

# DISCREET EVENING NEWS

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## PUERILE OBJECTIONS.

Some of the so-called "Christian" opponents of "Mormonism" are echoing an old cry, silenced many years ago by common sense and fair explanation, concerning the "authorship" of the Book of Mormon. On the title page of its first edition appeared the following: "By Joseph Smith, Jun., author and proprietor, Palmyra, printed by E. B. Grandin for the author, 1830." In subsequent editions in place of those words were these: "Translated by Joseph Smith, Jun." and then the name of the place of publication. This change of announcement has been used by pettifogging objectors against the authenticity of the book and as evidence that it is not of divine origin. Resort to such an argument (?) shows to what straits such persons are reduced, in attempting to mystify and mislead the public as to the most remarkable publication of the nineteenth century.

It has been explained that when the book was copyrighted it was necessary in order to obtain the copyright, that the name of the author or "producer" of the work should appear. The very meaning of the word author is producer. The need of this in the State of New York was urged upon the Prophet Joseph Smith at its first publication, and the application for the copyright was therefore made in that form. Subsequently, in later editions not published in that State, the change was made in the form which now appears, so that it might be clear to all readers that the work is what it purports to be; that is, a translation or "interpretation" of the record of the people of Nephi, as abridged and "written by the hand of Mormon."

The change of the words we have quoted makes no difference whatever to the character of the work, nor alters it in any respect. The words on the title page describing the book are identically the same in every edition, and, as was published at the beginning of this Church, were a literal translation from the plates, the first paragraph of which is as follows:

"Wherefore it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written and sealed up and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile, the interpretation thereof by the gift of God."

This announcement should be plain enough to reach the understanding of everybody who can read English. The record is published as an "abridgment" of the record of the people of Nephi and also of the Lamanites; it was "written by the hand of Mormon." It was sealed and hidden by Moroni. It is stated clearly in the book that the writing was in "reformed Egyptian" hieroglyphics. The names of the different writers of those characters on the metallic plates whose writings were abridged by Mormon are given, the method of preserving the record and of hiding it up so that it might come forth at the time appointed are all explained, and it is stated that the interpretation thereof was to be by the gift of God.

Now, then, what would any fair reader of the title page, as originally given, understand by the statement that Joseph Smith, Jun., was the "author and proprietor" of the book to be copyrighted? Would it not be that he was the author of the interpretation? He was the "producer" of the printed book, which was a translation or interpretation of the characters inscribed upon the plates, abridged by Mormon and hidden in the earth by Moroni. Every student of the book learns this in the body of the work, and, as we have shown, it is clearly shown briefly set forth in the words we have quoted from the title page.

The glibber who originally started the query which so many silly imitators have echoed, could have found the answer to his own pretended difficulty on the very title page to which he made objection. And recent followers in his wake might just as reasonably object to the work on the ground that there has been a change of printers and places of publication, as to try to cast a doubt upon the authenticity and divinity of the book because of those immaterial changes.

The remarkable record known as the Book of Mormon has been attacked by just such petty and puerile methods as those we have here exposed, from the very beginning of its publication to the world. There has been no definite dispute as to the historical facts which it narrates; there has been no refutation of the doctrines it promulgates; nor has there been any discord between it and the Bible successfully proven. And while there is widespread skepticism concerning it and many shafts of ridicule have been hurled against it, it has stood firm on the ground taken for it as a translation of the writings of ancient prophets on the American continent, and a brief history of the

peopling of this land in two different periods of the world's chronology.

It is worthy of much closer investigation than has ever been given to it by archeologists or theologians, and even believers in it, have in very many instances failed to give to it that attention which its inspired pages should demand. Just now it is being closely, thoroughly and systematically studied by the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, with the aid of the elaborate and excellent Manual prepared by Elder H. H. Roberts. It should be followed by interested students.

## A MATTER OF REGRET.

It is a subject of very wide-spread regret that a verdict of "guilty" has been rendered in the case against Fred W. Chambers, president of the Ogden City Council. While he may have committed a technical offense, in accepting compensation for extra work performed as a member of the council, when it was not so provided by law, yet the evidence showed a complete lack of intent to defraud, and his return of the money received by vote of the council, amounting to \$100.50, when he saw that the council had exceeded its legal powers, should, in the opinion of many disinterested onlookers, have absolved him from the charge and from the stigma that attaches to the verdict. We suppose the case will be appealed, but as it is a question of law it is doubtful whether the verdict will be set aside. Possibly a new trial might be granted on a proper showing, and that would involve much delay and expense. No one, we believe, who has followed the trial closely, will accuse the defendant of intentional crime, but a technical offense was probably committed, and public officials should keep always within the law. The work paid for, however, was duly performed and there ought to be some fair provision in cases of that character.

