

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Herrick G. Whitney, Business Manager

Subscription Prices	Advance
One Year	\$5.00
Six Months	2.50
Three Months	1.25
One Month	.35
One Week	.10
Saturday Edition, per year	2.00
Non-Weekly	.20

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SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
In charge of V. J. Cooper, 24 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 6, 1902.

THE PRESENT CONTENTION.

We are pleased to know that the protest of the Deseret News against the revival of the old contention, which tended to array against each other the "Mormon" and "Gentile" citizens of Utah, is endorsed by the majority of our people without regard to their religious or political proclivities. There are a few persons, however, in whose breasts the old bitter spirit of strife is still active, who take delight in fanning the small flame which was rekindled at the latest sitting of the City Council. It is of no use to apologize for it, or to attempt by sophistical pleading to make it appear in any way justifiable.

There is a division of opinion among members of the City Council as to the action of the Mayor, in his endeavor to remove from office the Chief of Police without presenting the name of the person whom he wishes to install as his successor. As the Deseret News has heretofore explained, the City Council has co-ordinate powers with the Mayor in the removal or appointment of the head of a department. Every member of the Council has the right to his opinion as well as to his vote. There is nothing in his oath of office or the duties of his calling, which requires him to agree with the Mayor in office of these matters.

It makes no difference whether he belongs to the same or another political party. He is not bound by party ties to jump when the Mayor pulls the string. To hear some members talk on the floor of the council one would be led to suppose that their idea of duty in the matter of a removal or an appointment by the Chief Executive, was simply to echo his orders. It should be understood that every member of the City Council is supposed to represent the city's interests, and the wishes of the body of the people and not simply the opinions of one individual, however lofty may be his motives and however sincere may be his views. It is no reflection on the personality of the Mayor when members of the council dissent from his conclusions. It is their right to do so, and they should be upheld in it by their colleagues, even though they differ with him in debate. The masses of the people will support them in this right, and the attempt to discredit them by insinuations about their religion is utterly condemnable, no matter from what source it proceeds.

It is not a new thing for either Republicans or Democrats to take action at variance with some measure proposed by their own party. To charge them with something wrong and disreputable on that account is no argument against the soundness of their position. But it is a low trick deserving only of pronounced censure. The officer whom the Mayor desires to remove is a Republican. He does not serve the public, however, as a politician, but as the head of a department which is understood to be independent of political influences. It would not matter if he belonged to another political party. That should not figure in the question of his removal or his retention. He is understood to be a "Mormon." The question of his religious belief or status is also extraneous to the dispute. Why should the members who do not believe in the necessity for his removal be charged with supporting him because he is a "Mormon?"

Some over-wise and not well posted objector, suggests that although the Chief has expressed his intention to nominate non-"Mormons" to fill the places of the three officers removed, this would emphasize the intent to put "Mormons" in the chief places on the force, because the new appointees would have to take posts on the lowest grade. That is leaping at conclusions, after the same rash and unjust manner exhibited in the whole anti-"Mormon" contention. It does not follow, by any means, that "Mormon" followers would take the places next to the Chief in authority. That is mere conjecture. There is no good ground for it. The very suspicion thus expressed shows the animus behind it.

It is also insinuated that the objectionable terms "Mormon" and "Gentile" were in the mind of the Chief, when he expressed his intention of naming three non-"Mormons" to fill the vacancies on the force. Seeing that these terms were introduced in the City Council by persons interested in his removal from office, and have been paraded in the same spirit in the public press, how could they fall to have so impressed him? In what other way could he have met the charge that he was removing three "Gentiles" to make way for three "Mormons," than by making a choice of non-"Mormons" to fill their places?

It is very difficult to please or satisfy people who are determined to make false accusations, and to raise a ridiculous bugaboo for the purpose of striving to intimidate weak minds.

