

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED.)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Peurouse, Editor
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
One Year, in advance, \$4.00
Six Months, " " 2.00
Three Months, " " 1.00
One Month, " " .50
One Week, " " .15
Semi-weekly, per year, 2.00
Semi-weekly, " " 1.00

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.

Address all business communications
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE:
R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE:
Craig & Woodward, 87 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 28, 1899.

THE PRESENT AGITATION.

"The real point of assault, is upon the 'Mormon' Church, and effort should not be frittered away in more doubtful quarters."

That is from the Boston Herald, and to the concluding sentence of a long editorial on the contest which is being made by the various churches of the country, against the Congressman from Utah. They take the position that he is the representative of the "Mormon" Church, and the Herald thinks that Church can be attacked in another and more consistent and successful manner.

It is because the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the objective point, against which all the shafts of the preachers and religious societies are really hurled, while they take their words against Mr. Roberts, that the Deseret News enters the field as the defender of the Church. It matters not that some folks say: "Oh! this is a political matter and the 'News' mustn't touch politics." It is made a Church matter by the pastors and members of religious sects, and for that reason we touch upon it, meeting them on their own ground.

There are several points that should be made clear in the controversy, and which will stand out, prominent and sharp, when the smoke and the dust raised by sophists and senseless clamorers are wafted away.

First, that the "Mormon" Church has been and is untruthfully charged with the nomination and election of B. H. Roberts to Congress.

Second, that the Democratic party of Utah is alone responsible for the whole matter.

Third, that both "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" supported him in convention and at the polls.

Fourth, that large numbers of "Mormons," including many of the most influential of their leading men, voted for and urged the election of the opposing candidate.

Fifth, that they did this as citizens, and not as Church leaders or Church members.

Sixth, that the hue and cry against the successful candidate was first raised for partisan reasons, but was taken up by the preachers and churches as a pretext for a general warfare on "Mormonism."

Seventh, that the seating or unseating of the gentleman elected by the Democrats of Utah will have no more effect on "Mormonism" or the marriage question, than it will upon the policy of territorial expansion or the problem of Philippine government.

Eighth, that the State of Utah has faithfully kept the implied compact as to "polygamous or plural marriages," contained in the Enabling Act on the one hand and the State Constitution on the other.

Ninth, that there has been less bigamy or polygamy in Utah since the requirement of Statehood, than there has been since that date in any other State of the Union.

Tenth, that the "Mormon" Church has been maligned, misrepresented and abused by some religious ministers for the sake of pelf, and by many others in ignorance of the truth and because they relied on the statements of wilful deceivers.

The results, as we have all along maintained, will be beneficial. "Offenses must come," the Founder of our faith declared. If we add the rest of His saying, "We unto them by whom they come," we shall most likely be accused of threatening the authors of the present anti-"Mormon" crusade. But while the sufferers from the tumult have to bear it with as much patience as humanity can exercise, they can rejoice in the assurance that it will all "work together for good."

We have no fear of agitation. It is spathy, lethargy, indifference and stagnation that stand most in the way of "Mormonism." Let the storm rage and the elements ferment! The noise counts for little, and the working will subside. Then the truth will come up-ermost and justice will be done.

KIND WORDS APPRECIATED.

The people of this city will remember the visit of Father E. H. Younan a short time ago, who came here at the invitation of Bishop L. Scanlan of the Catholic church. Father Younan drew interested audiences and was given the use of the Assembly Hall, and finally of the Tabernacle, by the authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His lectures were chiefly on the Divinity of Christ and the necessity of a divine, infallible, authoritative, living teacher, which, of course, he argued, was supplied by the Catholic church. The fervor and sincerity of the speaker were generally recognized, and on that account he was given the opportunity to address the public in those large buildings, the biggest in the city.

