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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 27, 1899.

PRES. SNOW'S TRIP SOUTH.

President Lorenzo Snow, who with his company returned this morning from a visit to the Southern Utah, has had a most delightful and profitable journey and interview with the people. It was a revival of those occasions in which the late President Brigham Young took pleasure, and on which he was greeted by the Latter-day Saints as the Prophet of the Lord.

President Snow was received in the same spirit but to much larger multitudes, as the population has greatly increased. Old and young vied in doing him honor, and received his inspired words with joy. It was like a triumphal tour. The teachings imparted were decisive and authoritative, the word of the Lord being given on some most important matters. The discourses delivered will no doubt be published shortly.

The trip did not fatigue our venerable President, but seemed to revive and invigorate him. In his eighty-fifth year he seems to have been rejuvenated by the spirit of his calling. He exhibited a power and vitality that surprised all who listened to him. His presence put new life into the settlements privileged with his visit, and his brethren who ministered also to the people partook of the same inspiring influence.

The people of the south are to be congratulated on the blessings they have received during the advent among them of the President and his associates, and we rejoice in the success that has attended the mission to Southern Utah, and in the safe return in health and vigor of our esteemed leader and Prophet.

THE COMING OF SCHLEY.

Salt Lake will show its appreciation of the services to the nation performed by Admiral Schley, in some small degree by the public reception in his honor. The decorations will of necessity have to be impromptu and such as the citizens can furnish. The hole of heritage will arive on Sunday morning, and the program prepared as follows will be carried out so far as may be agreeable to the distinguished guest. It is expected that there will be a more popular celebration of his coming on Monday, when both young and old will parade to see and greet the gallant naval commander, whose fame has gone abroad to the ends of the earth. The school children should be provided with flags and appear in full force on the line of march, banners and streamers should be hung out, and with music and cheers the sturdy sailor should be welcomed as Utah people know how to greet an honored visitor. Let us make the occasion one to be remembered by all who participate, and such as will give delight to the victor over the Spanish firing fleet.

NO NEED FOR ALARM.

There is no adequate reason for the alarm which some folks are endeavoring to create, over the water supply of fire in this city. It is true, however, that the system is defective because of the smallness of some of the mains. A three-inch pipe is altogether inadequate for a main, and there are portions of the service where they are no bigger than that. They should be replaced with larger mains, and the work would have been commenced for that purpose before now, if the appropriation had not been cut out to prevent it, for purposes that reflect no credit on the obstructionists.

It should be known that there is no lack of water. The tanks on city creek are all full. There is plenty of pressure for any emergency. If any necessity arises, that can and will be demonstrated. Enough can be seen down into the business part of town to heed the noisy. Insurance now need not be stayed, nor should they try to frighten others or make capital out of their rates, on any such pretext as that which some are putting forth.

The low pressure complained of is chiefly due to the immense draught of water for the sprinkling service. It takes not more than 100,000 gallons per day. That cuts down the pressure about one-half. Then there are the lawn sprinklers at work, lowering the pressure still further.

But in case of fire, when the alarm sounds there draw on the supply have to cease at once. Everybody should understand that is the regulation and order. The pressure then would be immediately restored. Further, there is a water reserve on Capitol Hill of 1,500,000 gallons that can be utilized when necessary.

It is all right to insist on improvements in the pipe system. They are needed. The plans have been made. The city has determined to proceed with them. It is only the obstruction placed in the way to prevent Salt Lake workmen from performing the work by day-labor, and to force it to be done by contract, that has stopped it and gives occasion for the present alarm. The mains have heretofore been laid under the direction of the Superintendent of Waterworks. The work has been done well. The board of public works has not laid a mile of water pipe in the city. Why should the charge be contended for now? It is a piece of stupidity and hides an interior design. And the alarm now raised is unnecessary and misleading. There is plenty of water, and plenty of pressure can be obtained in a force when needed. Those are the facts; don't stir up the city with fiction.

VITAL AND ESSENTIAL.

Commenting on the ordination of Dr. Huntington whilom Presbyterian heretic, as a minister of the Episcopal church and the objections raised against it, the New York Nation says:

> We venture to say that of all the clergymen who have come out in protest against Professor Briggs could stand a liberal cross-examination on all the articles. The simple truth is that, except for purposes of lower holding, the great theological creeds are never revived as a living whole. They are not now vital to the consciousness of those who are supposed to be bound by them.