## AT ALGERIRAS.

The negotiations at Algeriras have again been carried to the danger point, and the situation is characterized as grave. The bone of contention is the right to exercise police control over Morocco. France claims this right, evidently with a view to future annexation. Germany insists on an "open door," hoping to obtain a slice of the country, if it comes to a division. And the German representatives are in earnest in behalf of their Fatherland.

The fact is that Morocco is now the only independent country in northern Africa. France has taken possession of Algiers and Tunis. England has virtually annexed Egypt. Italy holds Tripoli. Morocco is left, but that country is hemmed in by French Africa. Just as England, Spain, and France had agreed that the time had come for France to seize the sultanate, Germany stepped in between the hunter and the prey, and the conference was called.

What the result of the negotiations will be, is not yet clear. But it is possible that France will finally be obliged to the necessity of buying Germany's consent to the Moroccan policy, as England's acquiescence was obtained as an equivalent for the abandonment, by France, of all claims in Egypt. Germany also has aims and aspirations in the Orient, where French interests are encountered, and it is, therefore, not unreasonable to hope that the Algeriras conference, notwithstanding occasional hitches, will end in peace by a compromise between France and Germany, mutually advantageous.

## VENEZUELA'S RULER.

President Castro, of Venezuela, has added to the gaiety of the situation by summarily dismissing his representative in Washington, for voting for Rio Janeiro as the place in which to hold the next pan-American congress, a "crime" to which the charge d'affaires emphatically pleads not guilty. That is to say, like a tyrant, Castro dismisses his ministers on suspicion, not waiting for proofs. No wonder, if some of his subjects, become impatient, are plotting against him.

His present quarrel with France has again brought that freak of a president prominently before the world. He went so far as to expel the French representative at Caracas. The French government fumed and threatened, and sent a squadron to inspire respect for international rights, but, so far, Castro has not lost any sleep over the situation. And the French ships have not yet turned up in Venezuelan waters. The French will perhaps find out that a navy is unable to reach Castro in his mountain fastnesses, and that the bombardment of a coast town has but little effect. The Venezuelan autocrat knows this, and so he defies the world. The history of Castro may be briefly recalled at this time. He has a most remarkable career. He rose from the humble position of a mountaineer to that of president of his country. He commenced by organizing a revolution, on account of what was regarded as excessive taxation. There was much discontent in the country, and a number of adventurers gathered around him. They were armed chiefly with machetes. At the head of this force he boldly advanced upon Caracas, announced his intention of establishing a cheap government and repudiating the foreign indebtedness. His army swelled to 8,000 and President Andrade surrendered without resistance. He has ruled ever since, and no one denies that luck or genius has favored him. He has succeeded in putting his adversary in the wrong, apparently, and this dodge he has used unscrupulously. The following anecdotes show the character of the man:

"A Venezuelan military attaché had turned in a report on the French army, which he held up as a model, that even the Venezuelan army might imitate, in some respects, to advantage. Castro sent for the luckless officer.

"You wrote this report glorifying the French army?"  
"Yes, Excellency. It was a part of my duty."  
"But was the French army never beaten?"  
"Yes. It was defeated by the Germans in 1870."  
"And did the English never get the better of French troops?"  
"Certainly, Excellency, at Waterloo."

"But who was it that defeated both English and Germans combined? Was it not I, Cipriano Castro? You may go!" That is a sample of his logic. And that is the kind of reasoning that is generally adopted by tyrants.

## ARE THEY OF ISRAEL?

A French lecturer, Dr. Roux, has recently written a magazine article, in which he endeavors to prove that many of the descendants of Jacob are found in Japan.

He arrives at this conclusion, by studying the facial characteristics of Europeans, Persians, and the specimens of Japanese art. Of the portraits of Japanese of high social rank, he says:

"These people are not Japanese. They are Israelites. They are Jews. I know of Jews, no doubt, more of the Jews of Asia than their brethren in Western Europe, but still the majority of Jews. They are from the Ghettoes of Moscow and Warsaw."

