

## 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.

Charles W. Penrose - Editor.

Morris G. Whitney - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.

(In Advance):

One Year ..... \$5.00

Six Months ..... 2.50

Three Months ..... 1.25

One Month ..... .50

Saturday Edition, Per Year ..... 2.00

Semi-Weekly, Per Year ..... 2.50

NEW YORK OFFICE.

In charge of B. F. Cummings, manager

Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 112 Park Row Building, New York.

CHICAGO OFFICE.

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Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 47 Washington St. Represented by P. S. Webb, Room 115.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 75 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 Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 12, 1904.

LIMITATION OF OFFSPRING.

A short time ago we drew attention to the fact that much of the opposition, violently put forward, against the continuance of plural family relations among "Mormons" who had contracted them previous to the manifesto for the suppression of further polygamous marriages, came from people who were against having large numbers of children. They were against when they learned of the family increase among the "Mormons," and inveighed against it from their own standpoint of limitation. The San Francisco Call took up the question without meeting it on the ground presented, and spoke of persons who did not believe in "race suicide" but who were yet hostile to polygamy.

The Deseret News, in making the remarks alluded to, did not intimate in any way that such persons as those referred to by the Call were opposed to plural marriage for the reason suggested, but the other class, which numbers a great multitude of both sexes. We knew what we were talking about. The Call surely cannot be ignorant of the facts. Follow up the evidence and it will be made clear and certain that the bulk of the most fervent agitators against the "Mormons," are urging and practicing the suppression of offspring. And we regard that with at least as much abhorrence and detestation as any of them can feel towards "Mormon" polygamy.

We direct the attention of the Call to an article in the New York Independent of April 14, by Lydia K. Com-mander. It contains an array of evidence, gathered from the most authentic sources, showing the decadence of American stock, the decline in the American birth-rate, and the open avowal of physicians and others as to the suppression of offspring. The calculation of Benjamin Franklin, who was one of fourteen children, as to what would be the population in 1900, is quoted, that is 190,000,000, which was based on the average family of his time, namely eight, while the actual population is but 76,000,000, of whom 11,000,000 are foreign born, and 13,000,000 the offspring of foreign born parents, leaving but 52,000,000 for American stock, or little more than half the number predicted.

Investigating the effect of the announced prejudice of landlords in New York against renting houses and flats to people having children, the writer of that article found that in large numbers of families renting there were no children at all, and in many others but one child. Pursuing the inquiries, forty-six physicians were visited; several declined to discuss the matter, but thirty-six responded, and out of them thirty answered the question: "What do you consider the ideal American family," by saying, "Two children, a girl and a boy." One of them actually declared that, "Having a family is not an American ideal." And further remarked, "Among my patients I find that the majority do not want any children; certainly not more than one. I should say that as a rule the second is an accident, the third is a misfortune, and the fourth a tragedy."

Another physician said: "The desire to limit or eliminate family is universal. Children are no more or scarcely more, desired among the poor than among the rich, though the poor are often less successful in avoiding them. I am consulted professionally in regard to this every day." Another remarked, "Whenever the woman of the poorer classes is the least bit above the lower level, she desires to cease having children. No request is made of me often, or in the clinic than for advice along these lines." Fourteen other physicians having clinic experience confirmed those opinions. We have not space or inclination to quote the numerous instances cited on the subject, but refer the reader to the article in the Independent, which is summed up as follows:

A review of the evidence gathered points to these conclusions:

1-That the size of the American family has diminished.

2-That the decline is greatest among the rich and educated, but also exists to a marked extent among the middle class and the intelligent poor.

3-That only the most ignorant and irresponsible make no effort to limit the number of their children.

4-That not only has the large family disappeared, but it is no longer desired.

5-That the prevailing American ideal, among rich and poor, educated and uneducated, women and men, is two children.

6-That childlessness is no longer considered a disgrace or even a misfortune, but is frequently desired and voluntarily sought.

7-That opposition to large families is so strong an American tendency that our immigrants are speedily influenced by it, even Jewish families for ages for their love of family, exhibiting its effects.

8-That the large family is not only

individually, but socially, disapproved; the parents of numerous children meeting public censure.

The Independent editorially deplores but does not deny the statements and conclusions of the article from which we quote. But it endeavors to promote a desire for honorable and prudent marriages and large families of healthy intelligent children. It argues that "many of the very best women who would make the best mothers remain unmarried, because there are not enough good and worthy men to provide them husbands." And it declares that, "The fact is that there are two good, pure, high-minded women to one such man." And further, "Many such women do not meet the man worthy of them who can seek them in marriage, and they will not marry a man whom they cannot respect." If these remarks had been made by a "Mormon" writer, he would at once be suspected of not accused of advocating polygamy.

The Independent discourses on the selfishness that prompts many well-to-do young men, in refusing to marry until a late period "when children are but few," or if they do marry earlier they find it "irksome to allow children to interrupt the pleasures of society life." And says, "they think it vulgar to have children grow up around them." On the whole that paper deplores these conditions but sees no other remedy than for parents to encourage their sons to marry early, assume the responsibilities of family life and cultivate the nobler principles which should govern humanity. The article and the editorial in the Independent are respectfully submitted to the critical consideration of our San Francisco contemporary, the Call.

THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECT OF "MORMONISM."

We have several times referred, in these columns, to a forthcoming work on that subject, by Professor N. L. Nelson of Provo. We can now give the following further information:

Prof. Nelson is in receipt of a letter from Mr. B. F. Cummings in New York, showing the final disposition of his manuscript. Four prominent publishing houses took it under advisement, each receiving a favorable report from its respective readers. But all turned it down, on account of the tremendous prejudice aroused through the country through recent events. At last a house has the courage to launch it. Mr. Cummings writes:

"As I wrote you, I left your manuscript with G. P. Putnam's Sons, on Monday last, the 5th, with the stipulation that should have their answer during the week. They put a reader on it at once, and his report was so favorable that on Thursday I was invited to a conference with Mr. Huntington. We had a long interview in which he admitted that the work was better than they expected to find it, and they said they would publish an edition at their own risk, if you would take 2,500 copies.

"The situation is this: The Putnam will print as large an edition as they may think fit, and such subsequent ones as may be necessary, and will pay you a royalty on all copies sold, except to you on your first order. They will bear the entire expense, and promise a handsome volume mechanically, to be printed on a high grade of paper. All they require of you is that you purchase 2,500 copies.

They will put the book in all catalogues issued by both their houses, New York and London, and will push sales by the usual methods. Though cosmopolitan and non-sectarian, they publish many religious books relating to different denominations, and number many religious people among their patrons. They are one of the largest and most influential publishing firms in America, and their London house may be of special value to you, as it will certainly introduce your book in Europe. I am inclined to believe that the Putnam are after all, the very best house you could have chosen.

"Of course you could print the book privately at a much smaller cost per copy than you will have to pay the Putnam. But they will make a handsome book with better paper than the figures in mine of the 25th call for, and then they are likely to amount to a substantial sum, though any estimate of it now would be a wild guess.

"But if you will pardon my presumption in advising you, I will suggest that the advantage to you personally, and to your future as an author, and especially to the cause that is so dear to you, in having a good publisher, is not to be measured by the few hundred dollars you might possibly save by having the book printed privately. You will write other books, and perhaps other "Mormon" authors will likewise, and there is no forecasting the benefits that may accrue through breaking in one good place, the shell of anti-"Mormon" prejudice, which has heretofore shut out from the world the literary genius of our writers. I sincerely hope, therefore, that you will make a contract with the Putnam.

"Should you so decide, they will require you to place an order for 2,500 copies at the time of signing the contract, and one half the amount must be paid before the work on the book begins."

Prof. Nelson has written Mr. Cummings to go ahead and sign up a contract with the Putnam. The terms are stiff as was to be expected; but as this work was written especially to appeal to intelligent men of the world, the professor realizes that this is practically the only way of effecting his purpose. And reserving the right to sell the book among Latter-day Saints, he hopes to escape all financial difficulties in the venture.

We hope the Latter-day Saints generally will sustain this literary enterprise. Brother Nelson is a writer who always has something to say, and who knows how to say it in a pleasing and impressive manner. His works show deep thought and diligent study. But besides this, those who buy this book, thereby aid in the dissemination of knowledge in the world. They perform a good missionary work. They cast seed abroad, which in due time will give harvest. Money thus spent is well invested.

RUSSIAN EXPANSION.

A contemporary asks whether Russia has ever gained a victory, by the bravery and fighting qualities of her soldiers. Frost, snow, hunger, it is pointed out, have fought for her, and annihilated the strong forces of the enemy, as in the case of her wars with France and the Turks, but her armies have never covered themselves with glory. This is, to some extent, true. But the steady, territorial growth of the Russian giant is all the more remarkable. Ivan and Vassili went north-

ward on the White Sea and the Arctic Ocean. Ivan the Terrible gained Astrakhan, and extended the borders to the Caspian sea. Peter the Great secured his window looking upon Europe at the head of the Baltic. Catherine the Great extended the empire to the Euxine. Alexander II planted his banners on the shore of the Sea of Japan. Meantime, Poland, Finland, Georgia, Tartary, and many other lands fell into Russia's hands, enormously increasing her area. Russia's expansion has been steady in all directions, and the present war is waged for the same purpose for which all previous land grabbing expeditions have been undertaken. It is waged for an ice free outlet to the sea—an advantage which the vast empire, with all her conquests, has failed to secure. Should she now be hurled back from the eastern shores of Asia, her policy would certainly be to endeavor to find an outlet somewhere else. On the Norwegian coast, Russia has long had her eye. To secure the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles has also been the desire of Russian rulers for a long time. Recently they have also cast longing eyes towards the Persian gulf. In which of these directions can they turn, should the effort at holding Manchuria fail? That is a question in which the world may become interested. Should Japan win this contest. That, however, must be regarded as a remote contingency.

The Scots should flock to Wallace's standard on the Isthmus.