We hope and believe that these endeavors will be futile. If a City Councilman is to have no independence, he might as well stay out of the body. If he is to be assailed when he stands on the charge that he is acting against his party for the purpose of affiliating with another party, or that he is influenced by some undefined and imaginary religious "pull," how is he to act on his convictions of what is right, or be protected against the insults and fibes and sneers of every low-down trickster or infidel who chooses to assail him? We repeat our opinion, that everything of that kind should be sat down upon by the President of the council, and that in such a course he should be sustained by every decent member of the body. The terms "Mormon" and "Gentile" have no proper place in the deliberations of the council. They should not be revived in the spirit which has called them forth in the present contention, either in print or in oral discussion.

We wish to emphasize our previous statement that the charge made in the City Council that this matter was being manipulated from "the office of the Church" is utterly and shamefully false. The Church authorities have not attempted to move in this matter one way or another. They have left the dispute between the Mayor and the council to those upon whom the responsibility rests. It is not a matter of "Mormon" and "Gentile" at all, and he who endeavors to present the subject in that light, is no friend to the public but a disturbing element in the State. It is to the interest of all our bonafide citizens to resent those insinuations, and to stop for good the introduction of such antagonistic elements into our public affairs.

And, further, it should be understood that, long ago, public sentiment in this city was pronounced in favor of eliminating from party politics the police and fire departments, the board of public works, and other adjuncts of the city government. That is the desire of the people with but few exceptions today. It matters not what a man's party or religious convictions may be, if he is a suitable man for a public position he should be supported in everything that is right and proper. At the same time, it may be reasonably expected when party politics have ruled in the selection of the chief city authorities, that the heads of departments when changes take place will be of the same political persuasion. While conceding that point, we repudiate utterly the idea that a man's religion should be considered in any way a qualification or disqualification for any office, elective or appointive.

TO INVITE CUBA.

If Cuba is considered a desirable addition to the United States, the way to bring the union about is indicated by Representative Newlands' resolution, which provides for an invitation to Cuba to become, first a territory and then a state of the Republic. In no other way can annexation honorably be accomplished. Cuba is free, by the solemn pledges of this government. The island cannot, without violation of agreements that should be kept inviolate, be compelled to ask for admission, whether by force of arms or by the adoption of a policy calculated to cripple her industries and make her resources unavailable. Both methods would be unworthy of this country. If Cuba is to come to us, she must do so of her own free will, and because the people realize that the course is the best for them. An invitation to the Cubans to ask for annexation, provided they are wanted to share in the blessings of American citizenship, opens the way for a frank expression on their part on that important question.

But there should be no sanguine expectations in this country that the Cubans are all ready to fall over one another in their eagerness to enter through the open door. Some Cubans there are, no doubt, who see in a union with the United States the only guarantee of smooth sailing toward prosperity. But there are a great many more who take a different view. Some of the Cuban leaders desire, for well understood reasons, to continue to lead the destinies, and the finances, of the islands, without being in any sense dependent on any other government. Then among all Latin-Americans there is some prejudice toward anything Anglo-Saxon, and prejudice is a mighty force. These facts would largely influence a plebiscite in Cuba on the Newlands' invitation, provided a popular vote were taken.

Still, it would do no harm to adopt the resolution. After it had been voted upon, Cuban sentiment toward the people of the United States would become generally known, and that knowledge would not be without value.

THE PHILIPPINE INQUIRY.

The statements made by Governor Taft before the senate committee on the Philippine situation clearly reveal the necessity for a full inquiry into the methods of warfare. That "war is hell" is understood, but the American people have a right to know to what particular depths of the lower regions the Philippine contest is being carried. The lamentable struggle in the islands was commenced in self-defense and in the interests of humanity and nothing should be tolerated that justifies the century of the civilized world.

Gov. Taft admitted that American soldiers had indulged in "unnecessary killing," which is but another name for murder. He admitted some cases of torture, one of which he explained. It consisted in pouring water down the throats of men, "until they would swell up." This was done for the purpose of "making them tell what they might know; as, for instance, as to where guns could be secured." It is needless to say that practices of that kind must have the tendency of defeating the very object for which the soldiers were sent to the islands. The Philippines will not be converted to American ideas by torture and murder. Who would? They have fought Spanish op-

pression. They cannot be expected to submit without protest to any other form of tyranny.