Some specimens of ancient Japanese art are thought to represent the exodus of Jews to Japan. M. de Roux comments thus:

"They show what could be described as the advanced guard of the tribes in their exodus. If these pages come under the notice of rabble familiar with the archaeological traditions of their people, they will not doubt be struck by the resemblance that can be seen between the faces, umbrellas and banners which appear in these pictures and the similar objects which were in use in the temple of Israel. For my part I have met in the Ethiopian church, which is still in the hands of the Hebrew cult, these forked-sticks and crutch-sticks of the priests, these banners of judgement, these umbrellas and these horrible coffers, which are found even in the head of the 'Moses' of Michael Angelo as a sign of his infidelity. I am especially impressed by the processions of personages, armed and helmeted, half religious, half military figures, which issue from the depths of the Talmud and are found in the Solomoneseque church of Ethiopia, just as in these processions of the Japanese pictures."

It is well known that scholars are at loss to account satisfactorily for the ancient history of Japan. That some of the descendants of Jacob should have found their way to Japan, after the breaking up of the Assyrian empire, is not improbable. Israelites have been found in China, preserving much of the old tradition, and religion, and it is by no means incredible that some of that race should have crossed over to the Japanese islands, and there become a factor in the development of the country and the nation. Israel was scattered throughout the world, in order to act as a leaven, preparing all the nations of the earth for the last dispensation.

## TAKE A REST.

Those who feel in need of a stimulant should take a rest. That is the opinion of a contributor to the San Francisco Call. He says there is no tonic better than a few minutes' complete rest. He adds, "Instead of morning coffee to fit you for the day's work, suppose you form the habit of lying down, with every muscle relaxed, for a quarter of an hour after you have finished dressing and eating a coffeeless breakfast. Instead of more coffee, or a cocktail, or a glass of beer, for your noonday luncheon, lie down again for 15 minutes, letting every muscle go slack, without a particle of tension anywhere, and sending the mind off about nothing. Supposing you do the same thing instead of the afternoon tea that so many are affecting. Supposing you do it again when you reach home after you are ready for dinner."

The objection would be made to this, that no busy man can afford to spend so much time on "rest." But the fact is that the really busy man, who has an object to live for, and but few years, after all, to accomplish it in, cannot afford to "burn the candle at both ends," by being continually on the go, and never looking after the physical and mental machinery, on the good, healthy condition of which everything depends. Narcotics are worse than useless. Rest is a real stimulant. Taken when needed, it aids digestion, increases the capacity for work, as for enjoyment of life. It prolongs life, and increases the usefulness of the living.

At Algeriras France and Germany get further apart every time they come together.

King Edward says that he works twelve hours a day. What are the British labor unions doing to permit that?

Mr. Chamberlain is rather more picturesque and attractive in opposition than in support. In either he is ever aggressive.

A Washington dispatch reports Representative Longworth as paired with another congressman. It can't be so. He was paired with Alice Roosevelt last Saturday.

For eight years the wreck of the battleship Maine has lain in Havana, an eyesore and an obstruction. What good, sentimental or actual, can come of letting it remain there? It would seem that it is time to remove it.

The late John A. McCall had a very large salary as president of the New York Life Insurance company, but his son says that he lived to the limit of it. Hence he was not a rich man. No man should live up to the limit of his salary or income, no matter how big it may be. It means no saving, and there can be no accumulation without it.

The Ohio house has passed a bill making hazing in public and private schools and colleges a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, or imprisonment in jail not exceeding six months, or both. Teachers and heads of such schools who knowingly permit hazing to be practiced are also to be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and are punishable by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars. Now will the Buckeye boys and girls be good?

Ex-Minister to Liberia J. M. Turner is trying to persuade the Isthmian canal commission to employ negro labor

from the United States in building the Panama canal. It seems a good suggestion. There is an abundance of such labor in the United States, and the negroes could probably stand the climate as well as anybody. If they will work at all, and there is no reason to think that they will not, they would prove much better laborers than Mexicans or Porto Ricans. Chinese labor seems to be out of the question.

