

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

Lorenzo Snow, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 24, 1900.

THE DAY OF DAYS.

The anniversary of the birth of the greatest Being who ever breathed the breath of life on this planet, should be the happiest and most universally celebrated of all historic occasions. It is not only the birthday of the Saviour of the world, but also the birthday of the human race.

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advent all Christendom at this time is about to celebrate, is eminently a practical religion. It enters into every day life. It teaches its followers to abandon the vanity of the world, and the vices, in which so many sink their hard earned wages. It enjoins industry, frugality, honesty, purity, and all the virtues the practice of which tend to give to human beings health, strength of body and mind; wisdom, its gifts to men and women are wisdom and prudence, as well as contentment and peace. What a field, the faith has, to demonstrate the bearing of faith and prayer, of divine love, of morality and the conscientious observance of the commandments of the Lord upon the daily affairs of life. There is no condition, no relation into which a human being can enter, that is not affected by the principles of true religion. In the family circle, in the school, in the working room, in the business office or the social gathering, the true Christian is a different person from one actuated only by worldly and selfish motives. It should be the business of the pupil to prove this. If the minister neglects to show the intimate connection between things eternal and things temporal, he is a failure.

Our Saviour illustrated this in His teachings. He was no mere lecturer upon the topics of the day. Nor was He an idealist with no eye for the material world of earthly existence. But He entered into every detail of life. The occupation of the tiller of the ground, the shepherd of the flock, the fisherman, the dignified occupants of the ecclesiastical or civil offices, and even the gentle home duties of Martha were familiar to Him and furnished topics for immortal discourses. He might have preached to 500 working girls of modern Chicago with effect. And to them, as to all classes, His admonition would have been: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

THE CRADLE OF MAN.

Another theory of the "cradle of the human race" has been advanced, this time by Samuel Waddington in the Nineteenth Century. Waddington has been supposed that this cradle must have stood somewhere in tropical, or semi-tropical regions of the earth. The very fact that man, unlike fur-covered animals, is not by nature provided with adequate protection against the severity of the colder zones, is taken as indicating this.

Mr. Waddington, however, believes that when man first made his appearance on earth, the tropical regions were too hot for any form of animal life. He thinks the advent of man occurred long before the glacial epoch, and somewhere in or near the Arctic regions. He ventures the opinion that the vast tract of land lying between the Tiber mountains on the west and the Behring straits, the sea of Okhotsk, and Manchuria on the east may have been the fatherland of the first families of the human race. In this vast area, three thousand miles across, the human family may have multiplied for centuries before it spread to other continents.

At that time, Mr. Waddington thinks, the American continent was joined to Asia by an isthmus, thus enabling the race to cross over and settle here, even earlier than the first settlers of western Europe found a resting place in that part of the world.

The drawback to this theory is that the author of it pictures our first ancestors as a race of apes running about on the treeless highlands of northeastern Asia scrambling along on their "back hands" until these developed into the human foot. This, he argues, could not take place in a tropical climate with luxuriant woods, where the apes would continue clasping the boughs in search of fruit. Any hypothesis so much at variance with facts as far as known must be discarded.

But it is important for all that. It shows that the advocates of the animal origin of man are at variance with one another on essential points. Not long ago the missing link was surely found in the skull of a tropical island, while now it is asserted that in the tropics the marvelous evolution from monkey to human being could not have taken place. And thus one assertion destroys the other.

How much more philosophical, and consistent with all that is certainly known about the human race, is the view that man was created in the image of his Maker! That he was sent upon this earth in order to become prepared for eternal exaltation! In this view the relation to God is acknowledged. The divine purpose in the entire creation is recognized. The infinite intelligence, goodness and power of the Ruler of the world are perceived. In the other view there is nothing but chance. Man's life becomes merely an accident—a fantastically shaped cloud that is changed with every new current of wind, a vapor that appears for a brief moment and is no more. A human mind that can rest satisfied with such a solution of the most important of all problems must be peculiar indeed.

As to the question of the cradle of man, no more consistent statement has been made than that which assigns it to the American continent. This truth was first advanced by the Prophet Joseph Smith, but later it has been very strongly advocated by prominent scientists and among them by Mr. Plouffe. The only objection Mr. Waddington has to this, is that on this continent "there are at the present no anthropoid apes," from which he can evolve human beings, but that objection will not weigh much.

AGAINST EXTRAVAGANCE.

