

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 4, 1906

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-sixth annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 5, 1906, at 10 a. m. A full attendance of officers and members is requested.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 8, 1906, at 7 o'clock p. m. Officers and workers are requested to be present and all the Saints are invited. The subject of "Parents' Classes" will be considered.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
General Superintendent.

TO ELEVATE THE DRAMA.

We have received some communications from Mr. Hugh Coyle, who is now in Chicago and who will be remembered here as the promoter of a project to advertise Utah, Colorado and the West generally, by means of an exposition train, carrying their products, literature and evidences of progress, so as to attract the attention of Eastern capital and colonists and aid in building up the country. He aimed at correcting popular impressions concerning Utah and its people, and being a vigorous and gentlemanly person, with broad views, fine address and literary ability, he thought he could do good service in that direction.

As he did not succeed in that venture to the extent he desired, he formed a partnership for the purpose of promoting clean dramatic entertainments, free from control of any syndicate or oppressive combination. He inveighs very strongly against that kind of oppression, and also against the tendency of the modern drama towards loose morality, marital infidelity and the use of language that is not elevating in its character.

Similar sentiments were conveyed to the audiences that attended the lectures by the eminent Shakespearean actor Frederick Ward, in the Salt Lake Theater recently, and which were greatly applauded. We have not space for Mr. Coyle's voluminous letters on these subjects, but will here append a letter he received from a well known minister, of liberal views, which we cordially endorse, and wish Mr. Coyle success in all his undertakings:

"Hugh Coyle, Chicago, Ill.
"My Dear Mr. Coyle—Your magazine article on 'Public Entertainment' containing a reference to a sermon I preached some time ago on the drama, came to me this morning.

"I want to thank you for the whole some tone of same. It is strong and manly—the instinct of divination is an integral part of human nature—men are but 'children of a larger growth'—and we must have our hours of play as well as our hours of work.

"Amusement is not only a necessity of our being, it is our right—it is a part of the education of the soul—and for this reason I believe the theater when it is true to its mission—is a tremendous force for righteousness. It makes for the beauty and sweetness of life.

"But I agree with you that there has been in recent years a pathetic degeneracy of the drama—the cause of such degeneracy you know far better than I—but it should be the cardinal aim of every man interested in that great work whose function it is to touch life through the spectacle, the drama and other forms of amusement; to purify it of the sordid spirit that has done so much to debauch and degrade one of the greatest and noblest of the arts.

"Some day, not far away, I believe the drama—in all its modes—will become what it ought to be—the mightiest of the world's powers—and the most dynamic of all the arts—and should therefore be commanding in its influence over the consciences and hearts of men.

"The words you quote in the above-mentioned article as from me, are those of a reporter, but the sentiments are mine. I love the drama but I weep over its latter-day concessions to the lower tastes.

"If long for the time to come when it will return to its mission as the world's most potent educator.

"Believe me, very faithfully yours,
"JOSEPH A. MILLBURN,
Pastor.

There is another evil in the modern drama, which needs to be reformed, that is, the use of low and often profane language. Oaths that would shock everybody hearing them in decent society have come to be permissible on the stage, and usually provoke laughter instead of disgust. "My God!" is interjected almost at every possible occasion and curse-words are so frequent as to lose their force, except to excite leathery, unless it be among low-lived people. The fault is not with the performers, but with the playwrights. The New York Herald not long ago contained some correspondence on this subject. Referring specially to a popular play, which we need not name, it said:

"In it—say there are all classes

of profanity, used in a most careless and degrading way. If such an amount of profanity was used in the mining town of the west, where the heroine is supposed to come from, I do not see why it should be reproduced at the present day before a respectable audience in New York or any other city. The increase of profanity in most of the plays that are produced at the present time is due to an attempt to obtain a laugh, but why should the morals of the people suffer to fill the pockets of playwrights and the producers of plays? Immoral plays are the order of the day. I would like to see the minds of the playwright and producers of play veer to something moral. There would be more money in it for them, as the best class of people are now driven from the theater."

