

## 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.Charles W. Penrose, Editor  
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICES**  
(In Advance)

One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	\$1.50
Three Months	.75
One Month	.25
Saturday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	2.00

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Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office,  
112 Park Row Building, New York.

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In charge of F. J. Cooper, 50 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading mat-  
ter for publication should be addressed to  
the EDITOR.

Address all business communications  
and all remittances to  
THE DESERET NEWS  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake  
City as second class matter according to  
the Act of Congress March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 16, 1903.

## A TIMELY TALK.

In the latest issue of the Improvement Era, the editor, President Joseph F. Smith, has the following timely talk with young people on "The Spirit of Religion," directing special notice to the duty of attending religious meetings. It is worthy the attention of Latter-day Saints of all ages and conditions:

"You have noticed how indifferent some young men are about attending meetings. You have observed, too, how careless about the same matter some of the middle-aged are; and last, you have experienced a personal apathy on this subject that has often convinced you that it was better to go to the meadows or the woods than to endure two hours of dry church services as they seem to you.

"There are reasons for this apathetic feeling about attending meetings. The first cause is, perhaps, a breakdown of the traditional obligation to attend, which earlier in the Church was rightly set down and considered as a duty. In fact, not many years ago, a member who failed to attend his meetings was often severely criticised by his teachers and Bishop, and even considered to be a backslider. This feeling, which is a true one and which it were well to be perpetuated among the Saints, does not now as strongly exist, but rather in its stead are creeping in the thoughts and feelings that if certain other duties are performed, one may well stay away from religious services without losing caste with the Church or its officers. Of course, this means that those who go to meeting are those who want to go, and they are there in spite of temptations and influences to go elsewhere.

"A second cause, closely connected with the first mentioned, is the great increase in the number and variety of Sunday amusements; the lake, the canyons, the music halls, country buggy or carriage drives and visits, in the summer; and in winter, parties, socials, entertainments, which, while perhaps not held on Sunday among us, are yet a source of distraction from church because of the time and pleasure which they occupy and provide. In this connection, you have noticed how time for diversion and amusement can always be found by people who can find no time for religious worship. I have before mentioned in these pages that men and women find sufficient time for card playing in which valuable days are spent in fostering a serious evil—an evil in the sight of God, and with which he is greatly displeased. It is evil for one reason because young people who indulge in it will likely be led to places where card playing culminates—in the saloon and gambling hall. We find time for what we love and are interested in, which is an explanation of the whole matter, and so when people do not attend religious services we may confidently conclude they are not interested.

"The remedy, then, is to become interested. It is a duty to become interested. Why? Because it is a commandment of God. The Saints are commanded: 'Pray in your families unto the Father, al-ways in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed. And be-hold, ye shall meet together oft, and ye shall not forbid any man from com-ing unto you when ye shall meet to-gether, but suffer them that they may come unto you, and forbid them not.' \* \* \* and whosoever breaketh this commandment, (to meet together oft) suffereth himself to be led into tempta-tion."

"It is further commanded to the Saints in our day: 'It is expedient that the Church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus.' (Doctrine and Covenants 20: 75.)

"It is a pleasure, too, to become inter-ested, for experience teaches that no joy can equal that which comes from a possession of the Spirit of the Lord. This can not be retained outside of frequent association with the Saint—in their places of worship. In fact it is plainly stated in the quotation from the Book of Mormon, that they who fail to meet together often suffer them-selves 'to be led into temptation.'"

"Some men as a reason for not be-ing interested in meetings that what is said and done is not attractive. It does not appeal to them. The unprepared sermon is dry, and the music is not al-ways the best. If, however, we were to analyze this reason, the fault could be traced to the uninterested person him-self, who has perhaps had the spirit of worship swallowed up in the spirit of pleasure which has tempted him. Again, he may have come to meeting with the sole idea of being entertained, and completely has he been led into

temptation by that spirit. But a per-son who goes with the spirit of worship in his heart, and a desire to render true devotion to God, entertains himself, and in so doing, aids the spirit of the worshiping assembly, and finds abun-dant and surpassing happiness in his own soul. In meeting as in life, the secret of true happiness is to impart comfort and joy to others.

"A serious time will come in every life. There is a parting of the ways. What you indulge in will lead you up or down. I have no hesitancy in de-claring in the name of the Lord that the spirit which leads you to complain that you are bored in attending the worshiping assemblies of the Saints has led or will lead you astray; and, on the other hand, that the young peo-ple who cultivate the true spirit of worship, and find happiness and plea-sure in the associations of the Saints, and who care enough for God and re-ligion to support the Church and at-tend the meetings, are the people whose moral and spiritual influence will con-trol public sentiment and govern the state and nation. In any conflict with indifference and the spirit of worldly pleasure, moral influence and religious earnestness will always conquer and rule."