Bishop Potter, of New York, who not long ago commenced a crusade against vice in that city, again comes before the public in a powerful denunciation of what he calls the "vicious, dominant hunger which salutes us from one end to another of our land—the passion, the greed of gain." This passion he finds at the bottom of every "thing in our age. He exempts no class, no institution. In his own language:

"Go where you may, talk with whom you will—with clergymen estimating

the promises of fields for spiritual labor, with women railing the claims of religion upon their social position, with the heads of great universities paralyzed with fright lest the professions of some plain-spoken professor, who tells his age the truth in an hour when it sorely needs to hear it, shall cut down the revenues of the college. It is no matter, the commercial question is at the bottom of it, and decides usually all the others."

One of his well aimed shafts were directed against the extravagance of the ladies, in dress. He cites the instance of a society woman who paraded a dress made entirely of the wool of unborn Persian lambs, a piece of apparel that costs perhaps \$250. She may be able to afford it, but her husband's income being \$100,000, but other women feel that they are just as good as she is, and her example leads others to extravagance that brings ruin and disaster to their families.

What is particularly noteworthy in the bishop's address on this topic is the fact that he cautions against the reliance upon legislation or any system of socialism, for a remedy against such evils. The Church, he said, must take a higher ground than that. He said:

"What would be the effect if a company of men and women of recognized leadership should bind themselves together to illustrate in their habit of life, simplicity of attire, frugality, temperance in their dwellings; should further bind themselves to discourage the habit of excessive accumulation? For myself, I believe that such a suggestion would attract far greater numbers than most of us believe."

And the bishop, we think, is correct in this. With a great many of the cruel exactions of fashion are felt to be a great burden, they would gladly throw off, if they could do so without losing their social standing and prestige. Were the example set by men and women of recognized leadership, the following would be considerable.

Centuries ago this same subject was discussed by the inspired writer who penned these words concerning that which constitutes true womanly grace: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands." 1 Peter, iii, 3-5.

That is to say, in this view, sanctioned by divine authority, gold, jewelry and costly apparel are no ornaments, when those who wear them are destitute of the genuine womanly qualities, while these gifts and graces in themselves constitute an ornament far more attractive than any made of precious metals or sparkling diamonds. It is impossible to make "Christian" society realize this great and important truth? The present craze for display is a menace to society. It always involves the possibility that some people will think others have obtained more than their just share of wealth. Hence dissatisfaction, envy and agitation. All this would be settled, should there be a rivalry in the display of honesty, truthfulness, chastity, humility and kindred virtues, instead of expensive apparel and palatial residences. It can do no harm for society leaders to meditate seriously upon the suggestions of Bishop Potter, of New York. The "Christian" world is about to celebrate the advent of Him who, though the ruler of the world, made His first appearance in a manger. The time is appropriate for a thoughtful consideration of such a subject.

NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.

We have no desire to do anyone, even the most persistent enemy, underhand and would-be muzzler of the "News," the least injustice. If there is any error in the quotation we have made of the language of Dr. T. B. Best's response to Superintendent Cooper's letter of inquiry, about teachers attending the convention in this city, we will willingly make the necessary correction. But we obtained a literal copy of his exact words, and made sure they were identical before publishing them. This is the reply as we have previously printed it.

"In my opinion there would be no danger to be anticipated from the attendance of teachers at the State Teachers' convention, provided they shall have been successfully vaccinated; otherwise there would be great danger. They would not be able to carry the disease to others unless they themselves should first have contracted it."

Now, if there is any other meaning to be fairly attached to the last sentence, than that no person can spread contagion unless he has himself contracted the disease, we would like to have it pointed out. Abuse, word-writing, and the intemperate attacks of a professional evader of square argument, will not count. The language used speaks for itself and shows either gross ignorance of well known facts, or complete indifference to the consequences of the conveyance of infection by means of clothing and contact.

It is also no answer to the laws of the State to call names and go into convulsions. The statutes are published, they are for the benefit of the public, and those we have quoted are simple and easy to understand. We refer to them as superior to the assumption of an imperialistic official, and beyond the inventive of a journalistic advocate, whose verbiage conveys nothing but intended insult which falls short of the mark.

GREATEST OF THE CENTURY.