For the lawn the dandelion is the true yellow peril.

There has been a revival of cycling. The cycle of wheeling has returned.

It is about time that Kuropatkin called the Salvation Army to his aid.

Wooden has turned up at last and places the blame on Patti. How like Adam.

Hon. Charles Towne might get the city vote but he could scarcely expect to get the country vote.

In reality, as every school boy knows, the favored class is the one whose lessons go over until the next day.

The czar has been reviewing troops in St. Petersburg. He would do better to review the situation in the far east.

One of the hardest tasks the Methodist brethren at Los Angeles have had to do is to bring rules of order out of chaos.

According to Superintendent Mudge the strike situation at Santa Fe is a kind of the same today, tomorrow and forever affair.

M. Ruman-Varilla has been made an officer of the Legion of Honor. He deserves the decoration for the mean things that have been said about him.

Will a hero who accepts a share of the Carnegie hero fund become a professional hero by so doing? asks the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Ask Leander, who knows all about heroes.

Judge Peter L. Palmer of Denver says that "Colorado divorce laws are abominable." Probably true, but Colorado may find some comfort in the fact that in this particular she has lots of company.

Somebody has figured out that the number of words used during the session of Congress now adjourned, amounted to \$,500,000. They fill over 5,000 pages of the Congressional Record. How many of these are worth while reading? How many would anyone care to remember?

The state department has decided not to take any notice of the statement of M. Pavloff, late Russian minister to Korea, regarding the conduct of officers of the U. S. S. Vicksburg in connection with the surrender of survivors of the Varig and Korietz. It is well, for he seems to be suffering from the mouth disease.

The Washington Star says that Bishop Turner of the A. M. E. church refuses to sing "America," because "this is not the sweet land of liberty." The bishop is thinking of the African race in this country, and advocates a negro hegira to Africa. The bishop may be right, from his point of view, but he should not hold the country, or the government, responsible for the acts of mobs.

"Art appreciation is at low ebb in Fairhaven, where young hoodlums deck out a heroic statue with skirts, shawl, bonnet and veil. Probably a magnificent Rogers group is what Fairhaven should have in place of the offensive statuary," says the Boston Transcript. But it is not so many years since that Harvard students decorated the statue of John Harvard with a coat of red paint. Perhaps this was a prank and not a lack of art appreciation.

SPEAKING OF THE WAR.

Pueblo Chief, Captain.

The Russians cannot afford to lose Port Arthur, and the Japanese cannot afford to miss any opportunity to secure its capture. Its possession may well determine the outcome of the war, and its permanent control will be possibly the greatest prize of final victory.

New York Mail.

The danger to the Japanese lies in the possibility that they will attempt to carry too far their evident adherence to the rules and the strategy of their war against the Chinese. It looks very much as if the Russians were aiming to induce them to follow in their old tracks through Manchuria. If the Japanese do not attempt to duplicate their Chinese campaign here, a great surprise awaits them when they get to Peng-Wang Cheng. If they can pass this point without some of the bloodiest battles of recent times, the Russian army is a much weaker vessel than the world has been led to suppose.

New Orleans States.

With two hundred foreign war correspondents at their various headquarters in the field the Japanese commanders may feel they are heavily outnumbered. On the other hand the Japanese people are naturally very anxious to have the whole world understand that they make war in a humane manner and follow the rules of the game; consequently they are permitting more newspaper reporters to accompany their forces than were ever sent on duty at one time in any previous war.

Los Angeles Times.

As soon as Russia and Japan decide their present controversy, and England gets through with her work in Tibet, and Turkey and Bulgaria run out of ammunition, and Brazil and Peru make up, and Hill and Murphy quit growing, and Bryan and Cleveland go fishing in the same hole and sea, about the time, or approximately, that international peace schemes may properly be revived.

Toronto Telegram.

Did Russia ever defeat anybody? The climate defeated the French under Napoleon. Poverty and corruption defeated the Turks. If Russia was ever known to defeat an enemy except barbarian hordes the name and postoffice address of that enemy is unknown to the average student of history.

New York Times.

"Drawing the Japanese on" may be to Gen. Kuropatkin's interest. But, as the military critic of the London Times has mentioned, the Russian strategists may properly conclude that things perfectly obvious to them are equally obvious to their antagonists, and that the Japanese will decline to be drawn on any farther than they see their way clear to drawing back again. As things stand they are in complete and undisturbed control of the main bone of contention, namely, Korea. When Gen. Kuropatkin, with his reinforcements, advances to drive them out of the peninsula, he will find them so entrenched and established as to bid defiance to a far larger force than their own.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Striking evidences of the enterprise of the war camerists may be found in the number of Leslie's Weekly. Three full pages are given up to pictures of scenes and incidents in the great struggle, and in addition a spirit of drawing representing the undoubted spirit of Japan adding the combatants included in the other artistic features are attractive depictions of the brilliant opening of the world's greatest exposition at St. Louis, pictures of the recently burned imperial palace at Seoul, Korea, with descriptive articles by one of the special correspondents in the far east, Herbert G. Ponting.—New York.

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