To be sure, Gov. Taft explained that such atrocities have been committed against orders. But does that better the situation? Have the soldiers who are guilty been called to account for their wrong doings? If so, are we to understand that many of them are so entirely without discipline as to go against the express commands of their superior officers?

We are told that the cases of murder and torture have not been many, and those that were known were committed in retaliation for the cruel deeds of the Filipino rebels. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion, though, that there have been many more than those taken official notice of. Only by a thorough investigation can the full truth be ascertained. There have been ugly rumors of torture as an established practice of our military policy in the islands, and the narrative of the governor rather strengthens the belief that they were but too well founded. Let there be light on the subject. And it would not be bad to hear the Filipino side of the story, as well as the other side.

EUROPE NEEDS ENGLAND.

A new story comes from Europe as to the real cause of the recent peace overtures in behalf of the Boers. It is to the effect that the great powers are becoming anxious as to the maintenance of the political equilibrium, and need Great Britain to help straighten out the tangles in which they find the meshes of the political net involved. They are fresh signs of strain in the Balkan states, and at the same time the triple alliance—the supposed guarantee of European peace—is said to be in danger of breaking up, and they want to see Great Britain free from her military burdens in Africa, so that her voice can be heard with greater emphasis in the European councils.

The Balkan is never without its sensations. But at present it is supposed there is a scheme on foot of uniting Serbia and Montenegro under Russian influence. This is supposed to be contrary to the interests of Austria-Hungary. The statement of the dual monarchy looms to England for support, but at present, it seems, that support can be only of a moral nature. Great Britain would, no doubt, be pleased to see Russia's efforts to establish a protectorate over the Slav states in the Balkan, but while the African trouble lasts that attracts her first and chief attention.

It seems, however, that Russia, too, joins in the general sentiment for peace in Africa. For one of the leading papers says:

"If by some means, no matter what, an issue could be found from the South African war, then, and then only, would things in Europe return to the path of peace from which the events of the past two years have forced them far astray."

If this representation of European sentiment is correct, strong pressure will be brought to bear upon the Boer delegates to sue for peace on any terms. Great Britain, too, will be approached again, and, notwithstanding the somewhat chilly reply to the communication from The Hague, negotiations may be commenced in earnest for peace.

The British government wants peace with honor. Its opportunity seems to have come. For if Europe cannot get along without English statesmanship; if it is necessary for the peace of Europe that her army be disengaged, and if this fact is openly acknowledged by the European governments, then she can with the greatest honor, indeed, take steps to end the war. She would do so, then, prompted by the highest and most disinterested motives conceivable.

HIS LAST GUN.

A few days ago the Ladysmith correspondent of the London Daily News telegraphed that twenty-three British columns were hunting for General Dewet, and that his capture, or the annihilation of his force would be only a question of time. He pointed out, however, that there is a surprisingly large number of armed Boers in the field, and that this is accounted for on the supposition that they have been re-armed lately by Cape Colony insurgents.

Now, a London dispatch states that the pursuit of the elusive Boer general, has succeeded to the extent that one gun, which is supposed to be his last, has been captured, and that one of his lieutenants has been routed. Some ammunition, horses, mules and prisoners are also in the hands of the pursuers.

The engagement cannot have been on a very large scale, judging from the small number of killed—only five—and wounded. And if it is correct that there are a surprisingly large number of insurgents in the field, the result can have no important bearing upon the general trend of events. It is a question whether Dewet, in his operations, has very much use for large guns, or whether he cannot do better without being encumbered with them.

General Botha does not often write for publication, but a Paris paper states that a dispatch has just been received from him by Dr. Leyds, in which Botha states that the Boers are "sufficiently provisioned to continue the struggle hopefully and that the situation in Cape Colony was growing worse for the British." If this is true, the capture of a gun and a few prisoners does not bring the end of the war perceptibly nearer than it has been supposed to be many times in the past.

Governor Van Sant is a fighter from away back—a way back in Minnesota.

The British have captured Dewet's last gun. Will it prove to be a sunset gun?

Captain Hobson desires to retire from the naval service. How about the kissing bees?

good health. His brother-in-law has just been sentenced to death.