Unlike some of the preachers of the different sects who have been favored with such an opportunity, Father Younan has made a fair report of his visit; and while he is, perhaps, a little too enthusiastic over the results of his preaching among the "Mormons," he has given, in the New York Catholic News,

an interesting account of his labors and his reception in Utah. He says of the "Mormons":

"They are on the whole a good people, simple, industrious and docile, influenced by their leaders, greatly impressed with the idea of authority and full of deep respect and reverence for the word of God.

"The 'Mormon' papers, without exception, wrote up Father Younan's work in terms of the highest praise, and admitted the fairness and justice of his dealing with them. He but followed the policy of the bishop himself, who is both respected and loved by the people of Utah. We certainly owe the 'Mormons' a debt of gratitude for their kindly bearing towards the church."

While the Latter-day Saints are perfectly satisfied with their own Church, and regard it as of directly divine origin, they recognize the right of all people to worship how and whom they will, and also the right of every individual to express his religious opinions wherever he can lawfully obtain an audience. They are also willing to allow their children and others to investigate the claims of other churches, and to study the doctrines and tenets of every religion under the sun.

The authorities of this Church have been quite liberal in extending to ministers of different denominations the privilege of addressing congregations in our largest places of worship. This, however, has not been very extensively reciprocated. Perhaps that was not to be expected under the circumstances, but we think common fairness would require that justice should be done by such ministers when they returned to their homes, and that they would abstain from adding to the great mass of misinformation concerning a people who treated them with nothing but kindness. Father Younan, we are pleased to say, has not followed the example of some Protestant professors of religion, who have visited Utah, but has spoken kind words for the Latter-day Saints, and we duly appreciate his report.

THE PLAGUE IN NEW YORK.

As may have been noticed in the dispatches, cases of the bubonic plague have been reported from New York. A steamer arrived in port on the 18th of November, from Santos, Brazil, and the captain and cook were both suffering from the disease. The steward was first stricken, and he was cared for by the men who subsequently were taken ill.

The arrival of the feared visitor did not create any panic in New York. It was at once recognized that the measures of quarantine and other sanitary regulations were a sufficient safeguard against even "black death," although the experience of Portugal, where strenuous efforts have been made to stamp out the disease, has not been altogether encouraging. Two or three deaths are reported daily in Oporto, and among the victims is the director of the Bacteriological Institute in Lisbon, who, one would think, ought to have been familiar enough with precautionary measures to carry the day in a contest with the grim monster.

In this connection the device of Russian authorities to prevent the landing of the plague from infected ships is of interest. According to a report of the United States consul at Odessa, reproduced in the Medical Record, vessels from suspected ports are isolated. The consul writes:

"I saw the other day a curious device attached to the mooring rope or cable of a steamer which was loading at this port. The cable was run through a piece of iron pipe about a foot in length, and welded on the end of the pipe was a flange or funnel which looked like the end of a trumpet, with the wide end facing the ship. The iron pipe was stuffed with oakum, to prevent it from slipping and also to prevent rats from passing through it. This novel construction was quite close to the ship. On inquiring what purpose this device served, I was informed that the Russian authorities furnished these appliances and obliged all ships to use them whenever they came from a port infected with the plague, in order to prevent the rats on the ship from coming on shore. It is generally conceded that the plague has been carried and spread by rats which have left ships coming from infected ports. It is known that rats make use of the cable to come on shore, and this iron pipe with its funnel-shaped arrangement was employed to prevent such visits, if possible. These devices were attached to each cable by which the ship is moored. In addition to this precaution, the master of the ship is obliged to take down his loading stages every night and erect them again the following morning, in order to prevent the rats from coming on shore during the night."

There appears to be difference of opinion as to whether the rodents are as much responsible for the spread of the plague as they are supposed to be, and it certainly is a question whether the Russian device is effective. Rats are known to be good swimmers and certainly not dependent upon a cable to land, whenever they take a notion to do so. Scientific quarantine and eternal vigilance will be needed, if our sea ports shall be free from the threatening danger.

CIVILIZING GUAM.