A list of "The fifty greatest men of the nineteenth century" was published the other day by the New York Herald. The list is as follows: Abraham Lincoln, U. S. Grant, Horatio Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Otto von Bismarck, William E. Gladstone, Napoleon I, Raimund von Mohke, Louis Adolphe Thiers, Benjamin Disraeli, John Henry Newman, David Livingstone, Daniel Webster, Charles Darwin, Heinrich Heine, Alexander Dumas pere, Charles Stewart Parnell, John Stuart Mill, Albert Berzel Thorsvalden, Ernest Meissonier, M. Fortuny, Edwin Booth, Thomas Jefferson, Goethe, Wagner, Beethoven, Schiller, Darguerre, Froebel, Faraday, Humboldt, George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,

Charles Hovey, Louis Pasteur, Thackeray, Walt Whitman, Hawthorne, Tennyson, James Russell Lowell, Longfellow, Emerson, Coleridge, Huxley, Carlyle, Byron, Walter Scott, Browning, Dickens, Balzac and Victor Hugo.

The selection presented is evidently made with great care. It includes statesmen, warriors, missionaries, authors, dramatists, painters, sculptors, scientists, philosophers, musicians, etc., all of whom have made for themselves a name in history. The list is conspicuous for the absence of crowned heads on it, for although Napoleon is there, the honor is unquestionably accorded him on account of his military exploits and not for anything he did as emperor of France. And thus it is seen that those who by birth or accident may be placed temporarily in the most prominent places on the world's stage do by no means always play the parts that are most appreciated, or longest remembered.

There are other names which future historians will undoubtedly inscribe on the list of the great men of this century. And among them are those of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and their successors. The result of the work of these men is not as yet appreciated, except by the comparatively small circle of men and women, who are endowed with the gift of penetrating the veil that separates the future from the present. But as time passes all will become clear. And when mankind is in full enjoyment of the light of truth that kindled; when peace and good will shall reign, in consequence of the acceptance of the Gospel of brotherhood that preached; when the old conditions shall have passed away and everything shall have been made new by the Lord Omnipotent, whose advent in glory they proclaimed, then their names will be inscribed among the most memorable ones, not only of a century, but of the world's ages. The Son of God Himself died in obscurity. Judging by common standards, His life was a failure. The same could be said of the careers of His followers, who came into a world unworthy of them. But see what change the centuries have wrought. The history of the first messengers of Christianity is the history of God's chosen messengers in all ages and generations.

MORE BOYS THAN GIRLS.

A contributor to the London Humanitarian has made a special study of the question whether more boys than girls are born every year, and his conclusion is that the statistics prove this to be an indisputable fact. The average for Europe is 106 male to 100 female births. In some localities the average is higher. Among the Livonian Jews, for instance, it is 120 males to 100 females, while among the Christian population of the same region the proportion is only 104 to 100.

This excess of male births is said to be shown wherever statistics on the subject are obtainable. Royal births, as recorded in Almanac de Gotha for 1873, show 328 male to 257 female infants. In British aristocracy 2,158 boys and 2,050 girls were the fruit of 1,027 marriages of peers. In the Dublin lying in hospital, of 16,617 births, 8,548 were boys and 8,069 girls. And this is not peculiar to the western world. In the Orient, as far as the matter has been the subject of investigation, the result is similar. Dr. James Campbell has obtained some important data as to the children born in the harems of Siam. Seventeen fathers and 191 mothers had 490 children, of whom 229 were sons and 261 daughters. Of these 73 were the children of eight mothers.

But notwithstanding this fact, the writer in the Humanitarian says, the census figures show an excess of females at all ages. In Great Britain the life tables show that under one year of age there are 509,180 males and 490,520 females. At the age of one year the proportion is reduced to 427,154 boys and 426,466 girls, which means that in the first year of human life 17,681 more boys than girls die in that country. At the age of two years there are only 402,790 boys to 403,959 girls, an excess of 1,274 girls, so that the excess of boys furnished by births is more than wiped out in two years.

The two facts are strikingly curious. Nature, being conscious of the perils to which male forms of life in the tenderest ages are exposed, and to the further dangers of wars, accidents and exposures after years, supplies those forms abundantly so as to keep the equilibrium at least approximately correct. That, at least, would be the explanation of a natural philosopher who recognizes no other first cause than "nature." Those, however, who believe in the pre-existence of spirits and in an infinite intelligence governing the universe, will hardly rest satisfied with that conclusion. They will see in these facts another illustration of the great truth that every day we are surrounded by mysteries, the key to which may not be obtained until man reaches a higher sphere of intelligence.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO YOU.

There will be no meeting of the High Council on Christmas Day.

May the last Christmas of the century prove to our readers the happiest of all!

The Deseret News will rejoice in a Christmas holiday, to which it thinks all hands are entitled after the labors of the great Christmas edition.

South African dispatches say that the British should take Gen. Dewet seriously. What puzzles them is to take him at all.

