

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (Sundays excepted).

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Hiram G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES (in Advance):

One Year	..... \$2.00
Six Months	..... 1.25
Three Months	..... .75
One Month	..... .25
Single Copies	..... 5c

NEW YORK OFFICE

In charge of H. F. Cummings, manager  
Foreign Advertising from our London  
office, 101 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

In charge of E. J. Cooper, 11 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading  
matter for publication should be addressed to  
the EDITOR.Address all business communications  
and all remittances to  
THE DESERET NEWS,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake  
City as second class matter according to  
the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 26, 1904

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## THE CHURCH NOT IN DANGER

The "News" has taken the liberty of counseling to united efforts for the progress of Utah, as the only policy that can consistently be pursued by good citizens of the state. We have taken the liberty of warning against an agitation that is well known to have had its origin in personal ambition—with which the general public is not concerned—and to make use of bigotry as a means to reach certain ends. We have done so, because firmly convinced that the constant feeding with fuel of the flames of strife, the incessant stirring up of the baser passions and sentiments, is a suicidal policy. It is the work of enemies of the community, and not of friends. And it is, besides, risky. History presents examples of agitators—arousing a cyclone of passions, then losing control, and being swept away in the general ruin. Why should such work be countenanced in Utah?

But we are told that the attitude of the "News" is dictated by fear. Some danger, it is alleged, is approaching the Church, and therefore our counsel is for peace. We hasten to say, in reply to this really puerile conjecture, that no danger whatever, from any outside source, is threatening the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And we say this, not in a spirit of bravado, nor boastfully, but merely in recognition of the protecting care of Omnipotence.

What danger can be imagined against which God is powerless? Insects might possibly stop a railroad train, and cause very much annoyance. Grasshoppers are known to have, for a short time, detained trains across the Russian steppes. But puny man cannot, by all the ingenuity of wickedness, end the onward march of the work of the Almighty. He might as well pride himself on his ability and power to arrest the course of the stars in the heavens. Not even the torrents of blood shed in the onslaughts upon the people of God in various ages, has had the desired effect. Martyrologists estimate, we believe, that sixty million souls have been slain upon the altar of religious hatred, but the work of God has been onward just the same. There can be no danger to the Church, and absolutely nothing to fear, in anything man can do against that divine institution.

A well known incident in the history of Elijah, the successor of Elisha in the prophetic office, well illustrates this truth. On a certain occasion he found the city in which he resided, encompassed by a hostile army, sent there by a Syrian king for the express purpose of capturing the prophet. In the hope that his removal would be the prelude to an easy victory over the hosts of Israel. The attendant on the prophet was seized with fear, when he discovered the situation. But not so the prophet, whose vision had been opened to the proper relations between this world, and the spiritual. For he beheld the fiery chariots and horses that were on guard against the hostile forces. There was no danger to the "man of God," though an army concentrated its efforts to bring about his destruction.

The writer of these lines, some years ago had the privilege of making a voyage in a small British steamer, from Alexandria to Liverpool. While off the northern coast of Portugal a terrific storm was encountered. It lasted for three days and nights. The clouds hung like draperies of lead above, the wind howled dimly through the rigging of the boat, and the waves broke over the ship, threatening, it seemed, to tear it asunder. Boats and other objects on deck, though firmly secured, were swept overboard. It was a time when passengers ceased to hold social intercourse with one another. Each one had all he could do to keep himself from falling and tumbling about, as did inanimate objects. It was a time when lips were moved in prayer, that had not prayed for years. But the clouds broke at last. The sun shone again. The waves fell, and the voyage was continued, as if there had been no disturbance of the elements.

In a conversation with one of the mates, a few days after the storm, reference was made to the past experience, and he was asked whether he did not fear that the ship would be lost with all on board, in that terrible gale. His reply was, that there was no danger in wind and waves, as long as the ship had not sprung a leak, the machinery was in working order, the pilot at his place, and every one attending to his duties. With a sea-worthy vessel, a good crew and good officers, and

plenty of sea-room, there is, he said, no danger in storms.