Speaking before the Detroit board of commerce on the building of the Panama canal, Secretary of War Taft said: "For, bear in mind that the difficulty of constructing the canal is not digging but disposing of what we have excavated. I think I have said enough to indicate that there is a great deal to be done before the dirt begins to fly. The trouble with the American people is that they want everything to be done the next morning. The danger is not that we begin too late to dig, but that we begin too early." Very true indeed. But was not the old Canal commission "fired" for taking this very view?

Dr. Delbruck, Prussian minister of commerce, addressing the congress of German chambers of commerce, assembled at Berlin, discussed Germany's trade relations with the United States, and said that German industry would be dependent upon the United States so long as the greater part of the world's cotton supply was grown there, and so long as the chief part of the world's copper output is produced in the United States. That is true. But what is true in Germany's case is largely true in the case of all nations. They cannot get along very well without each other. Each nation has some need of the products of every other nation, whether those products be raw or manufactured.

## THE COSTLIEST BUILDING.

Gilson Willets in Leslie's Weekly. Which is the costliest building in America? Would you answer off-hand the New York State Capitol at Albany? Hardly! Your thoughts would turn more likely to the National Capitol at Washington or to the Congressional Library. But the New York State Capitol cost more than the National Capitol and the Library of Congress together. Our Empire State Capitol has cost \$24,000,000, while the one at Washington, two acres larger, cost only \$12,000,000 and the Congressional Library only \$7,000,000. Our Empire State Capitol cost as much as the nation paid for all Florida and the Philippines combined.

## PERPLEXING BUSINESS.

Black and White. The famous case of the two Dromios and the two Antipholus has been put in the shade by the concurrence of licenses in a Parisian wedding which took place last week. Twin brothers, MM. Alphonse and Gabriel Chanteau, well known artists, married twin brides, Mmes. Genevieve and Suzanne Renard, and MM. Gustave and Maurice Freunzer, the best men, were twins, cousins of the bridegrooms. Each couple is so alike that distinction is only possible by means of dress, and this has been necessary all through the courtship, as both couples constantly mistook their chosen ones.

## HOLDING FOR A RISE.

Atlantic. To hold stock for a rise requires thorough knowledge of the property represented, certainly that its merits are such as to carry it eventually to a higher value, and a mind sufficiently serene and firm to witness undisturbed the ebb and flow of market prices. It is by this policy of patience and serenity that the Rothschilds and others have made great fortunes, by looking up stocks when they were cheap and awaiting the progress of the years to give them value.

## ARCHITECTURE.

Chicago Evening Post. There is a growing recognition of the simple, the classic, the democratic, in our architecture, not only in our public and commercial buildings, but in our homes. Even the most casual student of architecture must have noticed the improvements along these lines within a decade or two. And this improvement must mean an improvement in the character and ideas of the nation. The very waste with which we have been building and then tearing down indicates dissatisfaction with former ideals and achievements, a desire to do better, a crystallization, slow perhaps, but apparent nevertheless, of ideals in architecture that are destined to become national and worthy of a great people.

## JUST FOR FUN.

The Humor of the Unabridged. Gladys—Mrs. Lakeside was idly glancing through her dictionary the other day when a humorous circumstance struck her forcibly.

Grace—And what was that?  
Gladys—She found that "divorce" came before "marriage."—Judge.

Taking Risk. Cleveland Leader. "How are you going to appear at the Colonial ball?"

"As my great-grandfather."

"Geel! Do you think the detectives will let you in?"

Takes One in Exchange. Houston Post.

"What do you do when he asks for a kiss?"

"I quote St. Hopkins' motto to him. 'I don't believe I have ever heard it.'"

"There ain't nothing in givin' nobody nothin' fer nothin'!"

Then and Now. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

John Bull in 1896: "Little Japan advising me! Ha, ha, ha, ho, ho, ho!"

The same in 1906: "Thank you kindly, my dear Mikado. I will endeavor to profit by your valuable suggestions."

A Heavyweight. Cleveland Leader.

Caller—And are you and Tommy in the same class at school?

Johnny—Now, Tommy fights at sixty-two and I weigh ninety when I'm trained down.

Skates. Houston Post.

"A Machias, Me, dealer says he has sold more skates this season than he has ever sold before in an entire season."

"That proves what I have contended right along."

"What's that?"

"That prohibition does not prohibit."

A Hint. Cleveland Leader.

"Steward, what makes his ship tip so much?"

"I do not know, sir. Maybe she is settling an example to the passengers."

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ORGANS.

Mason & Hamlin, Chicago Cottage.

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