

## DESERT EVENING NEWS

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

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## THE LOCAL LIVING TOPIC.

Reports from the district schools of this city show that the majority of parents are opposed to the scheme, by which the Board of Education are endeavoring to force vaccination upon their children. Among the number admitted to the schools because they have certificates of vaccination, are a great many whose parents are opposed to the practice but who have yielded to the mandate issued. Some of them have bowed to the notion that what the family physician orders must be complied with. Including all these, it is still evident that compulsory vaccination is resented by the masses of the people.

The Deseret News, during this contest, has represented the views and feelings of the great body of the citizens, not only in this city but throughout the State. One of the objects in view of the majority of the settlers in these valleys in coming to this once desolate region, was that they might raise up a pure posterity, sound in mind, healthy in body and uncontaminated with the vices, corruptions and diseases of modern civilization. There are no healthier people in the world. The majority of them endeavor to conform to what is known as the Word of Wisdom, which gives divine directions as to diet and hygiene. They naturally shrink from the practice adopted in many countries of putting animal disease into the pure bodies of their offspring, under any pretext whatever.

Of course there are intelligent, educated and influential men and women, who have become convinced that vaccination is what has been claimed in the medical world as a preventive of smallpox. They have, perhaps, observed in their own experience the decline of that disease since vaccination has been introduced. While they may be entirely mistaken, in attributing to cause and effect that which is but coincidence and traceable to sanitary and hygienic regulations, their opinions are entitled to respect, and if they choose to resort to the now widely disputed practice of vaccination, that is their right and they are at least to some extent in the fashion.

Nobody wants to prevent children or adults being vaccinated from choice. But there is a natural and constitutional objection to having it forced upon unwilling subjects. That is an invasion of personal liberty unwarranted by law. The protestants recognize the principle that individual liberty must be often surrendered, to some extent, for the public benefit. There is no dispute as to that. But that liberty must be limited by law. It is not to be at the control or caprice of any public officer or board of officers. Sanitary rules, even if they restrain the liberties of the citizen, will be complied with by reasonable people; but a surgical operation to effect a doubtful object is another thing altogether.

Now as to the sentiment that the opinion of the majority of medical men of a certain school is to be considered final. That notion has been driven from the minds of thoughtful people by stern facts and innumerable failures on the part of the medical dogmatists. Arm to arm vaccination was the almost universal practice of that fraternity, which succeeded in forcing upon the people by law. Any physician who pointed out its evils was not considered "respectable," no matter how high he stood in college honors, in learning and in social standing; he was ridiculed and hounded by the medical associations.

It is now acknowledged that a long train of vile, repulsive and frequently fatal disorders are traceable to that abominable practice. No "respectable" doctor nowadays will resort to it. Rejected by the "regulars," as much as blood-letting is now, which was once regarded by them almost as a panacea. It stands on history's page as irrefutable evidence, that the consensus of opinion among medical men is as fallible as that of professional theologians. Let those who choose follow their dictates, but let them keep their hands off others who refuse to bow to their despotic invasion of personal rights.

A morning paper, which ridicules the objection felt by so many rational folks against this species of compulsion, says:

"When the children are all vaccinated there will be no more smallpox and it is this fact that influences the board."

That is a specimen of the reasoning of the advocates of compulsion, who would shut out healthy children from the schools and admit the unhealthy, rendered so by vaccination. How about the adults in the best house? How about other grown people afflicted or exposed? What about thousands of people, in various parts of the world, who have been taken down with smallpox after "successful vaccination?"

On another page of the same issue of the paper that makes the above assertion, appears a dispatch from General Ous, under date of Jan. 21, which re-

ports the death at Manila of several soldiers from smallpox. It is well known that every soldier has to be vaccinated. In the lists of casualties among the army in the Philippines, almost invariably appears a number of deaths from variola, that is smallpox. If vaccination, which is compulsory in the army, does not prevent the disease among adults, how will the vaccination of children bring such a condition that "there will be no more smallpox?"

It is understood that the contagion, which has spread in many parts of the United States in the recent outbreaks of the dreaded disease, was brought here by vaccinated soldiers from Manila. There are tones of evidence going to show that the alleged preventive does not prevent. Be that as it may, the attempt to crowd it upon objectors and to bend the will of the majority of the citizens to the assumed authority of a few individuals, who arrogate to themselves all the wisdom in reference to something in which most if not all of them have had no personal experience, ought to be spurned by every lover of human liberty and resisted by every lawful and reasonable means.

