

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,  
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED).  
CITY OF SALT LAKE CITY, 100 Temple Street,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.	
One Year, in advance, \$5.00	
Three Months, " " 1.50	
One Month, " " .50	
One Week, " " .25	
Saturday edition, per year, 2.00	
Single copy, 5c	

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.  
Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE.  
R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building.  
CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE.  
R. A. Craig, 87 Washington St.  
SAN FRANCISCO REPRESENTATIVE.  
C. S. King-Sheridan & Co., 409 Exchange Bldg.  
SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 3, 1900.

## THE POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

The political conventions have met and separated, and the chief results of their work appear, in the nomination of two candidates for the office of Representative from Utah in the Congress of the United States. The adoption of platforms was also attended to, and these have been published for the inspection of the people of this State. Readers of the Deseret News can study them all.

The Democratic convention, which was held first, selected Hon. W. H. King for Congressman. The gentleman is known throughout the State, having already served it in Congress and in territorial and judicial offices, in which he exhibited such sterling qualities and exceptional abilities, as established for him an enviable reputation, which extends beyond the limits of this region. His personal character is above reproach, and his talents as a public speaker are recognized as of a very high order, while his presence is pleasant and dignified. He is one of Utah's bright native sons, and if elected will maintain its honor and support its interests, in the future as in the past.

The choice made by the Republican Convention was also a fitting recognition of Utah ability and integrity. Hon. James T. Hammond, though perhaps not so widely known, personally, as his competitor for the office of Representative in Congress, has a first class reputation throughout the State and wherever his name is mentioned. Born and reared in Utah, he has distinguished himself from early youth as a studious, upright, capable incumbent of the several public positions he has occupied, and is recognized in private and public life as a man of sound judgment and careful management of important affairs. As attorney, legislator and Secretary of State, he has exhibited qualities that have secured for him the respect and confidence of his associates and the general public. If he gains the position for which he has been nominated he will do honor to it and to Utah.

The Populist convention, representing a small minority of the electors, but not by any means to be despised or ignored, named the Democratic candidate as its choice for Congressman, as he represented more closely some of the chief tenets of its party creed than the other nominee.

The campaign will soon commence in earnest, and the citizens of Utah will have full and fair and free opportunity, to make their choice of a man to represent this growing and important State in the National Legislature. In this they should consult the best interests of the whole people and exercise their own judgment, as wisdom shall guide and as God shall give them light.

## AN IMPORTANT CONGRESS.

The eleventh session of the Trans-Mississippi Congress will be held at Houston, Texas, April 17-21 of the present year. It will be an assembly of much importance to all the western States and Territories. It has always been so regarded by the prominent men of Utah. It should be attended this year by a full representation from this State.

We remind the civil authorities that the governor may appoint ten delegates; the mayor of each city, one delegate, and one additional delegate for each five thousand inhabitants, provided, however, that no city shall have more than ten delegates; each county may appoint one delegate through its executive officer; every business organization, one delegate, and an additional delegate for every fifty members; provided, however, that no such organization have more than ten delegates. Governors of States or Territories, members of the United States Congress and of this congress, are ex-officio delegates, "with all privileges of delegates except those of voting."

Hon. John Henry Smith is vice president of the Congress for Utah, and Hon. L. W. Shurtliff and John E. Carlisle are committeemen. They will doubtless be present, and it is hoped that other prominent and influential citizens of this State will also attend, so that Utah may have a good showing and be able to exercise an influence proportionate to her importance.

Houston is one of those growing western cities which promises to become a great distributing point. It has ample hotel accommodations, is very hospitable, is a center for fourteen railroads, has a good street-car service, and is adorned with fine magnolia trees, which will be in bloom in April. A trip from there to the seashore is one of the contemplated attractions of the Congress.

Reduced rates of transportation will no doubt be secured, and these will be announced in good time for preparation for the trip. Our leading men should have this Congress in mind, and as many as possible should attend. It is one of the most potent agencies for promoting the interests of the great West.

## BE NOT TOO TECHNICAL.

"Question—In the Doctrine and Covenants, section 20, 1, it says that it was 1830 years since the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. This revelation was given in April, 1830, in section 21, 3, it says the church was organized in the year of our Lord, 1830. Could it be in the year 1830, if it was then 1830 years since the coming of Jesus Christ? I notice in the 'News' that you apparently do not otherwise admit that we are not in the 20th century."

The foregoing has been received from a correspondent in the south, and is an illustration of the tendency to technical criticism, which is perceptible in many quarters and which leads to unprofitable discussions.

