnestly to attain pre-eminence. They believe, too, in educating their children While there last fall the at home. riter visited the academy and found doing splendid work. In the evening he attended a social dance given under the auspices of the academy. These dances are given monthly, we were told. The principal of the academy was in charge. Preceding the dancing a prayer was offered by the Bishop This is the regular custom. Then fol owed a social entertainment of an extraordinarily high standard. There was no unruly conduct. The Bishop,

the teachers and parents were there as instructors and chaperones. The young people were guided, not spied upon. They were taught by precept and ex-ample of their parents and friends. Harmony reigned and pure joy was unonfined

"Another peculiarity was the perfect equality of the sexes. The Mormon men believe that their wives are not only good enough for companions, but good enough for citizens and voters. They believe in equal suffrage. Why should they not?"

# GOING TO JERUSALEM.

An expedition of more than common interest has left New York these days It numbered about 800 persons, and the destiny is Jerusalem, where a world's congress of Sunday school workers is to be held during the third week of April. The idea of holding a Sunday school congress in the city of David occurred a couple of years ago to a gentleman very much interested the real point at issue. in Sunday school work, and it met with general approval, with the result that many now will realize their fondest dream, of visiting and seeing some of the sacred places of holy writ. Seventeen days will be spent in Palestine, and the pilgrims will stop, on the road, at Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers, Athens, Constantinople, and other places of interest. At Jerusalem the Americans will be joined by two hundred English dele-

what the government allows them.

Premier Balfour has made it plain that it is not the intention of his majesty's government to tax food stuffs. The British workman couldn't stomach that.

An Iowa man is being sued by two women for hugging them, the damages in each case being laid at five thousand dollars. He had better continue to hug his delusions.

The Sultan was willing to allow the Black Sea fleet to pass through the Dardanelles on conditions that Russia indignantly rejected. When the final settling of accounts comes, as it will some day, Russia will produce this item and demand a full accounting with heavy interest.

The account of the lynching of a negro at Springfield, O., says that "Frequently the arm would fly up convulsively when a muscle was struck and the mob went fairly wild with delight. Throughout it all perfect good humor and good order was maintained, and everyone seemed in the best of spirits, joking with his nearest neighbor while reloading his revolver." And the mob went wild with delight! And throughout it all perfect good humor and good order was maintained! How pleasant to think that everything was in the best of taste and in perfect accord with the best usage of Ohio's best society. There was nothing unseemly, nothing out of harmony with the proprieties of the occasion, nothing rowdyish or vulgar, nothing that betrayed the canaille and the low bred. It was an eminent success of which Springfield is justly proud and all the rest of the Unned States deeply ashamed.

### A FEW PRESS COMMENTS.

Indianapolis Journal.

Mr. Smoot is not a practical polyga-mist and never has been. He has never had but one wife. As far as this ques-tion is concerned, therefore, he has not violated the law and is not subject to any penalty or disqualifi ation. The fact that he is a Mormon and that polygamy was formerly taught and prac-ticed by the church and is still pracliced by some of its members, does not affect his standing at all. The only question that could arise in his case on this point is not whether , theoretically believed in it, but whether he practiced it. As it is not claimed that he has ever had more than one wife he is immune on this point. But it is claimed that as an apostle in the Mormon church Mr. Smoot has taken an oath or assumed obligations to the church in consistent with his obligations as a United States Senator. This is a polit-ical question and entirely distinct from the religious phase of the question and from polygamy. If it can be shown that Mr. Smoot has assumed an obligation to the Mormon Church which in the possible event of a conflict would override and nullify his oath as a Senator to support the Constitution of the United States he ought not to hold

Kansas City Journal,

The evidence at the Senate investiga. tion has borne hard upon the Mormon church, and especially upon its president, Joseph Smith. By his own con. fession Smith is living in open violation of the laws of his State and teaching others that it is right to do so. The real question in issue, however, is not what Smith has done and is doing, but what Smoot has done and is doing, but what Smoot has done and is doing. It has been proved that Smith is a prac-tical polygamist and unfit to be a Senthey should pay no attention to either gates who come on a special ship, and ator, but this does not demonstrate the "specials" or editorials in the Tri- thus the convention will take on a de- that Smoot is unfit to be Senator. He



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