A Halifax, Nova Scotia, writer for the press makes the following strictures:

"Of late bad language has been gaining great headway as a laugh maker in all classes of theaters and plays, and it has been very noticeable even in this city. This class of language appeals mostly to the gallery, and when it is used there is an ovation of applause and shouting from that section of the theater. This does not mean that it is amusing to the gallery, but it is on account of such language coming from the stage."

"In New York and other large cities, the theaters are supported largely by the outside public, and respectable people going to the city generally go to the theater, and not knowing what the play consists of, take their families there, and see some immoral and degrading play, with all kinds of bad language used. These plays should be at their limit now, and the authorities should take further steps in the matter, and investigate. The theater was not intended to teach immorality and bad language."

The remedy for these evils, and the power to elevate the drama, are largely in the hands of theater-goers, if they were to show their disapprobation of the immorality depicted and the bad language used, by hissing such exhibitions, or by refraining entirely from applause when they occur, playwrights would soon take notice of the public sentiment and the improvement in public taste, and would govern themselves accordingly.

There is no need to present on the stage the unnamable disorders in social life, nor to make profanity so common that it will be adopted by the youth of the community and made part of their street conversation. The elevation of the drama ought to be one of the great efforts of the time, for the influence of the stage is in some respects, greater than that of the ordinary pulpit, and the moral future of the nation will be shaped largely by the playwrights and actors of the present.

BIG SHIPS.

The advocates of big navies and big ships generally urge that they are necessary for the preservation of peace. That is, by the way, a new argument that has been invented to silence the popular sentiment for arbitration, and so far it is a testimony to the growing influence of that sentiment. If it were not a power, it would simply be ignored and not met with an able argument, such as this, that big ships are the most potent peace makers.

The fact is that the launching of the English Dreadnaught, the largest battleship ever built, has provoked all the other naval powers to consider the desirability of adding similar engines of destruction to their respective collections. This country proposes to spend ten million dollars for one ship, the Constitution. When each country has its Dreadnaught, what guarantee of peace is there then in the size? General gradual disarmament would be a much better sign than rivalry in ship-building of gigantic proportions.

Admiral Dewey is reported to have strongly advocated the construction of several 19,000-ton battleships equipped with at least twelve of the most powerful guns. He is said to have argued for not merely following England's example by building vessels of the Dreadnaught type, but actually going that country one better by building ships even more powerful than the great British battleship. But, we presume, the great hero of the Spanish war naturally is somewhat prejudiced in favor of naval display.

In this connection the information is of considerable interest that Japan, too, is contemplating something gigantic in ship-building. Japan, it is said, decided, last fall, to build two 18,000-ton vessels, and at the same time her naval experts jointly discussed the desirability of a 22,000-ton battleship. According to a Tokyo paper they declared that such a vessel was not only possible, but eminently desirable, and there were hints that it might be attempted in the Japanese shipyards as soon as they could be properly equipped for the work. For anything the outside world knows, plans for such a floating fort may now be under way. Would it not cause chagrin to find that Japan has quietly constructed a still more dreadnaught than those planned in England and this country?

HERESY TRIAL.

A heresy trial is on the program again. Rev. Algernon S. Crapsey of Rochester, N. Y., a clergyman of the Episcopal church, is said to deny the miraculous element of religion. As this would mean a denial of the miraculous birth of the Savior, as well as the resurrection and, possibly, a life after this, it is no wonder that a trial for heresy is threatened. The wonder is rather that anyone who cannot accept the miraculous element, feels the need of religion at all. Even human existence, as the existence of everything else, is a miracle. But Rev. Crapsey holds that the rejection of the "Biblical stories of miracles makes him a better Christian than believers in those portions of the Scriptures can be. He claims to be better qualified as a preacher of salvation from sin, by means of his views. It will be necessary for his superiors to define just what Episcopal orthodoxy on this question is. It is expected that their definitions will be likely to come in conflict with modern science, and the coming trial is, therefore, looked forward to with a great deal of expectancy.

Dr. Crapsey holds that:

"Natural forces are now known to be unchangeable in their nature and uni-

form in their operation. They know nothing of man and care nothing for his wishes; the only way he can profit by them is by obeying them. If he puts himself under their guidance, they will help him; if he gets in their way, they will destroy him."