JOSEPH F. SMITH.

## ROYALTY IN PARIS.

Paris has enthusiastically welcomed Italy's king and queen to the capital of France. Undoubtedly the French en-tertain hopes of some kind of alliance with their neighbors, as a result of the visit, and a corresponding weakening of the alliance between Italy, Germany, and Austria. It is known that a rap-prochement between France and Great Britain has taken place, and a similar agreement between France and Italy would indeed be a momentous event. Statesmen speak rather unreservedly of such a combination. Signor Prinetti, the former Italian minister of foreign affairs, has declared that, if allied, the two countries could exercise a vast in-fluence on the European concert. Pres-ident Loubet is known to desire the closest possible relations with the other great Latin country of Europe, while his advisers share his hopes of bene-ficial results to be derived from the interchange of royal courtesies. Con-sequently all classes are vying with each other to extend a welcome of unsur-passed warmth to the visitors.

Italy and France are natural allies. The peoples are kin. Their commercial interests are closely interwoven. Italy owes its emancipation and unity to French arms, while France is indebted to Italy for famous soldiers, statesmen, and scholars.

It is not surprising, in this age of gathering, to note the tendencies to the concentration of races around com-mon centers of interest. The Slavonic, Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Greek, and other races, all seem to be subject to a force that tends to compactness. Gathering has taken the place of scattering. And this is, after all, not very surprising. For ultimately the human race must be united in one brotherhood, under one divine Director. The grouping in races is a necessary preliminary to this great union. It is all in the program of Providence for the perfection of the human family.

## GOING FOR MONEY.

Dr. Dowie makes no secret of his ma-terialistic intentions regarding the cities he "invades." In an address delivered at "Zion City" before starting for New York, he said, as reported by the Chicago News: "They say I'm going to New York after money. You bet I am. A robber when he holds you up says, 'Your money or your life.' I'm going to say to those New Yorkers, 'I want your money and your life.' I get lives for gold and the money is God's, therefore they must give their money with their lives. Those members of Zion who do not go, whether they have money or not, will wither away and their pros-perity will cease. Their duty is to go to New York."

The New York papers are already commencing to give considerable space to the plans and schemes of the ec-centric preacher. We believe this is a great mistake. The free advertising he is given, helps him. Nothing would hurt him more than the silence of the press about his performances.

The following editorial utterance of the New York World will appeal to sensible persons as correct:

"A considerable element in New York will be disposed to have fun with Dowie. The Grand Overseer will not mind. He knows the value of advertis-ing. Moreover, abuse affords him fresh openings. He has cautioned his fol-lowers not to argue or talk back. 'Let us have,' says he, 'the maximum of work and the minimum of talk.' And again, 'Be content to hold your tongues in all the languages you know.' Dowie will provide all the discourse. 'You bring the people to Madison Square Garden and I will shoot them and you can pick them up.'"

"Dowie has been loudly proclaimed a charlatan and a 'fake.' Many indorse this view of him. One's belief in this respect does not affect the value of the Zionist prophet as an object lesson. He is worth studying for his qualities of leadership in a period when great lead-ers are not on every hand."

## PREDICTING DISASTER.

According to a Dallas dispatch Judge John H. Reagan predicts the dissolu-tion of the American republic and the establishment of a monarchy on the site of the present structure. Contin-uing his prognostication, he said that Texas would continue her republi-can form of government after the disas-ter: "I do not want," he said, "Texas divided into five states, as the annexa-tion agreement permits. We are rap-idly drifting toward a monarchical form of government, and I want Texas to be big enough to stand alone, to once more be the republic of Texas, when the day of monarchy arrives. Tex-as will some day have 30,000,000 more people at least than are now in the state. There should be no division, but let Texas remain large, strong and free. The hope of a free people and a rep-resentative republic is involved in this condition."

This is passing strange language for

a judge, or for any loyal American citi-zen, for that matter. Are there any signs of a speedily coming cataclysm, by which the country's form of gov-ernment is likely to be broken up and scattered to the winds? If so, what are the signs? They should be pointed out by the watchmen on the towers of the state, in order that all may read them and judge of their portent.

