

Marseilles. By this route the largest ships and men-of-war will be able to pass from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean and vice versa with but little delay. It would endow Paris, Lyons and other centers with naval ports, rescue much of the low lands along the rivers from inundation, and provide hydraulic power for industrial purposes, at a minimum cost. A considerable portion of the trade now passing through the Straits of Gibraltar would be diverted to this channel and the Gothard and Bremer railway companies would lose a good proportion of their profits. It is estimated that the traffic would exceed forty million tons per annum, and allowing double the working expenses of the Suez canal there would still be profits sufficient to pay a dividend of 14 percent. Eight years is the time allowed for the completion of the work.

The rejection of the Chunnel Tunnel Bill in the British House of Commons by a vote of 105 against 103 has made some of the radical newspapers very angry. *Le Gaulois* says, "England is the most narrow-minded among the nations."

La France says: "The English who inundate the world with a deluge of tiresome tourists, do everything they possibly can to prevent strangers from visiting their island."

Considerable sensation has been caused at Chatham, England, by the death of Mrs. Esther Jezreel, the leader of the New and Latter House of Israel, which occurred at the "Woodlands" on June 30th. Deceased was the wife of James Jerishom Jezreel, alias White, the founder of the sect, and was known to her followers as Queen Esther, the Virgin, the mother of Israel. The death of Mrs. Jezreel is a striking commentary upon the central doctrine of this sect, which is that they are an elect people who are to be preserved from the grave and corruption. This extraordinary doctrine suffered a great shaking up about three years ago when the prophet James Jerishom Jezreel went the way of all flesh. The faithful, however, got over the difficulty by saying that "the good man was not good enough," and that some imperfection of which his followers were ignorant had unfitted him to be one of the chosen remnant. Mrs. Jezreel succeeded her husband as head of the sect, and it is thought her unexpected death will cause the entire collapse of the movement. In the history of religious delusions the story of this strange sect would form one of the most striking chapters.

In Italy we have another subject worthy of notice. In a land where every spot is carefully cultivated; where the ever flowing tide of humanity pushes the cities still further and further into the already thickly settled country, and where the grim old reaper, Death, has gathered so many harvests, it is a subject of grave consideration, what shall they do with their dead?

This is especially so in Italy where there is hardly a considerable city or town without its Cremation Society, and all the apparatus for incinerating the human body. The influence of the church in Italy is decidedly against cremation, yet cremation is widely extending, and even second and third class cities are adopting it.

Cremation services in Italy are always performed with seriousness and with reverence. No Catholic clergy ever attend, but in some cases a Protestant clergy read a kind of funeral service. In the majority of cases, however, the discourses or eulogies pronounced at the cremations, are by friends of the deceased, or more frequently by scientific professors.

Two weeks ago a crematory temple was officially dedicated at Turin, the fourth city in size in Italy. Not only were the Mayor and many of the Aldermen present, but likewise an immense number of invited guests, among whom were representatives of thirty professional and scientific societies. There also was Prof. Pagliani, who is chief officer of the department of Public Health.

M. Crispi, minister of the interior had deputed Pagliani to represent the Italian government on this occasion; and a letter from M. Crispi to the turp cremation society was also read. After expressing his regret that he could not be present "at the solemn festival for the inauguration of the *Ara Crematoria*, (altar of cremation)," Crispi continues "I desire to express to you and to your colleagues my best wishes for the success of your undertaking. (Signed) *Il Ministro Crispi*." This is the first time that the government of Italy, or perhaps any other country has given a public sanction to cremation. I mention this as one of the "signs of the times."

In reference to the eastern question it may be said that there are so many warring influences at work in the Balkan peninsula that it is well to receive news therefrom *cum grano salis*. Late dispatches, however, are rather ominous if true. Prince Ferdinand may be reluctantly compelled to retire from business, with or without his life; and Bulgaria may have the honor of becoming an integral part of the Russian empire. Austria might not like this arrangement, but what can she do? Both the Austrian and Italian governments are evidently annoyed at the eagerness shown by the Emperor William to ingratiate himself with the czar. The darkest shadow is the prospect is the inability of Russia to content herself with a square Bulgarian meal.