This, it seems to us, applies with peculiar force, figuratively speaking, to the Church of God. There is no danger from the outside commotion that at times rises against her. Storms are passing. And after each struggle with opposing forces, the sun seems to shine brighter than ever.

## DUST AND SMOKE.

The Boston Transcript, under this caption, calls attention to the fact that the colds prevailing in that city are only partially due to the sudden change of temperature, and that smoke and dust are equally responsible for the various ailments that are classed as "colds." The smooth roadways are soon covered with a fine dust, which the street sweepers cannot remove, but which the four winds of heaven take up and scatter in every direction. It is so fine that it penetrates the smallest crevices in windows of houses and gets into our homes. It becomes a very part of the air we breathe. So, too, with the smoke which is projected into the air from our chimneys, from the soft coal which is burned in large quantities. We are constantly taking this into the lungs and an irritation is caused which manifests itself in a catarrhal inflammation which we call a "cold."

The Transcript continues: "Different people are affected differently by breathing this polluted atmosphere of the city. Many people are directly injured, while in most cases the harm done is gradual. But in any event the condition is unsanitary. The first snow is a great purifier of the atmosphere, but Boston has had no first snow in sufficient quantity to exercise any appreciable effect."

The conditions here described are familiar to the inhabitants of every large city. Dust and smoke problems are among the most intricate to solve. But as long as they remain unsolved, hygienic precautions in other directions must be less effective than they would be in a clear, natural atmosphere.

## THE ONLY REMEDY.

A correspondent of the "News" referring to the Socialist vote in the last election says there is more discontent in this country among the laboring classes than many are aware of, and that that fact accounts for the surprising figures in some places. The discontent, he argues, is more due to the treatment accorded the workmen, than to the wages paid. "When a man," he says, "does his honest best at hard labor at a price he knows is much less than less useful, and often useless, residents of this globe get as their just toll, he rebels (innermost at being treated like a dog)." This is no doubt, true. But how can Socialism better that condition, unless it can change the hearts of men? Only the Gospel can do that. That is a leveling and elevating force, because it teaches all human beings a common standard of righteousness, worthy of the incontrovertible truth of the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

## FOR UNITY OF FAITH.

Many religious denominations united in a great home mission celebration in Festival hall at the St. Louis exposition last month, in commemoration of home missionary work in the territory covered by the Louisiana purchase. Speakers representing Episcopal, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Dutch Reformed, Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches were present.

Next year a convention is to be held in New York, the object of which is to consider some basis of unity between Protestant bodies in this country. The question of the union of these churches will be the chief topic of discussion, and it is said that delegates from the Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Protestant Episcopal, Methodist and other factions will be present.

Several efforts have been made of late years, to bring about such unity. But the friends of the movement have not been able to overcome the obstacles. Denominational differences consist of differences of creed as well as of differences of organization. Some churches have elaborate creeds, and in some cases the creeds are quite inconsistent with beliefs regarded as essential by other bodies of Christians. Some churches regard a certain form of organization and certain methods of church government as essential to their welfare, while others allow great latitude in these matters. The mistake hitherto has been in the efforts to even out these differences and base unity on uniformity. This will be unsuccessful until creeds are no more, and forms are considered unimportant. Unity should rather be attempted on the principle that underlies the so-called Evangelical Alliance. The adherents of that ideal endeavor to bring about unity in spirit and missionary labor, and leave creeds and organizations as they are.

This is the only practical plan, at present offered to the various churches of the world from their own midst. It contemplates a kind of federation, in which each denomination retains its identity, while co-operating with others in a certain line of work. The Evangelical Alliance idea has only slowly been recognized, but it certainly is more practical than some other ideas advanced.