The Governor of Guam, Captain Richard P. Leary, may not have international reputation for statesmanship, but he has, in dealing with the few inhabitants of Uncle Sam's recent island acquisition in the Ladrones, set a precedent which probably will give a clue to the policy that will have to be applied on a larger scale in other places.

When this practical naval officer came to Guam to "govern" the place, he found a moral and industrial condition not in accordance with modern civilization. He first ordered the natives to work, and they entered into the spirit of it with a will, and commenced to raise crops and chickens and pigs, and thus a foundation was laid both for home industry and for commerce, inasmuch as the governor bought liberally what he needed of these commodities for his family and men.

This done, the governor looked into the moral status of the people, and found that the relations between the sexes were about as loose as they are reported to be in many of the large cities of Europe. By a gubernatorial edict the natives were made to tie the matrimonial knot according to law and usage. Evidently the power the governor represents is much respected in that island, and it is a pity it should

not be obeyed with equal alacrity in New York, or Chicago.

Some objection has been raised to the proceedings of Captain Leary on the ground that they are too "paternalistic." Some folks at home seem to think that he ought to have called a convention, with preceding primaries, for the purpose of giving the half-clad orators of the island an opportunity to exhaust their eloquence on the questions of proposed reforms. It is evidently better as it is, though.

Captain Leary is not accustomed to indirect ways. He is said to be the naval officer who, in 1883, placed his little ship Adams between the guns of a German man-of-war and the natives of Samoa, and he is apparently as determined as ever to do his duty quickly and thoroughly.

THE RACE FOR HERAT.

The rumors that Russia is preparing for an advance on Herat are denied, and probably on good authority. The international relations of Afghanistan are regulated by solemn treaties, and it is not probable that any of the parties to those agreements has a desire to formally violate them. A Russian advance upon Herat would mean certain war, and Russia is not yet prepared to throw the fatal die.

But it is more than probable that that country is making all the necessary preparations for a descent upon the capital of Afghanistan, in case circumstances should arise to make such a move safe. The Russian rulers are wide awake, and on the lookout in all directions. Should, for instance, the Ameer suddenly be called away from this sphere of action, and Great Britain, on any pretext whatever, make any sign of a determination to advance, she would find Russian troops ahead in the very heart of the country.

The plea would be made that English troops are unable to control the turbulent element on the Russian border, and on that ground the Czar's troops would be ordered to take possession "for the maintenance of peace and order." In this way Russia has been expanding all along the Asiatic boundary lines.

The situation in Afghanistan seems to be this that while Great Britain for years has been making preparations for the building of a railroad to Kandahar, Russia has made similar preparations for a road to Herat, which has been awaiting the opportunity to advance, afforded by some overt act of the other, but both have so far hesitated to take the first step.

There has been an impression that the South African war, which in all probability gives about 100,000 of England's troops hard work for some time to come, would furnish the rivals of the empire an opportunity to take undue advantage of her, but that is only conjecture. The British government was not forced into the Transvaal war unawares. That was deliberately planned, as is evident from the negotiations preceding it. The inference is that the understanding between the European governments is perfect, and that the assurance of Lord Salisbury at the Guildhall meeting, to the effect that the diplomatic sky is clear, was but the statement of a fact. Possibly Russian non-activity at this time will be paid later by a similar act of friendship by Great Britain. Future events must be relied upon to tell as to that, but at present there seems to be no immediate danger of a duel between the lion and the bear in the mountains of Afghanistan.

SOME "UNION" METHODS.

