

## DESERT EVENING NEWS

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DESERT NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by  
telephone with any department of the  
Desert News, will save themselves and  
this establishment a great deal of annoyance  
if they will take time to notice these numbers:For the Chief Editor's office No. 74,  
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rings.For City Editor and Reporters, 359, 2  
rings.

For Business Manager, 359, 2 rings.

For Business Office, 359, 2 rings.

THE CHURCH "AS A TRUST."

We publish today a special from our  
Washington correspondent, giving the  
official report of the testimony of Judge  
Powers in relation to the alleged business  
operations of the "Mormon"  
Church. The Associated Press report of  
the proceedings during the latest  
sitting of the committee have been very  
brief, public interest in them having  
subsided. It is evident to people  
who are posted on the matters introduced,  
that none of the witnesses have been  
fully reported. We may have occasion  
to refer to others but just now we  
only pay particular attention to  
Judge Powers' testimony.On the whole there is not much fault  
to be found with it. He has exaggerated  
the "holdings" of the Church in the  
corporate institutions alluded to, and  
has failed to see a distinction between  
the Church as an organized body, and  
prominent members thereof in their  
business connections. This is a common  
error and extends also to political  
affairs. The activity of some influential  
"Mormons" in politics is wrongly  
charged to the Church. This is made  
clear by the fact that there are strong  
advocates of either party and opposing  
candidates among Church officials, and  
if their acts and words are to be attributed  
to "the Church," then the Church is for  
both parties and for all the candidates,  
no matter how hostile are the factions  
and the issues. The truth is, that in business  
and in politics every man, no matter what  
his ecclesiastical position, stands for  
himself, and "the Church" is not to be  
credited or debited with his individual  
transactions.The large holdings by eastern capitalists  
and the stock owned by local investors  
in the institutions mentioned by  
Judge Powers, are a sufficient answer  
to his assertions about the "Mormon"  
Church being "a trust" for their control.  
Shares are held in them by both  
"Mormons" and non-"Mormons," the  
stock has been upon the market, and  
the witness had to acknowledge that  
he could not name the amounts held  
by the Church or by men he supposed  
to be its representatives, nor could he  
assert that they held a controlling  
interest therein. As a matter of fact  
the "Trustee-in-trust" does not hold  
any stock in the corporations mentioned  
by Judge Powers.The fuller account of the Judge's  
testimony places it in a better light  
than the brief report in our regular  
dispatches. The same will doubtless be  
said in reference to the testimony of  
other witnesses, when further particulars  
are furnished. Injustice ought not  
to be done to any of them. We only  
want the truth to appear, and we are  
sure that it will eventually come upper-  
most and, finally, even if we have to  
wait for it, justice will certainly be  
done.

IGNORANCE AND JEALOUSY.

The report which appears in the  
morning papers that Hon. Mary G.  
Coulter has been purposely omitted  
from the list of speakers at the General  
Federation of Women's clubs, at St.  
Louis, on May 17, illustrates the intolerance  
and illiberality of many otherwise  
intelligent and worthy people.  
The lady was a member of the Utah  
Legislature of 1903 and proved a  
capable and active representative. She  
was elected by the Republicans of Weber  
county and voted the party ticket for  
United States Senator. The regular  
party candidate was Reed Smoot.  
She performed her duty fairly and  
openly, and has been able to defend  
her course against all objections by  
clear logic and political principle, and  
her antagonists can bring forward  
nothing on their side but misrepresentation,  
bigotry and jealousy.The gentleman whom she supported  
is admitted by his most vigorous ene-  
mies to be of irreproachable character  
and eminent ability, and they say that  
nothing can be truthfully urged against  
him other than his official position in  
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints.If Mrs. Coulter had been in a position  
where a notorious venal, intemperate,  
or licentious candidate had been put  
up by her party, and she had voted  
for him, if he were not a "Mormon" theladies who have arrayed themselves  
against her would, in all probability,  
have had nothing to say against her  
action.Mrs. Coulter has the satisfaction of  
the approval of her own political con-  
science, the support of her constituents,  
and the conviction that she was right,  
while her critics and those who wish to  
quarrel her are ignorant of the actual  
facts and conditions, and she can af-  
ford to smile at their denseness and  
littleness.

A QUESTION OF MORALITY.