We regard the passages in the Doctrine and Covenants referred to in the question as relating merely to the current chronology, not as revealing the exact time of the birth of Jesus Christ, nor as settling anything as to the precise number of years that had passed, since that event, until the Church was organized "in the last days and for the last time."

It is generally conceded by students of the subject that there is an error in the established Christian chronology of about four years. The statements cited in the question submitted simply show the date when this Church was set up, by commandment of God and under the laws of the land, according to the recognized designations of time. As given in the foot notes, it was "A. D. 1830," and "on the fourth month and the sixth day of the month" of that year.

The first part of section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants is a statement of facts as to the setting up of the Church, and of the incidents leading up to it, also the testimony of the Elders of the Church as to the Divine mission of the Prophet Joseph and the inspiration of the Book of Mormon, as set forth in verse 16.

The purpose of section 20 and 21 of the Doctrine and Covenants can be seen by reading them through, and it is evident that this was not to present a chronological system, or to correct the present data. And the mention of the day and the month and year of the organization of the Church in both instances, is simply incidental and takes the popularly received designations, so that everybody would understand the time of the event thus mentioned. As stated in another revelation "Speaking unto you that you may naturally understand," Sec. 29, 33.

There have been endless disputes in the theological world over just such minor references in the Bible. But rational and judicious commentators do not regard them as establishing any scientific or philosophical theory, because the subject presented, in which they are mentioned, is so different and of so vastly greater import that they need not be critically considered. Such incidents are spoken of according to popular acceptance and not for the purpose of endorsing them as facts or teaching them as principles.

As to the precise date of the birth of our Savior into the world there is nothing definite in the revelations extant. Even the Book of Mormon, which is written in such great plainness, leaves the matter in doubt. It is not wise to predicate a chronological theory upon an incidental remark, made in conformity to popular data, nor is it prudent to lay too much stress on a word or a phrase in scripture or to magnify it above its simple intent.

## CELIBACY.

Mr. Martinelli is quoted in Harper's Bazar as arguing in favor of the celibacy of the clergy. He says the church has taken its stand on the words of the have made themselves unuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that can receive it, let him receive it," and enforced a single life on her ministers. There is no other Scripture quoted in support of the doctrine, but it is pointed out that the church from the earliest ages has taught celibacy as the highest ideal of human existence.

To an ordinary student of the Scriptures it seems difficult to find any logical connection between the inspired word quoted and the Roman doctrine of single holiness. As will be seen by the context our Savior disapproved of the marriage covenant, and in so doing He came in conflict with some popular notions apparently sanctioned by the Moslem law. He spoke against the divorce evil, and His disciples therefore remarked, that if the case be as set forth by the Teacher, "it is not good to marry." To this the Lord gave the reply quoted. As is clear by the original text, the Master would say that "all are not capable of practicing this principle; yet there are some who can, for there are some . . . who from a desire to further the interests of religion live in celibacy. Our Savior most probably alluded to the Essenes, who did not marry, in proof not of the statement of the disciples that "it is not good to marry," but as an illustration of His own teaching as to the sin of separation except for the cause stated.

The sacredness of the marriage covenant is clearly taught in the Scriptures. The doctrine inculcated in 1 Cor. 11: 11, is clearly this that the sexes are by Divine ordinance made so interdependent that neither is complete without indissoluble union. If this is true, how can celibacy be a peculiar mark of holiness? Is it not rather a violation of a divine law?

It is not a reply to this to say that the Apostle in a previous chapter of this letter advises some of the members of the church to remain single. For in the first place, a special rule laid down to meet the emergency of persecution, as is clear from 1 Cor. 7: 26, cannot be of general application. Not only were the Christians at that time entering upon a series of persecutions, but their religion, so much at variance with the customs of the world, involved them in peculiar difficulties inseparable with the struggle of the new order of things in the state and society. In such a situation marriage often added to the tribulation, and the Apostle, consequently, for the time being advised those who were unmarried to remain so. "It seems to me, I say, good," is the expression he uses. But that can have no general application, and above all, it has no bearing on the question of clerical celibacy.

But, furthermore, the opinion of the

Apostle Paul on that question is best understood when it is remembered that he foretold that in the latter days there should be an apostasy from faith, and that one of the marks of this apostasy is "forbidding to marry." Surely, if that is a departure from faith, (1 Tim. 4: 1-3) it cannot at the same time be a mark of more perfect faith.

But perhaps nowhere is the sacredness and holiness of the marriage union more clearly taught than in the figurative speech in which the final redemption of the people of God is set forth as "the marriage of the Lamb." When that great and glorious consummation of all things shall take place, the glorified Saints, in their multitude, will shout with joy again and again: "Amen, Alleluia!" For the Revelator says: "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." Rev. 19: 7.