This is rather hard on the orthodox ministers, and harder still on the orthodox creeds. What is to be thought of men who subscribe, as a matter of form, to the thirty-nine articles of the Episcopalian church, and at the same time do not hold them "vital to their consciousness?" And what may justly be said of a theological creed which, professing to be essential, is not to be viewed as "a living whole" nor binding on those "supposed to be bound by it?"

It seems to a believer in that other three creeds should be abandoned or reformed, or men having a proper regard for the truth should refrain from subscribing to them, unless they can fully and sincerely endorse and defend them.

The lack of faith among Episcopal clergymen in the thirty-nine articles and in the Athanasian creed—which commences "Whosoever will be saved, before all things he must hold the Catholic faith, which faith except he do keep, whole and undefiled, he shall without doubt perish everlastingly"—is no greater than the decadence of belief in the Westminster confession on the part of many Presbyterian ministers. Yet they all subscribe to those dogmas, in form, and are supposed to teach them as vital principles of faith.

This general feeling of doubt on those old and, in some respects, irrational and horrible creeds, indicates the skepticism of mankind as to the divinity of all religious systems. It is evident that those creeds are of human origin. It is clear that God had no voice in their formation. Therefore all declarations as to their binding nature upon the consciences of men and women, are mere assumptions. When that is admitted or perceived, farewell to the pretended authority of their framers and their expounders.

"Money-hunters" have no justification in their pursuance of the nonsense, if it is confessed that the "great theological creeds" are not vital in the consciousness of those who are supposed to be bound by them. [illegible] upon the hypothesis of their essentiality and divinity can their advocates and champions assail their foes who depart from their accepted signification.

The simple truth will gradually dawn on the minds of the thoughtful, that no creed is a true standard of Christian faith which is not given by Christ himself. That there can be no divine authority among men without present divine communication. And that any church or system claiming to be divine, which does not enjoy revelation and inspiration from God is a pretender and a sham.

The truth in all creeds and all systems, heathenism as well as "Christian," originally came from God and is good. The error in them all is of man and to be rejected as soon as detected. He who pretends to subscribe to that which he does not believe is to be despised. And no man is justified in claiming the right to speak for Deity, who has not been divinely appointed in the way that God himself has authorized. That which Christ reveals and commands is vital and essential, and only that is binding as an article of faith.

THE PULPIT OF THE FUTURE.

The fate that both the secular and religious press is giving much attention to the apparent decline in religious interest, both in urban and rural communities, is rather encouraging than otherwise. It shows that the reports made out for the benefit of the contributors to missionary funds, notwithstanding their array of figures, do not always successfully disguise the truth.

A writer in the New York Independent, quoted in the Literary Digest, has discussed the probable causes of this decline. He points out, among other things, that the "keen and profound sense of sin in the heart" now too often appears, and is certainly not the ruling spirit of the times, as it was in the early part of the century.

This, however, could rather be regarded as an effect than a cause. This blunted sense, which fails to perceive the enormity and the nature of a fallen condition, is the result of the decline of interest in that which is of eternal importance to human beings.

The writer quoted says, that recent criticism of the Scriptures has left an impression on the minds of many, that the sacred records are of doubtful authority. "Thus saith the Lord," is to many only a phrase which means "Thus says somebody, nobody knows exactly who, reported by somebody else, of the correctness of whose report we can in no way be certain."

Religious teaching based upon such authority can have no deep impressions. It may be amusing, or interesting, even instructive, but it is not a "power" nor a salvation.

With this "criticism" is not a primary cause of the decline of religion, it is rather a growth that can only thrive where such decline is already a fact. When the principles of Christianity were first promulgated, they were not received with indifference, or regarded as a matter of little moment, or as of no value. They were received with the deepest interest, and were regarded as of the utmost importance. The Apostles of Jesus were not generally received as messengers from God. On the contrary, they were denounced as fanatics and disseminators of dangerous superstitions. When announcing as the burden of their doctrine of the resurrection, they were met with the freezing sneer: "What would those babblers say?" When explaining a sermon, a word that saw no more in the Greatest of Men than a demagogue put to death, were heretofore-stoned and shouts of "blasphemy!"

For all that, the Gospel triumphed. Criticism was disarmed before the power that was manifested in the miraculous works that accompanied its acceptance, and in the fearless love its followers, no matter what social rank or distinction was there exhibited toward one another. It is to the loss of those that the decline in religion must be sought. No outward forms and ceremonies can serve as a substitute for the actual divine influences. If by some means the line that conveys the electric fluid to the lamp is broken, the room will be wrapped in shadows darkness, though to all outward appearances the fixtures are in the most beautiful order.