A New York contemporary, sneeringly  
speaks of "Mormon" Morality. We are  
not aware of the existence of different  
kinds of morality. There certainly is  
no specific "Mormon" morality,  
as different from that which is based  
on the divine moral code.But we notice a story of some New  
York people, telegraphed from Phila-  
delphia a few days ago. According to  
the dispatch, the gentleman and the  
lady came to the city of brotherly love,  
from New York, and took out a mar-  
riage license. The gentleman, who is  
very highly connected and the possessor  
of a large income, left a wife, and  
the lady left a husband. Where the  
two stayed while in Philadelphia, the  
sender of the dispatch did not know;  
nor did he know whether they got mar-  
ried, but he stated positively that,  
"both had been released from their  
previous matrimonial bonds only this  
week." It was a surprise to their  
friends, we are told, that the gentleman  
took out a license the day after the  
lady had obtained her divorce.Now, if there are different kinds of  
morality, to what class does this per-  
formance belong? It is certainly not  
"Mormon."Can New York editors afford to  
"throw the first stone?"

IT CAME FROM ASIA.

Replying to a rather scornful reference,  
in a leading American journal, to  
the Russians as having come from  
Asia, the Springfield Republican enu-  
merates a list of achievements and  
contrivances that all came to us from  
Asia. It is a rather remarkable list.  
It shows most conclusively that with-  
out the genius of the Asiatics, our  
civilization would have been impos-  
sible.Among the things for which we are  
indebted to Asia, are such as, our al-  
phabet, our numerals, the mariner's  
compass, gunpowder, printing, paper,  
silk, playing cards, chess, porcelain,  
the Gothic arch, and, finally, Chris-  
tianity itself. If it were possible to  
imagine what the world would be  
without the progress these various  
monuments of civilization stand for,  
we might realize how great our in-  
debtedness is to the nations that have  
lived and died in Asia, and on whose  
descendants we are apt to look down  
with contempt. To mention only one  
"little" thing—the numerals which  
came with the Arabs that swarmed over  
certain parts of Europe. Suppose that  
the old Roman numerals had still been  
in use, so that we had to write  
lxxxviii instead of 88. What would  
that mean for bookkeeping? And how  
would mathematics be possible with  
such a system of notation? Let the  
mathematician try a simple problem  
in division with Roman numerals, and  
then a calculation such as astronomers  
have to make. It is really astonishing  
how far-reaching consequences the  
most simple thing sometimes has.It would be wrong, however, to con-  
clude that Asia is the first cradle of  
civilization. Evidence is accumulating  
for the view taken by the eminent  
archaeologist, Augustus Le Plongeon,  
that the civilization of Asia  
originated on the American con-  
tinent. Literature, architecture, art,  
navigation, he traces to the Western  
hemisphere. He thinks that at one  
time in the very dim past the Atlantic  
and Pacific were plowed by American  
vessels that carried the products and  
influence of this country to all parts of  
the world. This was before the deluge.  
Our alphabet he traces to a poem com-  
posed on this continent. The first  
Biblical narratives, he thinks, relate  
events that took place here. It is well  
to remember that America, and not  
Asia, in all probability is the first cradle  
of civilization.It is also well to remember that, as  
far as the testimony of history goes,  
no nation, no race, ever civilized itself.  
Archbishop Whately used to urge this  
against those who claimed the apocryphal  
origin of man. As far as we can ascer-  
tain, he argued, civilization has always  
come from some outward source. It  
can be traced from nation to nation as  
far back as it is possible to see, by the  
light of history. Nations and races  
have deteriorated, and forgotten  
achievements once attained, but pro-  
gress has always been the result of  
light from without. Civilization, then,  
is itself evidence of revelation from  
God, since man could as little civilize  
himself, as a child could master arts  
and sciences without any teacher what-  
ever. And again, if man is unable,  
without outside assistance, to go from  
a stage of savagery to one of civiliza-  
tion, there is still less possibility for an  
animal to rise to the level and dignity  
of man. The lessons of the history of  
the rise and fall of civilization are num-  
erous and important.

RUMORS OF MEDIATION.