That may be perfectly true. It may be an established fact that "natural forces are now known to be unchangeable," but even if that is a fact, the foundations for the belief in miracles are as firm as ever, since it is an equally well established fact that no one knows the exact properties of all natural forces, or the precise operation of all natural laws. If we assume that the miracles were performed by the aid of natural forces, or in accordance with natural laws, not generally known, we are on scientific ground, just as much as the doubters, and even more, because they simply assume the impossibility of that which they do not happen to be able to explain, or that which has not come within the limited circle of their observation. Their position is similar to that of the savage in the tropics, who should renounce as an impostor a traveler telling him about the freezing of the water, or the ice and snow of the Arctic regions, for the reason that he had never seen solid water. Miracles are of every-day occurrence, and who can tell what will yet be done by the manipulation of natural forces as yet unknown? It must be a particularly narrow mind which in these days of miracles, cannot contain a belief in the miracles of holy writ.

Dr. Crapsey, it is said, has a number of supporters among liberal laymen and clergymen. His condemnation as a heretic would cause a great deal of stir among his friends. On the other hand, an acquittal would seem to necessitate a revision of the creed.

UTAH EDUCATOR LEADS.

A deserved recognition of the wisdom and ability of one of Utah's popular educators, Prof. William Stewart, has been given by the National Educational Association, in the endorsement and adoption by that organization of his suggestions relating to the establishment of "model farms" in connection with the normal schools. We congratulate Prof. Stewart on the prominence he has attained, and we believe the action of the Association will result in great benefit to the American students throughout the country. The following from a recent number of the Educational Journal gives the particulars.

"Prof. William Stewart, principal of the normal school department of the University of Utah, was informed yesterday that the National Educational Association had taken up in earnest the system that he proposed before a meeting of the department of the principals of the State normal schools of the United States at their meeting in Louisville last year.

"At that meeting Prof. Stewart read a paper on the work that is being done at the University of Utah model farm, which is run by the normal school faculty in connection with the regular work. The farm comprises five acres and is planted to garden truck and fruit trees. The purpose of Prof. Stewart and those associated with him had in mind was creating in the child a desire to understand nature and to accomplish this by bringing the child in actual contact with nature.

"The results that Prof. Stewart reported to the normal school principals so interested them that they spent several days in discussing the matter, with the result that they decided to recommend the installation of a model farm in every normal school in the country."

A concealed weapon is always a hidden danger.

Wool is looking good these days. Looks like thirty cents.

Those striking French coal miners see things as through a Lens darkly.

The eight-hour agitators work much harder to get it than after they got it.

The coal strike situation may be summed up in two words, "Allee samee."

To the theatrical trust Sarah Bernhardt talks Turkey in preference to French or English.

"Thorough" should be the motto of the Algerias conference in its work of reforming things in Morocco.

A woman has sued J. B. Haggin for slander, placing the damages at something over three million dollars.

On the question of municipal ownership Chicago practically voted. It's good in theory but undesirable in practice.

Experience with the insurance companies will teach campaign committees in future to look a gift horse in the mouth.

"Resolved, That we leave well enough alone," is the platform of the Republicans of Trego county, Kansas. A model platform surely, provided they have headed well Davy Crockett's motto, "Be sure you're right, then go ahead."

All of a sudden there is a great desire to have the Panama canal constructed without further delay. The desire is a very worthy one but there will be several, if not more, administrations before the canal is ready for business.

Emperor William never did a more gallant thing than to answer the petition of the Creted girls who asked him to furnish them dancing partners. A regiment was sent to the town. And now all are indulging in dance and sun-burnt mirth if not in Provencal song.

The bureau of insular affairs is making special efforts to have the Filipino students in this country take up athletics. This is the first step towards becoming a model modern American citizen. How did Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson and others manage to succeed without them?

The death of a negro woman at Chestin, Pa., recently, is chronicled among the current events. She is said to have weighed 700 pounds. When the body was to be moved to its last resting place, masons had to remove a portion of the dwelling near the front door, and 12 men were required as pal-

lancers. As the body could not be taken in the church door, it was placed on the sidewalk and the service was conducted by the pastor from the vestibule, while the mourners were seated in chairs outside the building.

