

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 22, 1901.

## CHANGES IN PRESIDENCY.

The radical changes in the Summit Stake of Zion will no doubt occasion much surprise. At the meeting of the Priesthood of that Stake on Sunday morning, which was attended by three of the Apostles, acting under instructions from the First Presidency, the Stake was reorganized. The action was endorsed by the people assembled in the afternoon. This unusual step was taken, because it had been determined by the General Authorities of the Church that a thorough change in the affairs of the Stake was necessary, and this was the readiest way to effect it thoroughly.

President W. W. Cluff has presided over the Summit Stake for twenty-four years. He has been identified with its interests from the beginning. He has been its only president. He has rendered it invaluable service. His abilities have been of the kinds that were suited to the position. While he is spiritually minded and ready to discourse on the doctrines of the Church, he is also a practical man, active in temporal labors and anxious to advance the interests of the people in every capacity. He has been distinguished for his numerous talents. He has been one of Utah's prominent legislators and has presided over the Council. He has filled half a dozen foreign missions, including those to the Hawaiian Islands and to Scandinavia, in both of which he presided. He has been engaged in numerous enterprises of benefit to the community, and is universally respected as an honorable and valued citizen.

He will be succeeded in his presidency of Summit Stake by Elder Moses W. Taylor, son of the late President John Taylor, whose appointment was accepted on Sunday at the special meetings held in Coalville, particulars of which are given in another part of this issue of the Deseret News. He is a comparatively young but by no means inexperienced man, and will take hold of the affairs of the Stake with vigor and discretion. He has not yet selected his counselors. The Bishops and counselors in the respective wards will act as usual, until their successors are appointed and sustained.

The "News" has commented on the necessity for changes in the presidencies of Stakes and wards, and on the error of the notion that these positions were to be for life, or until the incumbents were held in as transgression. Men have no permanent claim upon the right to preside. They continue until released, that is all. It does not follow, because a change is considered wise by those who have the authority to direct, that the officer removed is in any way under censure. Every Elder in the Church is expected to hold himself ready to serve in such capacity as his labors may be required, and to step aside when they are considered sufficient or a change is thought advisable. It is the same with local presidencies in Zion, as it is with missions abroad. When a release comes it should be accepted as readily as the appointment was. The glory of man is not to be sought for; the welfare of the Church, the salvation of mankind, and the glory of God are the chief ends in view.

The responsibility of taking the charge of men and women whose temperaments, habits and tastes are as various as their countenances, who come from different countries and are thrown together in community, is no sinecure and is rarely viewed in its true value. When the time comes to be relieved of such care and labor and anxiety as are necessarily attached to the office, there should be no reluctance to let go of the reins and resign them to other hands. And if the word comes from those who have the right to decide: "Well done, good and faithful servant," the rest that follows should be accepted with joy, and the plaudits should be received with satisfaction.

There will doubtless be other changes in the management of Stake and ward affairs, and every presiding officer should be on the alert, ready to continue at work or ready to step down and out when the word shall come. The injunction may with propriety be suggested to all who are in office, "Be ye also ready." And every man in such position should remember, that while presidency is but temporary, and lasts only for a little season, the Priesthood is eternal, and will never die or be taken from its possessor except by transgression and judgment. The authority that it bears is enduring in this world and perpetual in all worlds to come.

## A QUESTION OF ETYMOLOGY.

The religious press of this country, after vainly struggling for over half a century with the "problem of Mormonism," has at last hit upon something. We suppose, in fact, that by the literature it will be considered a very bright idea. It is now claimed that the name "Mormon" is derived from the Greek and means: "A female demon, a scare-

crow, a phantom, an illusion." We find this alleged ingenious statement in the Northwestern Christian Advocate, and it is there credited to Den Christ-lige Talsmand, a paper published in Chicago. Some years ago it was made in a little foreign sheet that appeared in this city, and in time it will no doubt go the round of the press.

To be sure, the difficulty of explaining how the young boy Joseph was able to give to a prominent character in the Book of Mormon a Greek name remains a mystery, but that is cleared up by the assertion that Sidney Rigdon knew all about Greek, and suggested that name to Joseph. It has been proved time and again that Sidney Rigdon never met the Prophet previous to the publication of the Book of Mormon; also that he, though not a member of the Church for years previous to his death, maintained the divine origin of the Book of Mormon to the last. These facts are enough to annihilate the brilliant idea that he suggested the name "Mormon." But to this may be added that Sidney Rigdon, if he knew Greek, must have been insane to suggest a name from that language with the meaning assigned to it by learned (?) editors of denominational journals. And whatever may be alleged against Sidney Rigdon, he certainly had a sound mind.