## ANTI-"MORMON" ARMY.

The following press dispatch has been received, dated Cleveland, Ohio, January 20th:

"The Utah Gospel mission has been incorporated for the purpose of fighting Mormonism all over the country by Rev. Dr. George H. McGrew, Allen K. Ford, Captain Thomas Wilson, W. M. Rayne, Rev. Dr. H. Moffat, Rev. J. D. Williamson, John Ralph Owens, Rev. John D. Nutting and Rev. Dr. Charles F. Thwing.

"Rev. Mr. Nutting is in New York interesting gentlemen of that city in the project. Anti-Mormon literature will be circulated in abundance, and the plan is to send out 2,000 missionaries to counteract the efforts of Mormon missionaries who have become numerous and very active."

There is nothing new in this information, J. D. Nutting, who was once a preacher in this city has been endeavoring nearly ever since he left here to obtain notoriety because of his alleged understanding of "Mormonism." His deficiency in that particular has been made very clear in letters which he wrote to the Deseret News and which were replied to at the time. The anti-"Mormon" literature which is to be circulated in abundance, is a mass of misrepresentation in the form of small pamphlets which have been scattered through the country during the progress of the new crusade.

Why this movement, started by the person we have named, should be called "The Utah Gospel Mission," does not distinctly appear, seeing that its purpose is to fight "Mormonism," "all over the country." It is not a Utah corporation that is engaged in the work, nor is Utah the place for its projected operations. The title is as misleading as the literature which is intended to be circulated.

It is barely possible that money enough can be raised to send out two thousand anti-"Mormon" missionaries to meet the Elders who are traveling without purse or scrip to preach the Gospel among the nations. The equipment, salaries and traveling expenses of the army of the Antis will cost a considerable sum, and if they are kept in the field, it will eat into the treasury of the organization ravenously and voraciously. We are inclined to the opinion that the number of the hired soldiers will fall very short of two thousand.

It is on just such movements as this that "Mormonism" thrives and flourishes. Public interest is thereby aroused, and the attention of many people who would not otherwise be attracted is directed towards the principles which our Elders go forth to promulgate. Indifference is the great foe to the spread of religious truth. We have no reason to fear agitation. Free discussion is always helpful to our cause.

The assertions made by the professional opponents of "Mormonism" are usually so extreme and grotesque, that they have a contrary effect upon thoughtful minds to that which they are intended to produce. All that is necessary when they are presented is an opportunity to refute them, and they fall to the ground powerless for evil. They may at first deceive the multitude, but when investigation follows they utterly defeat their own object.

There has never been published a truthful presentation of "Mormon" doctrine by its bitter religious assailants. It is just the same with the numerous sermons that have been preached for the pretended purpose of telling the public what "Mormonism" is. The success which attends such efforts can be but temporary. The truth will eventually come uppermost. The agitation of the subject opens the way for the Elders to present the truth, and those who love it will soon perceive its light and beauty in contrast with the darkness and malice that attend its perversion.

## TAGAL TREACHERY.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times thinks that the documentary evidence concerning the Filipino rebellion will prove more than the anti-expansionists anticipate. It is believed it can be shown that Aguinaldo, at the time Dewey entered Manila bay was plotting against the Americans and carrying on negotiations with the Spaniards for joint resistance. It is believed that official papers of the Tagal insurgent government, now in the hands of Washington officials prove this. It is said Aguinaldo's representatives were in constant communication with the Spaniards, at the time he professed friendship for the United States. It is believed that only

the timely arrival of American reinforcements prevented a concerted attack by Spaniards and Tagals upon the American soldiers.

There is nothing improbable in this story. It sounds plausible in view of the characteristics of Aguinaldo as told by those who best know him. His entire mode of warfare, and still more his diplomatic efforts, show the low cunning that shrinks at nothing by which an object can be obtained. If the evidence exists it should be public. It would prove the correctness of the government position in the Philippine question, and the sound judgment of the American people in supporting that policy and demanding the deliverance of the Philippines from Tagal misrule as well as from Spanish tyranny. If, as alleged, it can be proved that Aguinaldo secretly plotted with the Spaniards for the destruction of the American liberators, the fact cannot be known too soon in this country.

## THE CHURCHES TO BLAME.

The sectarian churches of the country are really not held in great esteem. As will be remembered, a very short time ago a paper in this city converted anybody, and that many church members are swindlers. Now the New York World says substantially the same thing.

It appears that a Miss Helen Clark recently astonished the New York ministers by declaring that New York is a more heathen city than Tokio, and that "its wickedness probably exceeds that of any other city in the United States."

"The World, on investigation, finds that the foundation for the charge is in that the people of New York neglect to go to church. The paper replies to this, that if nothing worse can be charged, New York may not be a very wicked city after all, and then goes on to say that 'the consensus of opinion in New York is that a large proportion of those who are responsible for our adverse conditions will be found regularly attending church on Sunday and occasionally patronizing the contribution box.'"

