

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SCRIPTURE HISTORY.

A pamphlet has been received at this office claiming to tell the wonderful story of the Bible. It gives a brief account of the history of that volume and endeavors to explain the chief doctrines taught by the inspired authors.

The pamphlet contains much that is good, but this is nearly spoiled by the unfairness with which historical facts are related, for controversial purposes.

For instance, the author claims that God by His Spirit led His people to understand from the outset what writings were sacred, or divinely inspired, and that the church councils only had to declare publicly the results already reached by the divine method.

The indisputable fact is that the Bible, as we now have it, is all God's work, the result of growth, of development extending over many years. And the first centuries were marked with a great deal of uncertainty, and discussion.

The attitude of the early Fathers in the question under consideration, Luke makes it clear that many gospels had been written, besides the four, and the Fathers appear to quote from them, as well as from the four.

A "SOBER" ARGUMENT. The anti-"Mormon" organ in the course of an argument that in places becomes almost sober and coherent, endeavors to break the force of some of our Fourth of July observations.

It intimates, for example, that the reason the "Mormons" were sometimes denied the right to trial by jury in territorial days, that when they were executed from jury service, was that "the Mormon leaders have always opposed and avoided it."

The organ justifies the third deprivation of constitutional right to which the people of Utah were sometimes subjected in territorial days—the subversion of the civil by the military authority—by explaining that "any resort to the military on the part of this Government has been only in the event of utter failure of attempting to deal with ecclesiastically-bred evils by means of the courts."

"I know that the Scripture or writing of Enoch, which has given this angelic order, is not received by some, because it was not received into the Jewish depositary. I conclude that they cannot think that what was edited before the Deluge could have been saved after that catastrophe of the world that destroyed everything."

name and hereditary tradition, had heard and remembered of the favor of his preaching. For Enoch committed to his son, Methuselah, nothing but what he should deliver the knowledge of to his posterity. Therefore, Noah might, without doubt, have succeeded in the delegation of preaching; even because he would not conceal the dispensation of the God who had preserved him, concerning the glory of his own house.

We quote this because it sheds a flood of light upon the age during which the books of the Bible were written. It is, as it were, from the mass of the literature that then existed, Tertullian, evidently, deemed the Old Testament incomplete, since it excluded the Book of Enoch. He asserts that the Jewish Scriptures were all destroyed at the time of the Babylonian captivity, and that Ezra miraculously restored them, though Daniel had these books and studied them, before Ezra was called to the public service.

RESULT OF AGITATION. The unanimous testimony of Orchard, by those who have studied him closely is that he is a totally changed man. Notwithstanding the monstrous crimes he confesses to, he seems to create a rather favorable impression.

In order to understand the riddle of an existence like his, the natural results of the preaching of the doctrine of class hatred, must be considered. For years it has been proclaimed, from the platform and through the press, that one class exists only for the oppression of another, and, as a consequence, many laborers have unconsciously received the impression that a state war exists between them and their employers.

Consequently, men like Orchard will never think of but for the inflammatory appeals of agitators. Soldiers in war will commit acts they would despise themselves for in a time of peace.

Accidents and Publicity. A recent New York dispatch stated that, by order of Mr. E. H. Harriman, all accidents on the railroads composing the Harriman system were to be promptly reported to the press, when reports are called for.

Weather bureau predictions are based on the theory that man always is to be, but never is, blessed. An army surgeon asserts that sunshine is unhealthy. What is so dreary as a life without sunshine?

A funny thing about Mark Twain's Oxford degree is that he could not understand the Latin of the presentation speech. Judge Dunne has curtailed Mayor Schmitt's liberty. This is to treat him as a common and not as a state prisoner.

Germany has accepted France's proposition regarding a declaration of war before beginning hostilities. Former city councils had money to spend for the proper observance of the Fourth of July.

We didn't know the Baptist church had started riders until Mr. Rockefeller started to ride from Pittsfield to Chicago by order of the circuit court. Ambassador Bryce denies that he made the comments on the Oklahoma constitution attributed to him.

It is said that Carrie Nation is going to undertake the reform of Pittsburg. If Carrie wants a genuine herculean task to perform, let her undertake the reformation of herself. While in Chicago John D. Rockefeller will be under the immediate protection of the United States, and no one will be permitted to interfere with him.

IN WHICH THE MORAL CONDITIONS OF THE PLACE ARE DEPICTED IN DARK COLORS.

Police Moral—The policeman are as completely as if they were owned by the governments. This is notably true in the state of New York.

World Kill—The Russian girl student who tried to convert a Cossack of the palace guard at Tsarsko-Seio is called to revolutionary principles offered the soldier about five thousand dollars.

NATIONAL PROSPERITY. The close of the business year shows a larger surplus in the national treasury than any since 1902. The government receipts exceeded the expenditures by \$5,000,000.

THE INSANITY PLEA. In two famous murder cases the defense introduced stories of drugging and assault, to prove the insanity of the player.

Good Advice—In purchasing while others are being deceived. California red wine is cheap in Paris, but it is not so in Italy.

Seaside resort thieves are never caught with the goods on them. To all her sister cities San Francisco can truthfully say, "I have troubles of my own."

"Graft" is the only business interest of the country that isn't booming at present. The peek-a-boo waist having ceased to be fashionable has ceased to be comfortable.

When those sixteen great battleships sail around the Horn, there should be some Schouten. Those sixteen battleships are going around the Horn just on a practice cruise—in a horn.

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Mr. Japan and Uncle Sam are saying the nicest things about each other. The politest people in the world are those about to engage in an affair of honor.

GATHERED ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF THOUGHT.

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JUST FOR FUN.

Vacation's Aftermath. Reggy Snip groaned. "Ah, was I me?" he murmured softly. "Bringing a 'sooty' this was easy for Reggy."