True unity, however, can never be attained except by the means provided by the Lord Himself. For, as is well known, He instituted certain offices in the Church for the perfecting of the Saints, and the work of the ministry—such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—"till we all come in the unity of the faith." There can be no other means by which that end can be obtained, than that which has been appointed by the divine Head of the Church.

## MEDITERRANEAN RISING.

It has often been stated that some parts of "terra firma," particularly in the northern regions of the globe, are slowly rising from the depths of the

ocean, or, in other words, that the waters are receding from the shores. In other places the coasts appear to be sinking.

The latter is said to be the case in the Mediterranean. In a recent brochure presented to the Academy of sciences the author claims that the sea has greatly increased in depth as compared to ancient times. Formerly a bridge 3,000 feet long united Leucade to the continent. Today it is submerged, but the foundations of the work were discovered eleven feet beneath the surface. It may, therefore, be concluded that since the construction of the bridge the sea has risen at this point over nine feet. At Itea, in the Bay of Amphissa, there has been observed a mole which is also over nine feet beneath the surface. At Rhenee there has been found a completely submerged dock, evidently of Roman construction, the depth of the sea above the dock at places being fully nine feet. From all of these facts the author of the brochure concludes that the Mediterranean has risen at least nine feet in about 2,000 years.

We are thus reminded of the fact that the present configuration of the earth's surface is by no means permanent. It is constantly changing. Viewed from the standpoint of One to whom a thousand years is but as a day, it is as unstable as the ocean to the human eye. What sudden changes may occur surpasses human imagination. But it would be folly to conclude that because all is comparatively speaking, tranquil today, it will remain so for ever and ever. The dwellers along the ocean beach know that the waves peacefully slumbering today on the bosom of the continent, may rise tomorrow, as if in wild combat with the elements. It is so with everything on earth. All is subject to changes. But through these changes perfection is to be reached ultimately.

A landslide doesn't always make a good land mark.

Every little political shrub considers itself senatorial timber.

The weather is so fine that the last rose of summer still lingers.

The Mark Hopkins Institute of Art students made De Rome howl.

Among all the crowned heads that lie uneasy, that of the Czar is easily first.

All New York resents the presence of signs in the Subway. This is a good sign for New York.

Colonel Watterson has gone to Europe. It is too early to say whether or no America's loss is Europe's gain.

Because Judge Parker has opened a law office in Liberty street, it doesn't follow that he gives legal advice free.

Oyama might secure a writ of habeas corpus for Stoersel, and see if he can get him out of Port Arthur with that.

There is good hope for Port Arthur still. See how long the tower of Pisa has been leaning, and it hasn't fallen yet.

There is one thing that legislation cannot do for the Philippines—reduce the length of the sea voyage to reach them.

Automobiles were called "red devils" because they were painted red. The more devilish ones are now painted yellow.

The Harvard sophomore class has elected as its president a poor student who is working his way through college by acting as a waiter. All things come to those who know how to wait.

There is talk of reducing southern representation in Congress. What the country—North, South, East and West—needs most is a reduction of the misrepresentation.

The Chinese word "Janson" means the same as the Japanese "banzai," the French "vive," the German "hoch" and the English "hurrah." The Russians have no such word, having no use for it.

Professor Braun of Strassburg says that light is only another form of electricity. Will Bible revisionists insist that Genesis shall read: "And God said, Let there be electricity; and there was electricity?"

"Judge Barch as a senatorial candidate is said to stand well with the president. Which president?" says the organ of the New Liberal party. And that is the way it insults the Chief Justice and the people of the State of Utah. Out on such "Americanism?"

And now comes an official denial from Sweden that Japanese naval officers were in that country trying to buy steamers. This was about the last prop for the Russian North Sea case, and it has proven to be a broken reed. The thing for Russia to do is to confess judgment, pay the damages, and promise to be more careful about making blunders in the future.