No doubt, the country is nearing a critical chapter of its history. There may be shoals ahead. But the proba-bility is that the Constitution will be upheld, and the government perpetu-ated by the faithful, until its world-mission shall have been fulfilled. Mon-archical forms of government have not been prosperous on this continent. The past offers no encouragement to those who would turn the tide of popular gov-ernment back into the channels that lead to autocracy. If American liberty is ever captured, blinded, and made to grind in the house of the Philistines, the day will come when the giant will as-sert his strength and destroy the op-pressors in the midst of their revelry.

Many companies merge, but few emerge.

Men sometimes double their fortunes by being double faced.

To Victor Emmanuel belong the spoils in France just now.

Mr. Carnegie says that steel has a soul. The common or preferred?

It is really astonishing how often immutable political principles get mu-tated.

U. S. Marshal Field of Vermont was removed from office for letting his pris-oners go at will.

"I feel very grateful at the result of the verdict," says Tillman. He certainly has every reason to.

The verdict in the Tillman trial pro-ves that, in South Carolina, it is safer to shoot a man than to talk about him.

Senator Platt used to be called "Me, Too." Having contracted a second marriage he will now be called "Me Two."

It is said that Prince Albert, the king of pacers, goes faster when he has more or less whiskey in him. Those addicted to whisky are usually pretty swift.

In the impending municipal cam-paign it would be well for all partici-pants to remember that "Tis a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are no deeds."

So Senator T. C. Platt was married Sunday last, and not yesterday, as it was announced he would be. To a septuagenarian time in such matters is all important.

"Military operations in Macedonia are slackening," is the announcement from Salonica. Which means that the Turks are beginning to weary of pil-lage, plunder and murder.

"When my cafe swings its doors wide, there will be things doing from yours truly," says John L. Sullivan. And things misdoing if the future is to be judged from the past.

The faculty of the school of diploma-cy at Columbia has said that no woman may enter there because there is no woman in the diplomatic service for women. But was it diplomatic to say it?

Why are not the Salt Lake dailies entitled to part of the reward for the capture of Haworth and Lynch? It was through them that the people were in-formed of the escape of the convicts, thus putting the people on the lookout.

How much better in every respect it is for Haworth and Lynch to be in nice warm quarters with plenty to eat than to be sleeping where night overtakes them and depending upon a cold world for cold vitals. The state will care for them as it never has done before.

Russia informs China that if her de-mands are not complied with she will not get out of Manchuria. If she does comply with them Russia will not get out of Manchuria. In any event it is a case of six of one and half a dozen of the other.

If a French scientist is to be believed, we are on the road to becoming a bald-headed race. He says that each wo-man loses on the average ten cen-tigrams of hair a day, that is 2,300 pounds in twenty-four hours for the total female population of the country, or 1,022,000 pounds per year.

Mr. Cleveland says that he would rather his boy grew up able to build a great bridge like the Brooklyn bridge than to receive the highest honor the people could bestow upon him. A fine sentiment. Still a man should speak well of a bridge that has carried him over safely, particularly where it has carried him over twice.

## RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Boston Transcript.

It is probable that Japan will let Rus-sia take her time with respect to Man-churia, and will not seriously quarrel with her methods. But Korea is another matter, and it is the acknowledge-ment of Japan's sphere of influence there that her statesmen will insist upon in the pending negotiations. The big empire has timber concessions in the country and of course she has a right to demand their protection; but Japan would promptly draw the line at occupa-tion and the moral support of Christen-dom would be with her in so doing. The policy that Russia is pursuing in Man-churia would have no justification in Korea.

Portland Oregonian.

Intelligent Englishmen who are resi-dent officials in China say without qualification that the only sensible thing for England to do is to follow the lead of Russia and Germany and make the Yangtze Valley as much British as Manchuria must become Russian and Shao Tung is now Ger-man. The territorial integrity of China is treated as a fiction and the open-door policy described as unworkable. The United States has sworn allegiance to the "open door," protested and still pro-tests, but in the judgment of the Brit-ish in China will do no more; neither will Great Britain or Japan. The Chi-nese statesmen are systematically cor-rupted by Russian money. The plat-form of "China intact" is demonstrated by resident Englishmen as "a burst flush." Russia has Manchuria and Mongolia; Japan would be pincered by the concession of Korea; Germany has Shan Tung; France has Tonquin; Ja-pan covets the mainland opposite her

Island of Formosa; Great Britain will probably occupy the Yangtze Valley.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The control of Korea is vital to Ja-pan; first, because Korea is the only bulwark she can secure against Russia, and second, because Korea is the most convenient field for her immigration and commercial exploitation. These facts Japan has recognized ever since she was shut out from the Liaoting penin-sula, and to a certain extent she has already secured the special rights in Korea which she needs. Russia pledg-ed herself in a protocol with Japan signed in April, 1895, not to hinder the development of Japan's commercial and industrial relations with Korea. And Korea, in an agreement signed two months later, granted Japan general preferential rights for railway con-struction. Japan has also secured and made use of a number of telegraph, telephone and trading concessions in Ko-rea.