The man who would array "Mormon" against "Gentile," or "Gentile" against "Mormon" and revive the bitterness of the past is an enemy of the commonwealth.

Five millions for the Danish West Indies. Fifteen millions for the Louisiana territory. It shows one thing at least—that real estate has risen.

During the Spanish-American war Europe may not have been over friendly to the United States, still no country there was so hostile as to pull chestnuts out of the fire for Spain.

Governor Taft says that he and General Chaffee are on the friendliest terms. He cannot claim that they are on speaking terms, considering the distance that separates them.

If the people who insist that also-margarine shall not be colored would be as particular not to color their statements, they would do the public another great service.

General Miles protests against locating army posts near large cities. He may yet be officially informed that nobody cares what his opinion of the matter is.

Many California miners are abandoning the search for gold for the base metals. To desert the search for that which made the state's fame is a base action.

Reduced to their elements, Governor Van Sant's reasons for calling the meeting of the governors to consider the railroad merger were that there is wisdom in the counsel of a multitude.

The Macedonian who assassinated the Bulgarian minister of public instruction and then succeeded, had some little sense of the eternal fitness of things. His last act should have been committed first.

If it were the emperor instead of his brother, Prince Henry, who is coming to the United States there would be no need to take so many precautions for his protection. The divinity that doth hedge a king about would be ample protection.

The United States having invaded the "right little island," John Bull is becoming nervously apprehensive that he, too, will also become a formidable rival in the business carried on on the "British common," as Sir Andrew Freepport termed it.

If Cuba is to become American territory it should be as a state and not as a colony. A people who fought so long and so valiantly for freedom as the Cubans did have in them the elements upon which free republics are founded. The same elements that were so conspicuous in the revolutionary fathers.

"The story of the escape of the Bidia brothers, condemned murderers, from the Pittsburgh jail, aided by the sympathetic and infatuated wife of the warder of that institution, reads like one of Scott's tales of flight and fight in the Scotch Highlands," says the Boston Transcript. It reads more like one of Beadle's Dime Novels.

OUR FAR WESTERN ISLANDS.

Chicago News.
One way in which the optimists of Senator Lodge's committee could gain a large measure of credence for the administration's view that conditions in the Philippines are good and are growing rapidly better, would be to present the testimony of leading Filipinos to that effect. It is known in the United States that some of the best colonists for some Filipinos of prominence, that others are imprisoned in Manila and that still others are hiding in the jungles. It is known also that some of them hold office in the civil government, of which Gov. Taft is the head, but with what sincerity they act is not known by Americans on this side of the Pacific. Indeed, it is known by Americans anywhere. Effusive thanks for our presence in those islands have not been expressed by any Filipinos of standing within the hearing of the people of the United States.

Springfield Republican.
It is plain to be seen that the imperialist crowd are much disturbed over the Philippine situation, as daylight begins to be let in upon it and increasing opposition develops at home. Hence this calling up of the reserves in the form of the old enemy of "settlers." You want to "settle," do you?—and the question is made to apply to the policy of granting independence to the islands at any time. Dr. Schurman of Cornell has thus become a "settler," no matter how far off he may put the time of conceding independence. He also thinks that residents of Manila were "settlers," though this cannot be shown. But other "settlers" are appearing in unexpected quarters.

Rochester Union.
The local British press quotes approvingly the following remark made recently in the House by Representative Cannon: "Right or wrong, the United States owns the Philippine islands, and the Anglo-Saxon people, abroad or here, never have parted with an acre of soil when they have once owned it." This certainly has a fine imperialist ring. But is the statement true? Did not a certain Anglo-Saxon people, to wit, the people of England, once upon a time part with a good acre of soil, and be situated in this part of the world? The historians of the American war of independence bear testimony to that effect.

Houston Post.
It is a king's part that we are playing in the Philippines today, and the part of a king of the worst sort. We rob the Philippines of their liberty. We follow that up by robbing them of their trade. We have wronged 10,000,000 people without provocation, instigated by what the Democratic platform justly denounces as "greedy commercialism." To free Cuba we have defeated Spain, and now we are treating the Philippines worse than Spain treated Cuba. Very far away have we drifted from the counsel of Washington.

