

A NEW FEATURE.

AT A meeting of the General Board of Education for the Church, held on Thursday, May 2nd, a new and important step was taken. It was determined that, in connection with the general educational movement recently established, degrees should be created and diplomas issued in conformity with them. Three have already been created and bestowed, as follows:

Doctor in Letters and Didactics, the title to consist, as elsewhere, of the initial letters—D.L.D. A diploma in this degree has been issued to Professor Karl G. Maeser. Doctor in Science and Didactics—title D.S.D.—diploma issued to Professor James E. Talmage; Doctor in Mathematics and Didactics—title D.M.D.—diploma issued to Professor J. M. Tanner.

Everything connected with this important educational movement being of intense interest to all Latter-day Saints throughout the world, that the reader may be informed in detail regarding it, we here insert in full a copy of the diploma issued to Brother Maeser, the two others being similar in every respect except in the matter of name and title, and the character of the ecclesiastical office of the holder of the document:

Holliness to the Lord. The General Board of Education of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To all to whom these presents may come, Greeting:

Know ye, that satisfactory evidence having been brought before us, that Professor Karl G. Maeser is a High Priest, in full standing and fellowship in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that he has pursued to a successful completion, theoretically and practically, the various branches of a liberal education in theology, science, letters and the arts.

We do therefore declare him, the said Karl G. Maeser, to be a Doctor in Letters and Didactics (D. L. D.) unto all the schools of the said Church.

In Witness Whereof, we have caused this diploma to be signed by the President and Secretary of this Board, and to be sealed and issued, at Salt Lake City, Utah, on this the second day of May, Anno Domini, one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-nine.

In behalf of the General Board of Education:

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
President.
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
Secretary.

It is needless perhaps to state that it is the desire of the General Board that the titles associated with the degrees shall be recognized and used in the schools and among the

people. It will be observed that didactics is included in each degree. This is necessarily the case, the training of teachers being a chief and important part of the calling of those receiving these diplomas.

The three gentlemen upon whom the newly created degrees have been conferred, Professors Maeser, Talmage and Tanner, constitute the Examining Board which will pass upon the qualifications of all applicants for teachers' certificates and diplomas. A thorough and complete academic curriculum has been adopted by the General Board for the government of the examiners. Those who pass an examination under it will be entitled to the degree of Bachelor of Didactics (B.D.) This fact will doubtless prove a healthful stimulus to young people who conclude to adopt teaching as a profession. The title of professor has been used with unwarrantable freedom by persons who have not been intrinsically entitled to it. Within the system which is the subject of the present writing, it will only be used by those who fairly earn it by obtaining the academic diploma. The development of this movement, as it progresses, will doubtless cause the fact to dawn upon the minds of the young that it will be unnecessary for them to go east, except perhaps in special instances, in order to obtain an education that will meet the general requirements of life.

So far as we are informed, there is a distinctive and notable feature connected with the diplomas issued under the Church system. They are, we believe, the only documents of the kind extant across the face of which appears the name of Jesus Christ.

The inauguration of this movement among the Latter-day Saints marks the dawning of a brighter day for the education of the youth of the people of God on the earth.

The diplomas are the handiwork of T. W. Clayton, the noted penman. It is doubtful whether that skilful artist ever executed anything that did him more credit. The documents are so well done that they would be pronounced thilgs of beauty by the most fastidious *connoisseur*.

THE IDAHO SCHEME.

THE Idaho *Democrat* does not seem to be as entranced with the movement for statehood as some of the Republicans of that Territory. It quotes approvingly the following from the *Malad Enterprise*:

"On the other hand we cannot consistently become infatuated with a proposition which cannot be made clear to us by its most ardent advocates. Whenever it be shown to us that Idaho can maintain a State government without danger of bankruptcy or extortionate taxation our voice shall be for it. We do not ask, we cannot hope for those tens of millions of dollars that enthusiasts prate about; to us such ideas are preposterous. Why, the assessed valuation of all the property in the Territory is only some fifty millions, of which not more than one-tenth is land. We do not mean by this that the taxable real estate amounts to only one-tenth of all assessed property, but what we do mean is this: Strip Idaho lands of improvements and their assessed value would not exceed five millions. As before said, we are not fighting statehood, but we prefer looking at the proposition from all points of view, and discuss it fairly, without prejudice."

The *Democrat* further opposes the movement on the grounds of its unconstitutional bearing upon the "Mormon" question. Referring to the proposal to bar out all "Mormon" citizens from participation in the convention, the forming of a State Constitution and the election to ratify it, that paper says, editorially, the intention of the promoters of the movement is this:

"We do not intend to give you a fair show. We violated the Constitution of the United States to disfranchise you so that we could elect our nominee for Congress, and by thus barring out several thousand democratic votes we have gained two elections. If you believe that, going in as a State, we will turn you loose to again vote the Democratic ticket, and thus defeat our well-planned schemes, you will soon discover that your belief was founded on delusion. We intend to have a clause in the state constitution that will disfranchise you forever. We may be rascals, but we are not fools. There is but one way by which you will regain the privilege of voting, and that is by supporting the republican ticket from top to bottom; but we must know that you will do it before we help you, and you are wasting life if you hope for the restoration of your sacred rights under any other condition."

The conservative solid and sensible men of Idaho, if they really want that Territory to go into the Union as a State, should see to it that the Constitution framed when the convention meets is really republican in form. It will not be accepted by Congress if it is not so. And it will not be so if it shuts out from the elective franchise a number of its citizens who have broken no law, for the sole cause that they are members of a certain Church. The proposition, on the face of it, is monstrous. Disguise it how they