Nearly eighty per cent of the teachers in the public schools of Salt Lake City are non-Mormons," and yet the organ of the new anti-Mormon party says that the good teachers who are "Gentiles" have been forced out of the teaching corps. Of course that is not true, some of the very best schools ever had being still here. But what a slur the insinuation is upon the non-Mormon teachers!

## ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Watchman. It is envy and ambition that make us miserable. We often discover that we want things by seeing the abundance of others. It is comparison that kindles the fire, so that in outward possessions we should look to those beneath us; but for our mental attainments let us ever strive for the highest and noblest. A thing long expected and earnestly desired, when possessed, does not always bring the happiness anticipated. Do we not get the greatest

good when we make another happy? We need to love and be loved in order to be happy. Let us do what we can for our friends. We can speak of what is pleasant rather than disagreeable. We can be in sympathy with their feelings, being thoughtful and considerate. There are many lonely people about us who need our aid. Encourage them to open their hearts to us and talk over their troubles. They will feel the better for having disclosed them.

Northwestern Christian Advocate. How can the man with one talent be helped? The first thing is that he understand the character of Him who bestows the one talent. The fundamental trouble with the man in the parable was that he actually misunderstood his Master. He thought of him as a hard man, reaping where he had not sown and gathering where he had not scattered, and he was afraid. Afraid of what? Why, afraid to venture anything. Imagining his master to be austere, hard, exacting, and even more than exacting—looking for returns even where there had been no investment—he could not bring himself to make a venture with his talent for fear he might lose all. It is true, of course, that if this was his opinion of his master he should have been all the more concerned to make as much as possible out of his one talent. But the fear overcame him, and overcame every other consideration. And that is the reason, or one of the reasons, why many people hide their talents—they are afraid to run the risk, to venture anything for God.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Swift's Premium calendar for 1905 is a beautiful lithograph in colors and gold, and contains 12 reproductions of four heads by McIntire. The four seasons of the year are strikingly represented in these pictures.

The contributions in Leslie's Monthly Magazine for December are expressive of the spirit of Christmas. In the list of contents is made account of the following: the famous Labrador missionary, of his work along the coast and of the deeds of the fishermen and their wives, and an excellent little article by Annie Payson Call about Christmas. The story of the foreign actors and actresses who will tour America this winter, is illustrated with a number of portraits, and the third article about the Theatrical Syndicate. Besides these there are short stories, by George Hibbard, H. C. Rowland, Margaret Busbee Shipp and others, an account of one of the battles of the Russo-Japanese war, told by a Japanese official, and sketches of Admiral Converse, Beckman Winthrop, the young Governor of Porto Rico, and Prince Mirsky of Russia.—New York.

The December McClure's opens with a charming Christmas story. It is called "A Umbrella of Divinities," and is the work of James Hooper. Any one who read Mr. Hooper's story in the November McClure's, depicting the physical and mental stress of football, will find it difficult to associate his name with this sketch of the heart-life of a little French lad. In such a contrast, however, Mr. Hooper shows his art. His Christmas story is a literary gem. It reflects the Christmas spirit and sentiment.—New York.

Herrar's Bazar for December opens with a splendid paper "Concerning Christmas Giving," by Margaret Deland. There are, further, the opening chapters of a novel, "The Debtor," by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman. Other features of the Magazine are, "A Christmas Exile," A story, May Harris; "Family Secrets," No. 1, Secrets of Happiness, Marion Foster Washburne; "The Masquerader," a novel, conclusion, Katherine Cecil Thurston; "Holiday Fashions," A. T. Ashmore; "The Holidays in Paris," Flora McDonald Thompson; "Yule-Tide Games and Pastimes," Anna Wentworth Sears; "Our Girls," Anna Ogden; "Novel Christmas Gifts," Christine Tebbins Horrick; "Aids to Sanitary Housekeeping," Alice Harvey Batt; "The Housewife's Note-Book," "The Christmas Dinner," Josephine Grenier; "Editorial Comment," and "In Jocular Vein."—Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York.

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