But besides this, the assertion that the Greek word "mormon" means "female monster" is false. It means nothing more hideous than a mask. It is by ornithologists given to a sea bird of the auk family. There is another obsolete word "mormo," from the Greek, which means a "bugbear," a "monster," and although the two words may have a common origin, they are evidently used for different purposes. The word "Mormon" as found in the book of that name, however, is in all probability not of Greek, but of Semitic origin, and everybody knows that two words may sound alike in two languages, or in two groups of languages, and yet have widely different meanings. Etymology cannot be established on spelling and pronunciation alone. The history of words must be known before their origin and affinity to other words can be established. Sometimes words that look alike spring from different roots; at other times words that appear very dissimilar are really identical. Presbyterians, for instance, does not mean a denomination of old fogies, although the name is from a Greek word that means "old."

The "brilliant idea" of tracing the name "Mormon" to a Greek word that means "monster," appears, when closely inspected, rather dull. The Prophet Joseph, at the time he was called upon to interpret the sacred record, knew no Greek. And nobody with knowledge of that language would have suggested such a word, if his intention had been to impose a fraud upon the world. The keen etymologists of the religious press will have to guess again.

It may be as well to add, that the Prophet Joseph Smith, when interrogated as to the meaning of the name, referred to the fact that the Book of Mormon was written in "reformed Egyptian" hieroglyphics and that the signification of the word Mor-mon was simply, "more good."

## NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION.

The literature of the world, it seems, will before long be enriched by a new translation of the Old Testament. This time it will be a rendition by Jewish scholars of the original Hebrew into the English language. The work has been under preparation for six years, and it is now so far advanced that it will soon be given to the public. According to the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, during the next few months the Book of Psalms will be issued, and following that the other books of the Bible will appear, first in separate form in large type, and then together in smaller type. The entire work has been done by Jews, except that Professor Kittredge, professor of English literature in Harvard University, who is regarded as the highest authority on ecclesiastical English in this country, has been assisting in a revision of the phraseology. The new version will be published by the Jewish Publication Society of America.

The story of the origin of this enterprise is quite interesting. At the time the International Commission was engaged in the revision of King James' translation, Rabbi Adler was invited to sit as a member and represent Hebrew scholarship. He accepted the invitation, and worked with the commission for about two years. When they came to the place in Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," the rabbi objected to the use of the word "virgin" in the revised edition. He pointed out that the Hebrew word so rendered may mean "maiden," "virgin," "young woman," or any other word that stands for a youthful human being of the feminine gender. He contended that the context clearly proved that "young woman," not "virgin" would be the correct translation. The other members of the commission insisted upon retaining the common rendition, whereupon Dr. Adler resigned on the ground that the revision committee were endeavoring to shape their translation to sustain their doctrinal belief. He then started the movement for a Jewish translation of the Old Scriptures.

The work will certainly be received with deep interest by the general public. Not because the English translation is not a faithful reflex of the original text; nor because it is to be presumed that a Jewish scholar has any better facilities for a more correct understanding of the Hebrew language than have scholars of other faiths; but for the reason that such a translation will reflect better than any amount of commentaries could do, the exact understanding Hebrew scholars today have of the meaning of those sacred writings in which Christianity had its root. It is rather remarkable that Jewish scholars have not long ago undertaken a Bible translation. They would have done so, had they aimed at placing their religious views before the general public.

## THE COURT OF ARBITRATION.

The difficulties encountered in the settlement of the Chinese indemnity question suggest both the necessity of an international court, and the obstacles to overcome before such a court can take up the business intended for it. Six of the powers are in favor of demanding an enormous compensation for the expenses incurred, while others, and the United States especially, are opposed to such demands. The question is exactly one for an international court to decide.

But the powers are this time encountering a weak nation, not in a position to resist by arms the exorbitant claims, and hence they are not anxious to have the matter adjudicated by peaceful means. They are in a position to exact their full pound of flesh, and threaten to do so.