THE COAL TROUBLE.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Arbitration would still be possible were there anyone to propose and be listened to, for there is no automatic process of adjusting such differences and no means of compelling a few men actuated by selfish considerations to pay some regard to the public welfare. Arbitration in the anthracite field was found possible even after the conflict had begun and when the situation was far more desperate than it now is in the soft coal regions. Can either side, as a matter of policy alone, refuse to consider this means of settlement? Who is to speak the word that shall bring peace?

GERMANY'S INEVITABLE WAR.

Vanity Fair.

German State policy is determined by the political and geographical conditions of Germany and those conditions render a decisive war with Great Britain almost inevitable sooner or later, and entirely justify it from the German point of view.

BIG JOB AHEAD.

Boston Transcript.

Instead of trying to abolish such names as Hatcherchubbe, Oklockknee, Ammonack, Passamuck, Minnauk, and 6,000 other geographical terms of Indian origin, the United States government is wisely endeavoring, through a special commission, to discover what they all mean. This commission should find work enough in Rhode Island alone to stay business for several years.

EVERYDAY MIRACLES.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

"Bullfinches fed on humped turn quite black," said a naturalist. "Horses kept in coal mines for several years become covered with soft, thick fur like a mole. The mastiff of Tibet, who in the Tibetan Highlands has a heavy coat of wool, loses his coat completely when he is brought down to the plains. The crane in his snow-infested home turns white in the winter, but if he is taken for the winter to a warm climate he does not turn white at all. Quite amazing altogether are the changes that with food and environment we can effect on all living creatures—even on man."

JUST FOR FUN.

Poor Thing.

Philadelphia Bulletin.
"What is your principal liability?" asked the family solicitor.
"My husband," answered the countess. And her tears broke forth afresh.

Her Valuation.

Aunt Evelyn took little Anna to the church and gave her a nickel to put in the alms basin.

Anna looked at the coin with evident satisfaction, and then, nestling close to her aunt, she whispered, "How much are you going to give?"

"Oh!" exclaimed the child excitedly, "don't do it! It isn't worth it!"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Aptly Described.

Modern Composer—Have you heard my latest one-act opera?
Friend—Not yet. Come?
Modern Composer—No—Baby grand. —Puck.

Walk-Over.

One ob de main reasons why de way ob de transgressor am hard am because it am trabbled so much.—American Spectator.

Unreasonable.

Eminent Financier—Doc, I'm going to take out another \$1,000,000 policy. As the company's medical director, you'll have to, of course, as to my perfect health?

Insurance Physician—Certainly. Eminent Financier—And by the way, Doc, I've been cited to appear before a gimlet-eyed, half-baked investigator from the west, a fellow who's totally ignorant of our Eastern financial ethics. As my family physician, I'm writing you a memo, will you, that I'm threatened with pneumonia or appendicitis and can't possibly appear?—Puck.

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We beg to remind the good housewife that a bottle of our Bed Bug Killer used now will prevent the appearance of these pesky little brown pests, that so disturb your summer pleasure. Large bottles, 25c. Both 'phones 457. Remember the number—

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Thursday, Friday and Saturday Next.
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PIFF PAFF
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By Strange, Jerome and Schwartz.
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The Original American Pony Ballet and Famous Chorus Beautiful.
Prices—25c to \$1.50. Matinee, 25c to \$1. Sale now on.

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TONIGHT LAST TIME

The Great Romantic Italian Play, adapted from Marie Corelli's Famous Novel, "Vendetta."

FABIO ROMANI
SPECIAL—Miss Violet McCoy, the eminent vocalist, has been engaged for Conference Week, and tonight she will render several songs and dances.

Thursday, "HER FATAL LOVE."

Modern Vaudeville.
CHAS. SWEET
WORLD AND KINGSTON.
PAUL KLEIST
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An interesting and instructive exhibition of everything electrical.

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Special attractions every day. Watch this space for announcements. 25-47 E. 1st South Street, Salt Lake City. April 2nd to 12th. Admission Free.

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Now is the time that one enjoys a sharp, sparkling glass of soda water. Refreshing, palatable, and healthful—in all the popular flavors.

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