This paragraph from the Idaho supreme court's decision in the Corcoran case should be read with care, and receive calm consideration in the light of the facts in the affair, particularly by those interested in labor unions, as affording a contrast for good or bad methods in such unions to make or unmake them: "It seems to be one of the methods of this organization, known as the Miners' union, whenever an attempt is made to bring them to account for their unlawful, barbarous and murderous acts, to at once commence an attack upon the legally constituted authorities, who are endeavoring to enforce and maintain the law, and by their false clamor seek to excite sympathy for the malefactors, and such action, by virtue of the recognized freedom of the press in this country, always finds an echo and too frequent indorsement with that portion of the press whose moral principles are governed and controlled by what is for their gain." That hits the nail in the Idaho situation squarely on the head, and well informed and competent men, within and without the lines of trades-unionism, will recognize and admit the fairness and force of the blow. But the fact that the Miners' union was responsible for the great crimes in connection with the Coeur d'Alene trouble is no excuse for charging every labor organization with following such methods. Let each stand on its own merits.

It has been discovered in South Africa that it is unwise to send lancers to cut off a Boer retreat.

Gen. Otis should issue a permit for Aguinaldo to come and see his family. It might lead to a recognition of the insurgent.

Since the leading politicians have agreed on the respective candidates for the chief political parties, the matter of national conventions in 1900 cuts an inferior figure.

The Philadelphia Ledger puts it this way: "If Congressman-elect Roberts means to say that he is opposed to polygamy in theory but not in practice, he is just like a good many less distinguished citizens."

Admiral Dewey has said whom he would like to be the next President of the United States, and as it is not the admiral, a discriminating public will not worry the hero of Manila on this subject any further.

For some time past, the press dispatches have contained a daily discussion of the Boer war plans, by a London correspondent of the New York Herald. A comparison of the statements therein with the facts in the case show that what the correspondent referred to does not know about the

Boer plans would fill a big book, but what he does know would not mar a blank sheet.

State School Superintendent Jackson of Nebraska does not seem to be afraid of allowing children to learn what is in the Bible by having it read in the public school; but he avoids sectarian discussions by insisting that the reading shall be without comment by the teachers.

Gen. Miles does not think it would be safe for a hostile battletide to enter the Pacific coast ports now, even with their defenses incomplete. But if these were completed and the guns properly manned no enemy would think it safe to attempt an entrance, and that would be better still.

December 14 will be the one hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington. What wonderful development of this country in one single century! Evolutionists, who in their theory need ages for every little forward step, should pause and ponder.

An eastern exchange says that as the exercise of executive clemency the past three years has released sixteen bank wreckers, and secured a commutation of sentence in eight other cases, the addition of one or two more to the list would not hurt anything. This liberal view should be an encouragement to a bank officer who is under sentence in the federal court here.

According to Gen. Joubert, by the time Britain wrests from the Boers their independence there will be no Boers left to subjugate. Evidently the Boer commander and his people hold the same view on this point as that expressed by William, Prince of Orange, when the Duke of Buckingham asked him if he did not see his country was lost. "There is a sure way never to see it lost," said the prince, "and that is, to die in the last ditch."

We find the following pungent paragraph in that popular humorous paper Judge; it needs no comment:

"The church of this country would not have admitted the ancient patriarchs to our Congress, because they had too many wives; yet it preserves their memory with the utmost sacredness and quotes them as models of good living. Miss Gould and the other opponents to the admission of Mr. Roberts to the Congress are more or less right; but it is at least a credit to the man that he doesn't propose to put aside his wives or children to render himself eligible."

The Southern Star, of Nov. 25, the closing number of its first volume, contains a group picture of several Elders, the central figure being D. P. Felt, who is favorably mentioned as the first editor of the paper and active in its establishment. Bro. Felt is now connected with the Deseret News. We are pleased to know that the Southern Star has been successful up to date, and hope that on entering its second volume it will receive extended support, which it richly deserves.

Here is an illustration that fits pretty closely upon Gov. Leary's efforts to compel the inhabitants of Guam to do more work than is necessary for them to earn a living: "As I understand it," said the heathen, "you propose to civilize me." "Exactly so." "You mean to get me out of habits of idleness and teach me to work?" "That is my idea." "And then lead me to simplify my methods and invent things to make my work lighter?" "Yes." "And next I will become ambitious to get rich so that I won't have to work at all?" "Naturally." "Well, what's the use of taking such a roundabout way of getting just where I started? I don't have to work now."