There is no doubt that were the matter brought before the court, the Chinese claims would have to be considered, too. They have lost thousands of lives, by the massacres in which some of the troops have indulged, in defiance of all civilized laws of warfare. They have lost millions of dollars' worth of property by the looting that was carried on in the beginning of the hostilities. And this is one of the reasons why the different governments are not inclined to submit the case to an impartial court. They do not want the Chinese side to be heard. They prefer a settlement in which the opposing side is at once the accuser, the judge, and the executive.

Before the court of arbitration can enter upon its mission as peace-maker, an international sense of right and wrong must be established. It must be made clear that it is as wrong for a nation to rob another as it is for an individual to make another stand and deliver. As long as "might is right" in international intercourse, a court of arbitration can have no mission to perform, except when two equally strong powers disagree, and both are afraid of starting an armed conflict, on account of the cost involved.

It must not be supposed, however, that the establishment of the court is in vain. Its very existence will be a great factor in elevating international morals to the desirable level. Public opinion in civilized countries will gradually compel the governments to present their claims there first. It may not all at once abolish wars. Courts and juries have not yet been able to suppress feuds and private vengeance, but their work is in that direction. It is the same with international courts. They will not in one day cause the clash of arms to cease from the stage of action of nations, but its work will gradually bear fruit.

The court, as planned at The Hague, is now an established fact, although Turkey, China, and a few other powers have taken no action in the matter. The Chinese question should be brought before it, and it should be consistent with the attitude of the Czar of Russia, as formerly defined, for him to take the initiative in this matter. He would be supported by this country and Great Britain, and every other power that favors justice and peace.

## THE PLAGUE.

It is feared that extraordinary precautions will have to be taken this summer to keep the plague out of the country. That is, special watchfulness must be exerted at all the seaports, so as not to permit that terrible angel of destruction to land and to obtain away. There seems to be ground for the fear. For the plague actually exists in many places of the world. All efforts to stamp it out at Cape Town have so far proved of but little avail. In India the government is fighting the scourge, and it is said to prevail in several Chinese ports.

There is where the damage may come from. When the soldiers that are returned home, they may possibly carry with them germs of disease. It is alleged that the soldiers who came from the Philippines started a smallpox epidemic in this country, and if this is true, it is not a far-fetched conclusion that the bubonic plague may be transmitted in a similar manner. Evidently great precaution is needed, particularly since it has been proved that the bubonic plague very often defies all attempts at a cure, when it seizes a victim.

The plague is said to be a hot weather disease. Summer has been long in coming in this country, and there have been some impatience at the frequent storms and chilling frosts during the spring. But with bubonic plague germs in the air in many countries, the delay of warm weather may yet prove to be providential.

There is some dispute as to whether the plague actually did make its appearance in San Francisco, among the Chinese, some months ago. If it did, all cities on the great continental highways are more or less interested. It should not be permitted to go any farther than Chinatown, and it should be stamped out there, even if heroic measures are necessary.

In the meantime it should be said again, that people with clean habits and habitations, and pure morals, people living regularly, temperate lives need fear very little the destroyer that is abroad in the world.

The crocuses and the dogtooth violets come up smiling.

Among the most striking features of our foreign trade are trip hammers.

If any one longer doubts that it is a time of great prosperity point him to the great and rapid rise in the Ohio.

Korea wants to borrow money. This goes to indicate that Korea has started in the path of modern progress and civilization.

"During" the war with the Americans I was often very close to them," says Aguinaldo. Yet always within a safe distance.

In the affairs of man there is a tide that taking at the flood, leads to fortune and to fame, but in the Ohio the flood leads to destruction.

If Gen. MacArthur wants to Americanize the Philippines why did he not wait and have Aguinaldo move from

Malacanang palace to Solano street on the first of May?

It is said that Emperor William likes American dishes. But his desire to get on with the Agrarians prevents him from overloading his stomach with them.

Dawson and Boston are said to be the most expensive places in America in which to live. Undoubtedly this is owing to the cold and frigid ways of the one and the other.

Down in Texas, right on the edge of the oil field, a lemonade lake has been discovered. It may have been discovered by those looking for oil and who found sour grapes.

A leading New York Methodist divine says that women cannot legislate. The chief reason for that is that they cannot get the chance. In Utah we know differently. It was a woman legislator who introduced and secured the passage of the theater high law.