A Paris dispatch says that the United  
States government will be requested to  
mediate between Russia and Japan,  
with a view of bringing the conflict to  
a close. This story is said to have  
gained currency in diplomatic circles,  
and is regarded as authentic.  
It certainly is the right, if not the  
duty, of the United States, as of the  
other signatory powers of The Hague  
convention, to offer to mediate, and  
this, if not abrogated because actual  
hostilities are taking place. The Hague  
convention expressly provides that  
the friendly powers shall, at any time,  
before or after hostilities have com-  
menced, offer their services for the  
settlement of the dispute, peaceably.  
But Russia is also said to have decided  
to fight this war to its bitter end, and  
if this is true, offers of mediation will  
not be accepted, at least until Russiahas won some decisive land battles and  
regained her prestige.Another rumor has it that an alliance  
was entered into between Great Britain,  
Russia and Denmark, at the time of the  
visit of King Edward to Copenhagen. It  
is understood that the arrangements  
will insure the neutrality of Denmark  
in the event of an Anglo-Russian con-  
flict, or at least that the Great Belt and  
the Sound will be declared neutral in  
the event of war. It is also surmised  
that Great Britain has signified her  
willingness to cede to Russia a sphere  
of influence in northern Persia, if Rus-  
sia agrees not to interfere in southern  
Persia. Russia's request for a port on  
the Persian Gulf, it is thought, will not  
be granted; but Russia has lately ex-  
hibited a desire to acquire interests in  
Abyssinia, so as to gain access to the  
Red Sea, and it is possible that this may  
be arranged in lieu of a port on the  
Persian Gulf. In London, it is reported  
that Emperor Menelik has been infor-  
med of the Russian designs.The outlook for a speedy termination  
of the war is not encouraging, if these  
rumors have any foundation in facts.  
The disasters that have overtaken the  
Russian fleet are of such a nature that  
Russia has lost much of the influ-  
ence and prestige formerly held in  
Asia. Until this prestige is regained,  
as far as possible, Russia can ill afford  
to accept peace terms.Sparta never produced such a mother  
as "Mother" Jones.These April days are just as rare as  
any that June turns out.The bicyclists still ride and race on  
the sidewalks in the prohibited dis-  
tricts.The love of Dalzell and Cockran for  
each other is not wholly like that of  
David and Jonathan.The United States Supreme Court, in  
the Virginia cases, has given the fif-  
teenth amendment another hard "jolt."A Sheffield scientific school professor  
says that people eat too much. If so,  
it may be because they have so little  
choice."Mother" Jones, who has been in  
quarantine, has broken out. This would  
ordinarily be a sure sign that she has  
smallpox.The new city directory is a very hand-  
some volume. But how could it be oth-  
erwise with the names of so many  
handsome girls in it?There is a difference between trusts  
and Indians. A good trust is said to  
be a live trust, while a good Indian  
is said to be a dead Indian.The Russians are anxious to entice  
the Japanese into Manchuria before  
offering them battle. They may regret  
their action after the battle.A Chicago professor says that had  
spelling been a sure sign of great liter-  
ary ability. In the newspaper offices of  
the country it is not so regarded.A Port Arthur dispatch says that "ex-  
periments with submarine boats have  
been attended with brilliant suc-  
cess." On whose side, Russian or Jap-  
anese?When Panama gets that ten million  
dollars, and it will not be long now,  
she will truly have an embarrassment  
of riches. But this is preferable to an  
embarrassment of poverty."Remember Makareff!" is the legend  
the Novoe Vremya would have graven  
on an obelisk in front of the Russian ad-  
miralty. They will scarcely forget him,  
but will the remembrance better their  
navy?Captain Zeph Hill thinks that miners  
who are unfit to remain in Colorado  
are plenty good enough for New Mexi-  
co, so he puts them on a train, sends  
them to the border and dumps them in-  
to the Territory.The Western Federation of Miners  
has advised the Carbon county strikers  
that it would be good policy to discon-  
tinue holding meetings and keep quiet  
for the present. Better advice was  
never given strikers and if those in  
Carbon county will heed it they will  
save themselves much trouble.Prominent clergymen of Great Brit-  
ain have just issued a powerful ap-  