Atlantic Constitution.
It may be true, as Gen. Wheaton says, that "men have been sent to prison" in the islands for just such remarks as have been made by President Schurman and by the minority of the Senate committee; but that does not do much credit to the Philippine administration nor make their policy any more palatable to freedom-loving Americans.

LOST SERMONS.

San Francisco Call.
A Baptist clergyman in Virginia who lost 200 sermons by negligence of a railway company sued for damages, and the matter having been left to a board of arbitration composed of his fellow clergymen, they assessed the value of the sermons at \$25.00 each. Such a valuation shows a Chris-

tian honesty worthy of the highest praise. Had a board of lawyers been appointed to assess the value of an equal damage done to the property of a fellow lawyer they would have taken the railroad and demanded further compensation from the stockholders.

New York Evening Post.

Theologically considered, there may have been such tremendous loss of exegesis or exhortation that any adequate solution would be out of the question. Then the case lacked precedent; we do not pay for a sermon in manuscript, but for a sermon delivered, which is a very different thing. To be sure, there are literary bureaus which send circulars regularly to college seniors and to theological students. One, whose office, if we remember, are at Akron, Ohio, charges only fifty cents for sermons, as against twenty-five dollars for humorous addresses. But then the originality of these sermons is not guaranteed. It is this provision which makes the award in the Virginia case very deplorable. To ask only \$20 for 200 sermons certainly is to sanction the literary bureau scale of values. Even in the present overproduction we cannot count on a sound divinity that can be profitably sold at any such price.

ADDING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY.

New York Sun.
The ancient wheat fields of Asia Minor are destined in a comparatively brief period to play a great part in the commercial and political combination of Europe in particular and the world generally. The Sultan's signing, the other day, the trade granting the concession for the prolongation of the trunk line of the Anatolian railway to Bagdad and Basrah, will open in a few years regions that have been isolated for centuries. The political difficulties that have hitherto obstructed the carrying out of the German policy which, since the conception of the idea of bringing the Persian Gulf into direct connection with Europe, has aimed at keeping the main line of communication as far away from the Mediterranean as possible, have been overcome. In what way the objections of Russia have been met, on the one hand by Turkey, and by Germany on the other, has yet to be learned.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Conkey's Home Journal for this year announces several special features. Among these are "plane lessons" by M. L. Quinn and lessons on vocal training by Henry Dickson. Contributions are promised from many famous authors—Franklin Building, Chicago, Ill.

The February number of Table Talk has an article entitled "A Winter Scene on a Southern Plantation." It vividly describes a hor-killing time on one of these large plantations where the help is colored. Many other excellent articles are in this number.—Philadelphia.

In the Great Round World for February will be found two special articles. One, "France Wins the War," tells how for two years, he and eight members of his company, while traveling about the country, have studied the educational course laid down by the "Chauteau" circle. "Social Life in Small Communities" suggests a way to prevent the young people of small towns from flocking to cities. Besides these articles there is a comprehensive digest of news and views. "From the Lookout" is a humorous handling of various topics.—Fifth Avenue, New York.

The leading article in The Engineering Magazine for February is Mr. Siebert's study of "The Commercial Management of Engineering Works." Mr. Siebert, who writes in the Magazine in November, advocated the commanding fitness of the engineer for such posts; Mr. Siebert argues the case for the commercial mind co-ordinated with expert technical assistance. Mr. Sydney Walker has a finely illustrated article on "Electrical Appliances in Ship-Building Yards." Mr. Jacques Boyer's paper on "Constructive Methods in Reinforced Concrete," and Mr. Philip Dawson's critical review of British and American steam-engine practice are also accompanied by handsome engravings. Mr. Colles presents a very interesting account of mica mining. Mr. Parsons concludes his instructive analysis of the economy of isolated electric plants and Prof. Diemer contributes a very useful suggestive article on an easy method of taking the machine-shop inventory. Mr. C. U. Carpenter gives a very important exposition of "Money-Making Management for Workshop and Factory."—The Engineering Magazine, New York.

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