Colorado lawlessness still keeps to the front. The record for the past thirty-six hours in Denver is seven assaults and highway robberies.

If the Boers are as thick and threatening is South Africa as are the rumors of a disquieting nature to the British, the latter are likely to be in a bad fix for a while.

The urgency of Britain for troops to fight the Boers, is shown by the instructions given to the colonies to send men. All the indications show that the South African affair is far beyond the status of child's play.

An anarchist lecturer says the an-

archists will not kill any more kings. If her statement as to what this class of people will do is a criterion of the other promise, then kings had better keep on their guard.

A dispatch from Sitka, Alaska, says the people there fear an Indian outbreak. From the regularity with which this report comes every winter, it would seem that an annual fear is all there is to the alleged threatened trouble.

The United States says it thinks \$200,000,000 is enough for the powers to demand of China. Uncle Sam must think the European nations are on a percentage basis. That would not compensate them for their lacerated feelings in having to agree with each other.

The next inaugural ceremonies arranged in Washington are certainly intended to be the most magnificent yet seen. As the money is contributed mostly by rich men, and will be distributed among many workmen, there will be no great objection to this manner of expenditure.

The accomplishment of Dr. Muller, the Austrian ear specialist, in partially restoring the hearing of Miss Alta Rockefeller, is a great achievement, and indicates the measure of wonderful skill to which modern careful practitioners may attain.

The crop of kidnapped boys is increasing. A Montana lad was seized on Sunday night, but his abductors were compelled by the heavy storm to release their prisoner after taking him eleven miles. Rich men's sons should stay in at night for awhile, or have a guard along.

An American in Cuba has agreed to submit himself to a test as to whether or not mosquitoes will carry the germs of yellow fever. If the volunteer be not an immune, the test may work all right, whether it kills him or not, but there is room for suspicion that he is working a fake for profit.

The Kentucky authorities are awakening to the necessity of rigid quarantine as a means of preventing the spread of smallpox. In Greenup county there are several hundred cases, and the death rate is 20 per cent. Guards are sent out to prevent people leaving the county, and the strictest quarantine is ordered.

A California girl has been kidnapped. As she is not a rich man's child, the fair inference is that she has been taken from far viler motives than to exact a ransom. Officers should see to it that kidnappers strike a snag quickly. The patience of the people is not greatly extended toward the wretches in the abducting business, if they are caught.

Fifty thousand more western horses are wanted for the British army in South Africa, an agent now being in Kansas City, Mo., to make the purchase. As each horse costs about \$300 delivered at the front, this means an expense to Britain of \$15,000,000, for this order alone. Oom Paul's statement, made to Mr. Chamberlain, that the English would find it a costly war, is fulfilled safe enough.

As the only argument the Tribune can offer, on the subject which has troubled it so much for some weeks, is cursing the Deseret News, there is nothing for us to reply to. Calling the "News" "A Perverse Wretch" may gratify the splenetic writer, but it does not add either dignity to his style nor force to his ravings. All the response we have to make is: A merry Christmas to you, poor thing, and may the New Year bring you a sounder mind and a better spirit!

A Phoenix, Arizona, dispatch says Prof. B. Cluff of the Brigham Young Academy expedition, has reported antiquarian discoveries in southern Mexico and Central America. The news would seem to be premature, since the expedition has not reached so far. The very latest tidings of the expedition is given in the Deseret News from week to week, in the Saturday issue of this paper; and next Saturday will give another of Prof. Cluff's very interesting letters. As to the antiquarian discoveries in the countries named upholding the "Mormon" view of the prehistoric peopling of this country, that is a fact established long ago, by investigations made by others than "Mormons."

BISHOP POTTER ON EXTRAVAGANCE.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

We trust Bishop Potter will continue his thundering denunciation against female extravagance in apparel. The history of our country may aid him in this regard. At the close of our memorable Civil War, after an expenditure of \$4,000,000 of treasure and the sacrifice of 500,000 lives, economy was a necessity in order to pay our debts and get ahead again. Even wealthy contractors, who had made a deal of money out of the war, were ashamed to display their wealth prodigally, that is in a grandiose style of living and dress. This was markedly the case under President Grant's first administration, when a historian of that day was in close touch with the most fashionable society in Washington used these memorable words which should be graven in the heart of every fashionable woman of the present day: "Women with names that will never die, wore plain gowns."

Boston Herald.

We fear that the bishop's remedy would not be effective. However great the numbers, they would be few compared with the whole. His suggestion does