The suicide of the president and cashier of the First National bank of Vancouver, Wash., shows that these bank officials who had committed great wrongs against their stockholders and depositors were not without a sense of deep shame. In their weakness they had betrayed a trust, but upon the discovery of their misdeeds they succided, thus sinning against their Maker. Their last act will call forth such pity that few will remember the causes that led to it. The path of strict duty is the only one to walk and when it is deviated from no one can tell where it will lead.

A friend in Lehi, Mr. T. F. Trane, sends us a letter received by him from Dr. C. L. McCarthy, a resident of Footscray, near Melbourne, Australia. The doctor has seen a copy of "The Los Angeles number" of the Deseret News, and he is profuse in his praise of that journalistic enterprise. He says in part: "Some hundreds of people have read it, and it is still going the rounds of my friends, all of whom express their surprise and admiration that a city much smaller than Footscray in point of population, can turn out such a really high class literary production. It shows just where brains are to be found." The doctor is, we understand, a most proficient physician, and a highly cultured and intelligent gentleman, and his opinion is on that account very much appreciated.

Harvard University has proposed to confer the degree of doctor of laws upon President McKinley, and a number of graduates of that famed institution of learning are strenuously objecting to it. They ask upon what ground a degree that is supposed to signify great learning in the law is to be conferred upon the President. The best answer is custom. The conferring of the degree on President McKinley cannot add to his greatness or learning any more than a man can add to his height by taking thought. If Harvard desires to confer the degree, which after all has come to be recognized as the degree of kindness and good feeling, it is ungracious of her sons to "kick." After all, John Bright set the proper example when he refused such a degree from a great English university, saying he could not even read the Latin in which it was written.

## SPEAKING OF CUBA.

Worcester Spy.

It is said that while the mineral wealth of Cuba has been known to be very large a systematic investigation to ascertain its exact extent has never been undertaken. The present attempt, therefore, to determine more comprehensively what the possibilities are for the advancement of the mining industry in Cuba is the object of a great amount of attention. It is expected that the survey will be of vast benefit to Cuba itself, while it cannot fail to be of great importance to the United States whatever our relations to Cuba in years to come may be.

St. Paul Globe.

The arrest of the Cuban editor in which was published the cartoon representing the crucifixion of Cuba was a blunder which will cost the United States many a good hard dollar. There was nothing extraordinary in the cartoon which represented Cuba as a Cuban soldier on the cross, between the legs of a Roman soldier, and a Roman soldier was represented as offering vinegar to the man on the cross, in the form of the Platt amendment. It was a cartoon which would have been as good as a declaration of war if the United States to illustrate some political incident. To object to it and to cause the arrest of the editor of the Journal was an act that is inexcusable at the present juncture.

Boston Herald.

The chief benefit to come to our nation from the possession of Cuba is in its peculiar productive power. There is also the advantage that would arise from its being with us in feeling and sympathy, and as a protection for military purposes in the event of war. We see little occasion to apprehend difficulty in this latter respect. We doubt very much if there is to be any disposition on the part of a European nation to assault us at arms, and if there were the era of good feeling that free trade would establish between the United States and Cuba would make Cuba the ally of ourselves. Whether Cuba becomes independent of our nation or joins it as a portion of its territory, we assume that no one believes that any other country will be likely to meddle with it in any way.

New York Evening Sun.

At the progress which is being made in the Cuban courts there is no prospect of Neely and Rathbone being brought before the bar and tried on the evidence before the end of the American occupation, when "influence" could bring about their release. What is the mysterious "pull" which brings justice into contempt in this notorious case, in which the honor of the United States government is involved? The government evidently is being fooled and hoodwinked, and it is high time to give the department of justice at Havana to understand that the law's delay will not be tolerated for the convenience of Estes G. Rathbone and Charles F. W. Neely.

Springfield Republican.

Immigration into Cuba continues to be almost exclusively from the Spanish peninsula, 12,094 persons out of a total of 14,578 in the second half of 1900 having come from Spain. It is astonishing to learn that in the same time only 37 immigrants to Cuba were from the United States. And here we are proposing to Americanize the island. The situation reminds one of what the historian Froide said years ago: "When the eventual fate of Cuba, the Spanish race has taken root there and is visibly destined to remain, Spanish, at any rate, they are to the bone and marrow, and Spanish they will continue."

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