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## THANKSGIVING DAY.

What is the proper method of observing Thanksgiving day? If the majority of the press are to be received as a criterion, the answer is plain: Eating turkey in particular and gormandizing in general, while making of the occasion one of hilarity and freedom from restraint. When the newspapers are unanimous on any subject, or nearly so, they are very apt to be right; but luckily we (advisedly) do not agree on the one spoken of. The DESERET NEWS emphatically dissents from the majority and holds the plan of recognition above outlined as exactly the reverse of what should be the case. The day is singled out from the calendar by executive authority as one to be devoted to praise and thanks to the Giver of all good for His mercies and blessings; public assemblages of a strictly religious character are sometimes held before the eating begins, and the food should always be blessed before it is partaken of. There is no necessity for a display of Puritanism or longfacedness, but hilarity of the balderous kind and the drinking of liquors, the doing of anything, in fact, except in moderation, should be strictly frowned down.

This is the proper mode. It is not expected that everybody will observe the plan, if indeed more than a very few, outside of those who render thanks and experience grateful feelings every day of their lives, shall do so. The Latter-day Saints, as a rule, will follow their unvarying custom of expressing their gratitude for blessings conferred orally and with so much of ceremony as the circumstances require or admit of. They may not invariably adopt the recommendations made to assemble in their places of worship and make public acknowledgment of the common Father's goodness to His children, but they will be none the less sincere in praising His name and enjoining upon their families to feel as well as express thankfulness and praise.

The custom has come down to us directly from the Puritan fathers who settled New England, though history shows that it was a practice in the land from whence they came—old England—a long time before they left there. The day was invariably observed by them in the manner we have herein advocated, and that they had cause for thanks as well as supplications at all times, we all know full well; that we have so much more cause than they is apparent to us on every hand. Then let not the grand object be overlooked; feasting and merry-making should not be the main objects, but where engaged in they should be in moderation and figure merely as incidents of the day.

## THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

One of the most consequential gatherings of recent times is that which began its session in Brussels today. Certainly it has one of the most momentous and far-reaching questions to deal with that ever occupied the attention of any international body; and we are justified from its personnel in saying that the subject which brought it together will not be slighted. No other nation is directly affected to the same extent that the United States is, and therefore we on this side look to the outcome of the conference's work with an interest which amounts to very much more than we could take in the mere disposal of a question in natural philosophy.

This country has become such a great producer of silver that its absorption in the channels of commerce has become a matter of the gravest concern. Can a nation have too much money? Of what should that money be composed? If of more than one metal, what metals shall be employed and what the ratio? These are the questions with which the representatives of the powers at Brussels will have to deal, and we look for them to definitely determine each and all of them, so that they may be removed from the field of controversy and all may know exactly what to rely upon. To be entirely satisfactory on this side of the Atlantic, the categorical answers to those questions will be:

1.—No, so long as it is universally recognized as money; for then the more a country has the greater its power among the nations of the earth.

2.—Of royal metals possessing the qualities of immutability, indestructibility, incorruptibility, malleability and ductility, being not so scarce as to limit the circulation to a few, and thus create contraction of currency and corresponding congestion of trade, nor so abundant as to be common in the hands of everybody, thus creating inflation and curtailing the purchasing power of the money. Gold and silver, and nothing else, answer these requirements, and therefore the answer to question 3 is partly contained herein. The ratio is what the conference must determine, having first in view the apparent supply and relative quantities of either, mined and unmined but likely to be obtained. The relative values is an abstruse proposition, but it can be determined upon a practical basis. The law of supply and demand can have but little to do with it, as the decision of the conference will settle that feature of the case, and they are dealing with a matter which is an adjunct to, not a subject of, the law spoken of. The decision must be with due reference to the qualities named and the respective quantities visible and invisible, immediately and prospectively; then, when a ratio shall have been adopted, providing that one ounce of gold shall be equal to so many ounces of silver and in that proportion both metals shall circulate freely as money among all the signatory powers, the difficulty which has environed us so long will end at once. The miner with a quantity of silver will know exactly what his possessions are, and will no longer be in the position of the huckster with a wagon load of truck going to market.

It will establish stability in the mercantile affairs of the civilized world such as it has not known before, and will be the means of ushering in at once upon us of the West such a steady tide of prosperity as we have longed for, struggled for, asked for, but never realized. It will be to us just the difference between dealing in certainties and uncertainties, and surely everybody of mature years who has ever had any dealings at all can appreciate without argument or further example what a vast difference that is. Above and beyond all things else, it means justice to a noble metal through securing justice to the hardy and venturesome men who go in quest of and secure it.

A propitious and speedy outcome to the labors of the Brussels conference, say we all!

## A QUESTION OF AIR.

He who resides on the upper benches to the north and east of the city, or on the lower level some distance out on the south and west, will have noticed in the early morning before the sun has risen or at evening when the glorious orb of day is about to set, a peculiar atmospheric condition demanding more than passing attention. We refer to the dark, dense, impenetrable cloud of smoke that overhangs the business portion of the city like a great, black pall, seeming to rest upon the roofs of the higher buildings, and descending, unless sooner wafted away by the wind or dispelled by the sun's rays, in a sooty mist into the very streets.

As an evidence of industrial and mechanical activity, this product of our mills, foundries, factories, electric light works and power houses is most gratifying to every resident desirous of the city's prosperity. Not in that aspect of the case do we take the stand of objector; neither is it our purpose to boom suburban real estate as desirable for residence property through pointing out the grimy disadvantages of that which is "close in."

None of these. The intention at this time is merely to say that the matter of smoke consumption, other than through the nostrils and lungs of the citizens, is one that will soon be calling for earnest municipal consideration.

## A NATIONAL WEAKNESS.

A picture of the speed at which Americans go through life is drawn in vivid colors by a recent English writer, who has thus won for himself, from the critics in his own land at least, a great reputation for cleverness. He says the American business man bolts a breakfast which might satisfy a California miner, and then rushes off to catch the sky train; he toils all day in the service of Mammon, snatching a quick luncheon at the bar counter; he deluges himself at dinner with iced water, and then retires to the drinking saloon to refresh himself with cocktails; he incessantly chews and smokes the strongest tobacco, and he is finally taken to the cemetery at a smart trot, in consideration for the mourners, whose time is money.