The sensational news of the moment

is that a secret treaty has been concluded between the Belgian and German governments, by which the former, in the event of war with France, engages to permit Russian troops not only to pass through Belgian territory, but also to occupy certain Belgian fortresses.

In return for this aid and assistance, it is said, Belgium is to receive French Flanders, after the successful conclusion of the war between Germany and France. This intelligence—the authenticity of which it is impossible to vouch for, as the German Chancellor is not given to proclaiming secrets from the housetops—was first given to the world in the pages of *La Nouvelle Revue*, but has since been taken up and commented upon by a portion of the French daily press. *Le Voltaire* admits the seriousness of the intelligence, and that the German Chancellor has brought to light an agreement between Belgium and Prussia in 1931 which gives the latter the right to occupy Namur and Liege in certain eventualities. *Le Voltaire* also adds: "It is in vain that the Chancellor offers French Flanders to Belgium as a price of its co-operation. The Belgians are not so easily taken in, as they know that what Germany really covets, is to complete its geographical structure by the Dutch and Belgian ports."

While the storms in the political sky are gathering and seem ready to burst and deluge the nations of Europe in blood and sorrow, the storms in the physical world are greater than those of recent years. The effect of the rain and wind and hail storms that have prevailed during the last week in northern Italy and eastern and northern Switzerland is simply terrible. The fallen shade trees, broken and torn out by the roots, lay like fallen soldiers on a field of battle. The bail-stones that have beaten numerous fields of grain into the ground were as large as nuts. Near Basle and across the Rhine in Baden whole orchards have been destroyed. A railway train approaching the St. Gothard tunnel from the Italian side had every window broken. The little lakes of Switzerland have raged like the ocean in a storm, and in some instances pleasure boats have been tossed far up on the beach.

Paris, July 9th, 1888.

For the DESERT NEWS.

"CLIMAX OF ABSURDITIES."

BY J. M. S.

Rev. Mr. Lamb, in his "Golden Bible," page 57, has been careless enough to say, that the following expression in the Book of Mormon, page 31, "caps the climax of absurdities:" "He went forth among the people, waving the rent of his garment in the air that all might see the writing which he had wrote upon the rent."

"Like the Irishman's hole"—Mr. Lamb remarks—"in the sand bank, which when the bank had been dug away, was left suspended in the air."

This peculiar mode of expression is held up as a point on which the Book of Mormon can be successfully attacked.

But what does the Rev. gentleman think of this peculiar mode of expression found in the New Testament?

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me." Revelation of St. John, 1, 10, 12.

To "write upon a rent" and "to see a voice!" You could almost imagine that the two expressions originated with the same author.

And this expression "to see the voice" is found not only in the various translations but in the original text (*Blepein ten phonen*). No critic, as far as I know, finds fault with this expression. They all accept it as genuine. Griesbach certainly does.

If Mr. Lamb had reflected on this, he might have seen "at his objection in this instance (as indeed in all) applies just as much to the Bible as the Book of Mormon."

While on this subject, let me say, that all divines admit that the difficulties we meet with in the Bible are ver numerous, and in some instances impossible, probably, to solve. But at the same time they contend that these very difficulties supply one argument in favor of the Bible.

Dr. Joseph Angus of London, in his *Bible Handbook*, page 353 and following, has this admirable passage:

"But do not these difficulties affect the authority of the Bible and weaken the evidence of its inspiration? Can a revelation be of universal authority which all do not understand; and is it really a revelation where so much is concealed?"

"In answering this question it might be said, that whatever we know of the works of God in nature is liable to the same objection. Bishop Butler has shown most conclusively that natural religion, revealed religion, and the providence of God, together with every known law of human duty, are all exposed to the same difficulties. There is in all an obscurity of meaning and deficiency of evidence, a mysteriousness of arrangement and treatment that bespeak our state to be one of incessant discipline. In truth these objections apply much less forcibly to Scripture than to our daily practice."

"But we go further. The very difficulties of Scripture, philological and historical, afford cogent internal proof of the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible. We can dispense with nothing, not even difficulties. Every element (the apparent discrepancy

among the rest) is essential to the force of the whole.