peal to their brethren of all denomina-  
tions, requesting their co-operation in  
the interest of arbitration as a substi-  
tute for war. This is a work in which  
the Christians of the world should be  
interested. They might set the  
world a good example by "arbitrating"  
their own differences first, and then  
meet on a common platform and use  
their combined strength for the good  
of mankind.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the current number of Leslie's  
Weekly, there is a readable article by  
Charles C. Bombaugh, M. D., which is  
accompanied by a double page of illus-  
trations of the natural wonders of the  
United States. Other attractive fea-  
tures are a spirited drawing on the  
front page by Charles M. Russell, the  
famous "cowboy" artist of Montana;  
an excellent full-page portrait of United  
States Senator Fairbanks; a photo-  
graph of the greatest Easter parade in  
this country, on the boardwalk at At-  
lantic City, N. J.; pictures of the  
launching of the magnificent battle-  
ship Virginia at Newport News, Va.  
The various departments display their  
usual excellence.—New York.A new portrait of President Roose-  
velt, from a photograph taken at the  
White House in January, is the front-  
piece of the May Century. The leading  
article in the number deals with the  
House of Commons, under the title  
"The Mother of Parliaments," the writ-  
er being Henry Norman, M. P., and the  
illustrator Andre Castaigne. Of cur-  
rent interest are two articles, "Unhap-  
py Kew," by Dr. Arthur Judson  
Brown, secretary of the Presbyterian  
Board of Foreign Missions, and "Koreu,  
the Bone of Contention," by the editor  
of the "Korea Review" of Seoul, Mr.  
Thomas B. Reed. Of special interest  
to photographers, professional and am-  
ateur, is "The Lost Art of the Dag-  
uerreotype" in the May Century, byAbraham Bogardus, the veteran dag-  
uerreotypist, preceded by an article by  
Pauline King on this form of portrai-  
ture, with drawings by Elizabeth Ship-  
pen Green and Willard Bonté, and re-  
productions of interesting daguerre-  
types. There are also articles of inter-  
est to travelers, and several pieces of  
fiction.—New York.The following is the list of contents  
of McClure's Magazine for May: "The  
Rogues of a Zoo," A. W. Rolker; "A  
Spring Sunday," Sarah Orne Jewett;  
"The House of Puffblower," George  
Madden Martin; "Bon Zon's Matinee,"  
Joseph Blumenthal; "The Reign of Law-  
lessness," Ray Stannard Baker; "On the  
Saddle Bow Range," Alvah Milton  
Kerr; "The History of the Standard Oil  
Company," The Editor; "The Poet  
Moon," Florence Wilkinson; "The  
Doubting of the Doctor," Henry C.  
Rowland; "How Hayes Became Presi-  
dent," Joseph M. Rogers; "North of  
Fifty-three," Rex E. Beach; "The Ne-  
gro: The Southerner's Problem," Thom-  
as Nelson Page, and "H. R. H. The  
Prince of Hester Street," Myra Kelley.  
The number is, as usual, superbly il-  
lustrated.—The S. S. McClure Co., New  
York.In Leslie's Monthly for May there is  
a striking article on "the men who do  
the real work in Congress," the sena-  
tors and representatives who do most  
of the work of governing this nation,  
although their names seldom appear in  
the papers; another interesting sketch  
is called "Americans as Quitters," which  
takes up three remarkable men who  
have gone from this country to Can-  
ada and quit after one job after an-  
other as fast as they have accomplished  
wonders in each place. "The Old  
Whale's Story" is another of F. T. Bul-  
len's tales of sea animals and "The  
World's Rarest Riding" and "Open  
Air Sculpture at St. Louis" are two ar-  
ticles richly illustrated. The fiction of  
the number has among other stories,  
one of the fighting in the Philippines,  
an amusing young married tale of Bos-  
ton life, a love story, a delightful de-  
scription of the wanderings of a fright-  
ened young elephant.—Fifth Ave., New  
York.In Cassell's Magazine of Illustrated  
Engineering for May, the following ar-  
ticles are found: "Some Modern  
Quayside Cargo Appliances Handling  
Cargoes Between Ship and Shore," by  
Bryson; "Wanted: Machine Tools for  
the Panama Canal," by George E. Walsh;  
"Some Electric Furnace Processes," by  
J. Wright; "Fuel Economy in Steam  
Plants," by John B. C. Kershaw; "Water  
Hoisting Instead of Pumping," by R. V.  
Norris; "Modern Gas Lighting," by W. H.  
Booth; "The Scientific Work of the United  
States Navy," by Rear Admiral C. M.  
Chester, U. S. N.; and "Special Machine  
Tools for Locomotive shops," by Joseph  
Horn, and "Current Topics."—New York.GRAND THEATRE  
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