That is tough on the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and others, of New York City. After many years of activity in one of the most populous cities of the Union, have they established such a reputation as that? Is the impression general that the church attendants and patrons of the contribution boxes are largely responsible for the moral conditions of the large cities? If so, no wonder that infidelity, in its most modern form of agnosticism, is spreading, notwithstanding its inability to meet the spiritual needs of humanity. The philosophy of "know nothing" is bad, but hypocrisy is fatal to the best interests of communities as of individuals.

## MOB LAW.

The following pertinent article on the case before Congress which is attracting the attention of the entire country, will not, we hope, be considered partisan on the Roberts side of the question, seeing that it is taken from the New York Post, which says:

"The case of Mr. Roberts, the congressman-elect from Utah, has no doubt been practically disposed of by the action of the committee, and it will constitute a very troublesome and probably mischievous precedent. No doubt there are arguments in favor of hanging a suspected criminal first and trying him afterwards, but these arguments have not been sufficient to arrest the orderly development of criminal jurisprudence on the principle that the innocence of any person charged with crime is to be presumed. On the other principle, Lynch law is logically justified. A southern mob, we venture to say, is always convinced that its victim is guilty. His guilt is a matter of notoriety, and why should time be wasted in legal formalities? The action of the House of Representatives is in derogation of the rights of the States. The Constitution prescribes certain conditions, and when these have been complied with, a regularly elected representative ought to be admitted. So soon as he is admitted, the jurisdiction of the House properly begins, and it is not constitutionally except any of its members. Under the rule asserted by the report of the majority of the committee, the House of Representatives may hereafter reject any representative whose election is unquestioned by the vote of a majority of its members. It will not be obliged to assign any reasons for its action; its fiat will be sufficient."

## ONCE MORE.

A local morning contemporary declares that it does not believe that sick persons can be made whole through the power of the Almighty, by the laying on of hands and prayer. The same paper has placed itself on record as denying the divine power even in "conversion." Only a short time ago it had the following harangue:

"Did Bishop Leonard ever know a chronic liar to be broken of his habit by conversion? Did he ever know a vicious woman who loved to slander her sister woman and make rows in the neighborhood, that was cured of that by conversion? Does conversion make a man more fair in his judgment of his fellowmen? Is he not just as likely, after conversion, if he runs against three or four dishonest men, to conclude that the whole community is corrupt as he was before? Commercial honor is not established by churches. That is a purely worldly adjustment as the Bishop will see if he mingles much with them. There are plenty of men who are scrupulously particular to meet all their obligations, who would be dangerous men for Bishop Leonard to trade with. And there are a good many men we believe that belong to Bishop Leonard's church, who fulfill all their obligations to the church, that Bishop Leonard would not like to make administrators of his estate."

We submit that a paper with such a profession of faith is out of order when presuming to express any opinion on religious subjects. But do the Utah clergymen endorse the paragraph quoted?

There has been no proclamation from any board or body to close the Sunday schools.

The blacksmiths at Dunkirk, New York, went on strike today. They should be able to do some hard hitting.

The United States now accepts an agent from the Transvaal. Com Paul must be gratified at the increasing importance of his government.

The Japanese flood-bend adds his full quota to the disaster list, the latest report showing nearly 200 lives lost and

millions of dollars' worth of property destroyed.

News comes by way of Berlin of the defeat of Gen. Buller. To say the least, the announcement is probably as premature as was the Durban dispatch telling of the relief of Ladysmith. The battle isn't over yet.

The government is trying to find a foreign market for American butter. Perhaps it will take some of the oleomargarine and grease, and leave the better quality of dairy product for home consumption.

The committee has reported against the admission of M. S. Quay as senator from Pennsylvania, the vote being five to four. Now the question comes as to whether or not the majority of the Senate agrees with the committee.

The British railway commission has come to the American plan of enforcing the use of automatic couplings on railways. The number of accidents on British roads is such that a law is advised to secure the desired result.

The British press sums up the situation in the announcement that if the officials in South Africa had good news they would send it. On that hypothesis, the absence of news must indicate that British success on the Tugela is far from being pronounced.

An English correspondent says the Boers are disappointed at the inaction of European powers in not intervening in the war. There is some question about the alleged disappointment, since thus far the Boers seem to be taking pretty good care of their side of the fight.

There seems to be some worry in Great Britain over the presence of Webster Davis, U. S. assistant secretary of the interior, in the Transvaal. The probability is that Mr. Davis, who is absent on leave, is merely figuring on some private enterprise in South Africa by which he hopes to make a fortune when the war is over.