"And if it be said that these difficulties are too numerous, or that the solution of them has been too slow, it may be answered that this gradual solution is necessary in order to supply to each a fresh evidence; and to excite continued interest in Scripture, while the fact proves that the evidence of the Bible, like its doctrine, is for all time."

"Let it be added that these difficulties have dignified every kind of human learning by rendering all eligible to the service of religion."

"No doubt it may be affirmed in reply to these reasonings, that the existence of Scripture difficulties it attended with one inconvenience; they are liable to excite distrust in the minds even of Christians, that is, they try our faith. But is not this again an evidence in their favor? What are all the dispensations of God but our discipline? What is life but a walking by faith, that is, by habitual reliance on Him whose ways we cannot understand, and in circumstances that require such a trust. Perhaps inspiration might have removed all difficulties from the Scripture, though we cannot tell how; but certainly we should have lost much, and gained little by the change."

If the above reasonings be applied to the Book of Mormon, as the excellent theologian Dr. Angus has applied them to the Bible, I think every objection that can be raised against the first named, very much misunderstood sacred volume is satisfactorily answered.

For Attempted Rape.

Last Sunday a villain giving the name of Thos. Jones was arrested and locked up for drunkenness. Before night it was learned that the individual was wanted for a heinous offense committed near Alta, a telephone message having been received by Marshal Kessel to hold him till further orders. Monday morning the complaining parties came from Cottonwood, because Alta is without a justice of the peace or constable, and swore out a complaint before United States Commissioner Cosen charging Jones with the crime of attempting to commit rape.

The preliminary examination of the accused proceeded and the evidence was to the effect that Annie Littleford, the sixteen-year-old daughter of Widow Vandebaker, started last Saturday morning from her home near the Prince of Wales Mine in Bir Cottonwood Canyon to Alta to do some marketing. In a gulch not far from the City of Bir Mine, Jones met the girl, made an indecent proposal to her and then threw her down. The girl fought like a tiger and with the aid of a rock succeeded in making her would-be ravisher beat a hasty retreat. On arriving home she informed her mother of what had happened and the arrest followed.

The admissions of the defendant but corroborated the evidence of the girl and the Commissioner required him to give bonds in the sum of \$1,500 to await the action of the grand jury in September. Jones failed to get bonds and was taken down to the penitentiary by Deputy Marshal Weber on Wednesday.

Jones is said to be a married man, his family being at Croyden. He worked at one of the mines here some time ago.—*Pink Record*.

Successful Operation.

Loa, Plute County, July 27, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

Miss Minnie Pace, of New Harmony, Washington County, daughter of W. D. Pace of that place, underwent successfully, on the 22nd of June, a very delicate operation for the removal of a uterine fibroid, weighing over seven pounds. The operation was skillfully performed by Dr. H. H. St. John, at Fish Lake Hospital, Sevier County, Utah. The young lady who is twenty-one years of age, is progressing satisfactorily and will return to her friends in a few days.

Yours very truly,
MORIAN PACE.

WM. LLOYD, James Wilson and John McCaig were fined \$5 each in the Police Court, today, for having been drunk.

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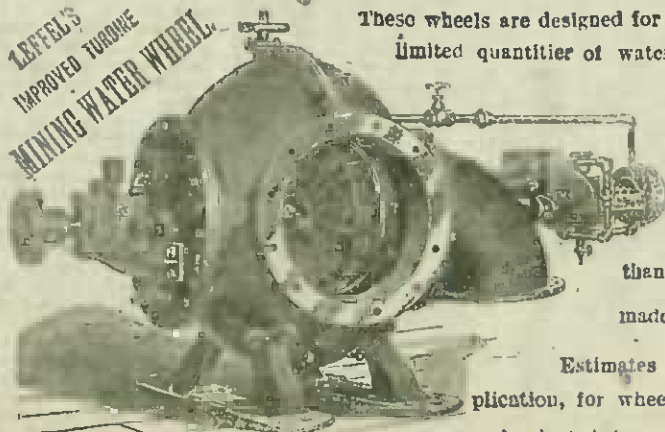
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