This consideration suggests the remedy. Religion declines where the communication with heaven has been broken. The pulpit needs men who are endowed with the spirit of the Lord, or "the word of the Lord." It needs Prophets, Revelators, Apostles, who are duly accredited "ambassadors" of Jesus. It needs a system of theology that deals less in abstract technicalities than in the real conditions of life. The religion that provides the temporal affairs of mankind, as well as its states in eternity, and that lets God speak while the people reverently listen, that is the religion of the future, through which the regeneration of the world will be accomplished.

WHY WE OBJECT.

The Ogden Standard desires to know why the Deseret News objects to Sunday baseball. Our objections have already been stated, in such a way that people who read what we have said can understand our reasons as well as our objections. If the Standard has any time to inspect the articles on that subject published in the "News," there will be no need for us to repeat them.

We will say in addition, that our objections are those which prompted the framing of the Ogden City ordinance against base ball and other diversions on Sunday, that disturb the public peace and are out of harmony with the general spirit which calls for a day of rest and peace, and of public worship for those who are devout. It is that which has found expression in modern laws throughout the country, in the most highly civilized and civilized communities.

It might be as well for the Standard, when seeking information on this subject, to inquire why the League of American Wheelmen has officially declared against Sunday cycle racing. Why a Methodist Conference is not considered proper on Sunday and why theaters are closed on that day, as a rule, and the exceptions are noted as an indication of a "wild and wooly" tendency.

Continuing its researches, our Ogden contemporary might learn why the City of Cleveland recently declared against Sunday amusements, and why the Supreme Court of Indiana has upheld the validity of the laws prohibiting Sunday base ball games within that State.

Our neighbor on the north is entirely mistaken in its notion that the Deseret News or the majority of people who contain the Sunday laws, wishes to impose penalties on any "man, woman or child who fails to observe Sunday in a manner to be prescribed by the church people." That insinuation is ridiculous and uncalled-for. There is nothing "Puritan-ical" or sectarian in the consideration of the "views" of those persons and papers that advocate the cessation of business and of noisy amusements on the first day of the week.

Further, the Deseret News has nothing to do with the absence of the passage of a direct Sunday ordinance in Salt Lake City. It has the right to call for the enforcement of such ordinances as exist, and also of the State laws that relate to this matter. And it expresses the views of the better classes of citizens of all creeds, parties and persuasions, that it is for the general welfare that Sunday shall be preserved as a day of restful quietness, without unnecessary toil and turmoil, and without any fanatical restraints that would infringe upon civil or religious liberty.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Memorial Day this year should have a deeper signification than ever before. The war, of which the clouds of smoke have barely cleared away, has added to the number that are no longer in the sphere of activity, but who live in the grateful remembrance of the nation. Standing by the silent graves, the living cannot but contemplate what they now owe to the heroes that died that they might live. For with their blood they purchased liberty to millions and added glory and power to the country for which they died.

But best of all, over the graves of the fallen heroes it is possible to discern the first rays of a day in which there shall be no more warfare and no sanguinary strife. How much the outbreak of the last war accelerated the movement for universal peace, now the subject of discussion at The Hague, may never be fully understood, but certain it is that it was one factor in that development.

In the meantime peace and prosperity reign in the land. The hopes of the farmers are for an abundant harvest, while the workingmen are in a position to provide abundantly for their families. In the midst of plenty, of joy, and contentment, with a bright future smiling upon us, Memorial day should be celebrated in the spirit in which it was instituted.

It is the earnest desire of the managers of Memorial ceremonies in this city, the G. A. R. in particular, that the day be observed not as a time of noisy recreation but of reverent remembrance, by the decoration of their graves and by such tokens of love and reverence as the occasion calls for. Will our citizens respond in an appropriate manner?

OUR PHILIPPINE POLICY.

The government's policy in regards the Philippine islands, expressed in the proposition submitted for Dr. Schurman to the Filipino peace commission, is liberal, and should be acceptable to all parties concerned. It provides all safeguards for a stable government and lays a broad foundation for the future.

The proposition is to entrust the government to a governor general appointed by the President, a cabinet to be appointed by the governor general, judges to be appointed by the President, and a general advisory council to be chosen by the people. The heads of departments and the judges are to be either Americans or Filipinos.

This is a simple plan, one which can be carried out without difficulty. It leaves the control of the affairs of the country by Americans, as long as such control is absolutely necessary for the benefit of the people, while at the same time it initiates the native inhabitants of American self-government, promising them a greater measure of liberty, as soon as they are capable of exercising the rights of citizenship.