THE DEWEY INCIDENT.

Denver Post.
There is a further lesson to be drawn from this deplorable incident. Popular subscriptions are but a poor substitute at best through which to reward a national hero. Too many of those who contribute a few dollars to such a fund afterward feel that they exercised a sort of proprietary interest. If not in the object which has drawn forth the contribution, then in the object to which it has been diverted. In certain of its phases and among certain of its adherents it is almost sure to degenerate into a charity gift enterprise and in this way betrays the one who receives and the one who gives. The Post consistently opposed this sort of recognition of Dewey's services as leading to probable complications and as certainly cheapening the luster of his fame. All recognition of such services as Dewey rendered should come through the government or not at all. In this way the people give a mass and not a divided contribution to a worthy object and no cheap and hysterical men and women are given any chance to exploit themselves.

Chicago News.
Can it be possible that Admiral Dewey, determined to keep out of politics at all hazards, is trying to create just enough unpopularity to stop any attempts at placing him on any party's ticket?

Kansas City Star.
The incident offers an opportunity for paraphrasing the trite observation used in many a doubtful eulogy: He has his faults; who of us have not? It would not be supposed by any rational student of human nature that a man with the bravery of Admiral Dewey would be without gallantry. There is nothing in the teaching of history to discredit the assumption that a man might possess those qualities equal to the achievement of Dewey's magnificent victory at Manila and yet be handicapped with infirmities that might lead him into the pitfalls which are concealed under the specious surface of Washington society. It is quite proper that charity should never fall in a world where the best of us must say, "God help us."

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
This explanation will replace the hero of Manila by in the affections of the unprejudiced American people. Not for a moment suspecting that his action would be misconstrued, he did what he thought would most surely carry into effect the wishes of the people who had been kind to him. Unfortunately that action, becoming public in an uncomplicated form and without explanation, was liable to be misunderstood and was misunderstood. Under the circumstances it was an error of judgment. But now that the facts are known that regrettable mistake will be forgiven and speedily forgotten.

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least, of his admirers he loses all the defects and deficiencies common to human nature the world over and is endowed with superhuman qualities. This enthusiasm increases to such a pitch that unconsciously it wears the enthusiasts themselves. Then, suddenly, the hero frankly demonstrates that he is wholly human and fallible, and there is a reaction proportionate in its severity to the original laudations. Partly as a result of self-deception, partly with a sense of relief from the duties of praise-chaunting, partly from disgust and embarrassment at the excesses of praise, there arises a tendency to fly to the other extreme.

Denver News.
After all, we like the admiral better than we did before. We realize that the great triumphal arch and the cheering millions didn't spoil him. He is just one of us. His years have not cooled the fires in his heart; whatever he did and all he did was homage to Cupid and Hymen. That he could leave the Olympia, live for a week in a storm of adulation, hear his victories voiced by a nation's tongue, and in a day ask a woman he loved to be his wife, and in a week marry her and discard pomp and trippery, and he with his wife go about their business as though he were a plain, common, every-day man, make the country love him, and the love will grow to immeasurable size and power.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
The admiral will get over feeling so badly as this about it. The sudden plunge from the warm and gentle atmosphere of public adulation into a cold bath of public contumely was too much for the equanimity of the plain sailor, who had never before been subjected to experiences of this sort. It is plain that this sensitive tar will never do for a presidential candidate. For he wears his heart upon his sleeve for daws to peck at.

New York World.
Of course, the first effect of these malicious slabs at Admiral Dewey was so keen as to blind him to their source and its significance and insignificance. But when he looks again he will distinguish between the masses of his fellow-countrymen and a coterie of anonymous political braves circulating malicious falsehoods and writing unsigned letters to a Washington newspaper. The American people are very sensitive about their hero, as well as extremely jealous of his affections. The attack upon him will recoil with fury increased a thousand-fold upon those who make it.

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