Kansas City Star.

The discreditable feature of the situa-tion is the disingenuousness of the St. Petersburg foreign office. Count Lam-dorf seems to take Queen Elizabeth's view, that a lie is simply an intellectual means of overcoming a difficulty. After the Manchurian experience the United States can put no dependence on the most solemn assurances of Muscovite diplomacy.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

China is reported to have appealed to Japan for assistance in this crisis and Japan has its own cause for anxiety as to Russian movements in Manchuria. The possession of that province is a step towards the occupation of Korea on one pretext or another, and that would menace the safety of Japan. It is asserted that Russian encroachment on Korean territory has already begun by the erection of a fort on the Korean side of the Manchurian boundary. Neg-otiations between Russia and Japan in regard to Korea are in progress, the exact nature of which is not known, but one version of the Russian propo-sition is that it involves the partition of Korea between Russia and Japan. The doubtful part of that story is the willingness of Russia to let Japan have any part of what in time it will want for its own use.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

No. 4 of Business Woman's Magazine, has reached this office. It is published in Denver, and the editor is Louise Lee Hardin. The present number devotes much space to Utah. It gives the first place to an article on this state, by J. W. Wise in the department "Events in Brief," edited by Hugh Coyne, more space is given to Utah. The irrigation congress at Ogden, and the city of Lo-rain form the topics of descriptive ar-ticles. The following is the complete list of contents of the magazine: "Utah by W. J. Wise; 'The Test of Opportu-nity,' by Adelaide R. Haldeman; 'It's Better to Laugh than to Cry,' anony-mous; 'City Temple Institutional So-ciety,' by Dean A. C. Peck; 'The Busi-ness Woman,' by John Charles Thomp-son; 'Club Notes,' 'Ode to Club Wo-men,' by A. R. H.; 'For of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven,' by Charles Day; 'Arabic Proverbs,' by John Orne, Ph. D.; 'Successful Business Women,' by Linda Lee; 'Editorials,' 'The Strange Adventure of James O. Pat-tie,' by Judge E. T. Wells; 'The Style of Life,' by R. A. Maynard; 'My Bleas-ed Mother,' by Eugene Day; 'The Snake Ceremonies at Walpi,' by Rob-erta Bulford; 'College Days of Colo-nial Days,' by Josephine Anderson; 'All in the Day's Work,' by Ellis Wood; 'Mil-dred,' by Frank Arthur French; 'A Lay Naughty-Three,' by Herbert Burdette; 'The St. Colleges and Re-view,' 'Events in Brief,' by Hugh Coyne; 'A Bundle of Rugs,' by Lewis Berry—Denver, Colo.

Another publication devoted to fiction and called The Popular Magazine has reached this office. Among the contents are stories by Morgan Robertson, the American exponent of strenuous sea adventures; Gilbert Patterson, Charles Agnew McLean, W. Bert Foster and Henry Harrison Lewis. We are informed that the Popular Magazine will be greatly enlarged in the December and January issues and that strong stories have been obtained from such promi-nent authors as General Charles King, Charles Battell Loomis, Edward Strat-ton and St. George Rathbone—Street & Smith, publishers, New York.

The Booklovers' Magazine for Octo-ber has the following interesting list of contents: "Women's Colleges and Their Women Executives," Jane A. Stewart, with portraits of Presidents Thomas, Hazard and Woolley; and Deans Talbot, Lucas, Smith, Crook and Harvey; "Dual Personality in Literature," Al-bert Elmer Hancock and Edgar Allan Poe; "Tyranny of The Love Interest," Olivia Howard Dunbar; "With Hound and Horn," four reproductions of old hunting scenes in color; "Jules Le-fevre: A Modern Idealist," "Behind the Scenes at Central," "The Picture Post-Card Fever," an international study; "The St. Colleges and Re-view," Horace E. Scudder; "The Man with the Common Eye," E. Clarence Oakley; "A Social Experiment: The Alabama Singing Colony," George Pettie; "A Critical Chat About the Newest Biographies," "Lector," and "The Best New Things from the World of Print."—1323 Walnut street, Phila-delphia.

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