In 1894 the Spanish estimate of the Cuban population was 1,631,696. The present census will show a great falling off. One of the enumerators thinks the population does not exceed 1,200,000. This probably indicates the terrible destruction of life caused by the war and the inhuman methods of the Spanish governors of the island.

There is lots of talk about Webster Davis, who is visiting the Transvaal for his health, being engaged on a secret mission from the United States. Of course Mr. Davis is not on any such errand, because it is unnecessary; but excessive jealousy of the British on this subject can have no other effect than fanning pro-Boer sentiment this side of the ocean. The present is a day for British newspapers to be wise in their silence.

When the testimony of reliable witnesses which stands unimpeached is given to the public, of course, it is all swept aside when a contemporary, noted as much for skepticism as for instability and forgetfulness, declares, "We do not believe the statement." The finality and logic of such a rebuttal will be evident to every reasoner, and therefore it would be useless to argue the matter further.

A mine owner from the Transvaal is telling New Yorkers that the Boers are cowards. His testimony has been so thoroughly discredited in advance by British official reports that he is not worthy of belief. British regulars are not held at bay on the field of battle by cowards. The crux of Mr. Mosenthal's animus toward the Boers is revealed by the fact that he was one of the Jameson raiders and was fined \$20,000 for his connection with that act of criminal aggression.

It is really no wonder that so many people refuse to submit themselves and their children to a surgical operation not required by law, and on the merits of which medical opinion is divided. The fact is that there are many rumors of suffering in consequence of vaccination, and some of them are said to be well substantiated. People do not care to talk about their own experiences in this regard, most of the victims believing in the virtue of the operation; but they cannot conceal the facts from neighbors.

## THE TUGELA BATTLE.

Boston Transcript.

An engagement of such proportion as to deserve to be called a battle must be close at hand in Natal. Gen. Buller has got at least two of his divisions across the Tugela and can not be more than twelve or fourteen miles from Ladysmith. He has been constantly working to his left for some days past, but whether he intends to sweep around and envelop Ladysmith, or whether he will endeavor to plant himself squarely on the Free State's line of communication somewhere near Van Reenen's Pass, remains to be demonstrated by the event. There are several ways for relieving White's beleaguered army, and one is to seize the Boer line of communications. The Boers would then have to withdraw their forces from around Ladysmith, either to get back into their own country anyway or to attempt to wrest their lines of communication away from Buller.

Springfield Republican.  
After the defeat at Colenso the American military attaché with Gen. Buller's army is said to have asked: "Was there no way around?" For four or five days past there has been a deep silence concerning Gen. Buller's progress, and the explanation of it is that the general is trying to find the way around. It would not be at all surprising if he got there.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.  
The plans of the Boer forces around Ladysmith are cloaked in mystery. They have not renewed their assault on the town, their artillery fire seems to be desultory, and they are seriously impeding the advance of Buller's army. This prolonged silence and inactivity has a sinister appearance. It creates a suspicion that the Boer commanders have something "up their sleeve." However, this may not be the case. It may be that Buller has outgeneraled them, and they, becoming alarmed at his strategy, and the fear of being caught between two fires, may be exhausting their time by taking new positions.

Chicago Record.  
A watchful army free to take its choice of positions for resisting an invading force has a signal advantage over an advancing army which, whatever its path, chooses, is bound down to the necessity of reaching a definite known objective—in this case, Ladysmith. The Boers, apparently, are not

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## Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt

likely to be outflanked in this region. On the other hand, should they succeed in repulsing Buller, they could make his position on their own side of a stream which is unfavorable save at a few points, extremely awkward. Unless the Boer army suddenly has become demoralized it is highly improbable that they relinquished one position without a definite plan for securing a better one.

## San Francisco Chronicle.

Two purposes are apparently involved in the movement independent of the relief of Ladysmith. One of them is to turn the right flank of the Boer line; the other is to cut off the communication of the Free Staters by seizing or destroying the Harpersburg railroad. In attempting to accomplish these objects the British army has abandoned the line of the railroad leading from Colenso to Ladysmith and is accompanied by a transport train comprising 5,000 vehicles. A large force stationed at Colenso holds the center of the Boer line in check, and still another located at or near Weenen threatens the left wing of the Afrikaner army.

## Boston Herald.

There must be at the present moment some 120,000 men, including British troops, colonial contingents and local levies, now ranked under Lord Roberts' command, and re-enforcements are speeding to them from north, west and east. Against these the Boers are standing at bay with a force which cannot, all told, amount to more than 60,000 men. The burghers have, it is true, a great advantage in their superior mobility and their interior lines, but even allowing for these strong points, it would seem that, if the British troops are handled with the military skill which Lord Roberts and his chief of staff, Lord Kitchener, may reasonably from their records be regarded as possessing, the Boer defense must before long be broken down by sheer weight of numbers.

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