It is to be hoped that the Filipino leaders will accept these propositions. Hitherto they have industriously circulated the most absurd and false rumors about the Americans. Their papers have been filled with tales of cruelties perpetrated by our soldiers, and with victories won by Aguinaldo. They have circulated stories to the effect that Americans had entered into a conspiracy with Catholics in order to restore the monastic orders to power, and aid them to confiscate the property of the people.

After the personal conference some of the prominent Filipinos have had with General Otis and the peace commissioners, such absurd rumors should no longer be believed. It should be easy to arrive at a better understanding of the American character. The campaign should now be on educational one, ending in peace and tranquility.

The Salt Palace colors are to be white, yellow and green. "Neat but not gaudy."

Paper currency cannot be used in the Philippines because of a variety of ants that eat it up. In this country it is the money sharks that get away with it.

In place of lottering around Manila having a good time, henceforth Aguinaldo's peace envoys are to be made to walk Spanish when they appear.

The organization of a smoking club does not strike our objection as a welcome one. Indeed, a non-smoking club would be more of a novelty and more of a public benefit.

The meetings in the Assembly Hall during next week when the noted Pastor preacher will address the people ought to be fully attended by the general public.

Of the Peace congress it may be said what Washington said of Congress under the Articles of Confederation: It can recommend everything and do nothing.

Salt Lake should present a beautiful appearance tomorrow, in honor of Admiral Schley. The rain has laid the dust and purified the atmosphere. Let flags and bunting do the rest.

It is claimed that no German officials fired a salute when Dewey sailed out of Manila bay. And yet Captain Coghlan was not on the Olympia.

If New York is going to spend $,500,000 in fireworks, decorations and dinners in celebration of the return of Admiral Dewey, all the rest of the country will want to be there to see the show.

A practical joker, who spread the rumor that the German emperor would be assassinated, if he went to Egypt, has been unmasked to seven years' imprisonment. That fellow did not know his sovereign. No jokes on the Kaiser.

It is said that 1,500 saloons have been started in Cuba since the island came under American influence. Truck selection are endeavoring to collect money so as to be able to distribute Hibernian Whisky Red, though, seems to be the rule.

Missouri has adopted a law against department stores. It divides merchandise into eighty-eight classes and provides that stores dealing in more than one class must pay a license of from $100 to $500 on each additional class of goods. Small country stores, however, can deal in as many classes of goods as they choose without paying any extra license. The validity of the law will be tested in the courts, and it is not supposed it will be sustained.

Religious bodies that pass resolutions for the expulsion of "A Atmes" from Congress should also pass resolutions for the purification of the morals of members representing other denominations. They should certainly study this well known text: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Recently a Mr. Morris K. Jessup in a public address in New York said:

> "Any one living in the city of New York and noting its growth in twenty-five years has to have much faith in his heart to believe that things are working all right here. It is estimated that three hundred and sixty thousand of our population are living in the slums, if it is correct that one-fifteenth of our population are in hospitals or houses of correction. There are eight thousand licensed saloons. What are we to do with the mass of testimony on the side of sin?"

Those who come their eyes in facts generally contend that the world is growing better every day.

THE PARLIAMENT OF MAN.

New York Journal.

Tomorrow saw the "the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world." The Parliament meets in Chicago now in the Hall of Labor. The permanent federation of the world may follow. Of course, the greatest of organizations, it is extremely rudimentary. So was the first Continental Congress of America. So is the beginning of anything. But the start has been made, and the development will come later. The International Congress of Tailors began with a few dozen men, and gradually grew until now it includes all the civilized and most of the partly civilized world. The broader organization dreamed of by the Czar could become a success if it started with only half a dozen nations.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Now that the congress has finally assembled there is little doubt that the varities are willing to recognize the great possibilities of such a gathering and that the delegates themselves are more seriously impressed with the responsibility that has been thrust upon them. While no one can expect that such a conference can result in any definite or binding agreements with reference to disarmament, the opportunities for adopting measures for settling international disputes and for humanizing war so far as it is possible to humanize it, are so vast as to call for the highest statesmanship and diplomacy.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is understood that the American and British members will unite in urging the formation of a permanent board of arbitration to which all controversies coming within its scope may be referred for settlement. While it is uncertain whether the conference will go so far as this, the opinion prevails that the principle of arbitration will be approved and some new steps taken towards a greater extension of its practical operation.

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