No matter how that beautiful passage is understood, that poetic language could never have been used, were the marriage covenant considered by God inferior to a single existence. It is used to typify the highest perfection and exaltation, and must therefore itself be the perfect condition of this life, unless imperfection can typify perfection.

## THE PUERTO RICAN BILL.

The compromise on the Puerto Rican bill, which has passed the House and which has a fair chance in the Senate, does not seem to give satisfaction to either side.

The reduction of the duty on Puerto Rican products from 25 to 15 per cent was opposed at first on the ground that it was believed Congress could not lawfully levy any duty at all on the products of the island. But this objection was overcome by a clause making the bill "provisional," to be in force only two years.

The reason why this is regarded as unsatisfactory to both sides is that it leaves the great principle unsettled. Some time it will come up again, and perhaps at a time not more opportune than the present.

The sentiment is quite general that the acquired islands, and Puerto Rico particularly, should be treated as part of the United States. The view of the Chicago Times-Herald, stated a few days ago, is extensively endorsed. That journal said: "It is 'our plain duty' to Puerto Rico to recognize it as an integral part of the United States and take it under the protective wing of our institutions, giving it free trade with our States and Territories. This is the kind of free trade that does not conflict with any protection principle any more than free trade with Alaska, New Mexico and the District of Columbia does."

The great prosperity of this country is conditioned on the maintenance of unrestricted trade between its different parts. When patriotism went forth to the rescue of oppressed races at our threshold, it was with the understanding that Uncle Sam had room enough for the outcasts maltreated at his very doors. But if that is not true: if they are to be given shelter only to be treated as miserable objects of charity instead of as members of the family, there will be much disappointment. Why should there be any stepchildren under the folds of that flag which tells the world of equality as well as liberty?

## WHAT MAY COME.

The future possibility of that commercial wonder of our age—the department store—is hinted at in an incident said to have occurred recently in Dubuque, Iowa.

This enterprising city has a department store which used to advertise that it supplied everything needed for the happiness of man. A farmer, too busy presumably to pay attention to every little detail of life, saw in this advertisement what he needed and immediately wrote to the store for a wife.

The story goes on to say that the business manager promptly set to work to fill the order with the same punctuality with which he would have attended to an order for soap, or a barrel of flour. The girls in the store were given the first chance, but they all declined. Then the newspapers took up the matter, and since then several women are said to have written to the store for particulars, and the letters have, of course, been forwarded to the farmer.

Clearly this shows what the department stores may come to. Matrimonial bureaus are no new thing, but the idea of keeping prospective husbands, or wives, in stock, with other necessities of life would be new. And it is capable of evolution. When the principle is adopted, there is no reason why a bachelor, or widower, should not enter the store on one side, care-worn and lonesome, and leave it on another side a married man happy and expectant. The store should be able to attend to it all, like the mills in the fable that turned out a new generation of old material. When marriage is but a civil contract and a business affair, there is no reason why it cannot be attended to in a department store.

## CONCERNING THE JEWS.

We have clipped the subjoined from the American Israelite, as containing many pertinent reflections upon a people who have been despised and rejected by the nations, but whose destiny will be glorious, and whose existence and prominence in the world, notwithstanding their sufferings and afflictions, is a testimony to the truth of the prophetic writings in the Hebrew scriptures which should put skepticism to the blush. No candid reader of the Bible who understands anything of the history of that people, can fail to see in their present position and prospects the fulfillment of ancient prophecy, and a promise of a restoration to all the blessings enjoyed in ancient Palestine:

"The Jews have been, and are yet, a very important factor in the history of nations. No complete history of the world could be written that would leave out the Jews. The Bible would be terribly mutilated if all reference to the Jews should be eliminated. The present business enterprise of the world would be thrown into an un-

precedented panic if all the Jewish gold were suddenly withdrawn. And yet the Jews comprise only about one per cent of the population of the earth, and are scattered promiscuously among the nationalities of the world. The Jews have no country, no king, no home. They are outcasts from God, and a by-word and a hiss for men. But with all that, there are no people to be compared with the Jews. They are God's ancient people, His covenantal flock, His royal nation, His apostate theocracy, His east-of-rivers kingdom. He has promised to gather them, to so call them as they will run after Him, and He will bring them again into their own land. It appears as if the signs of the times indicate the near approach of such an event. The Zionists have nearly one hundred million dollars in bank now for the purchase of Palestine as a home for the wandering descendants of David and Israel. It is said some rich Jews have a mortgage on the entire city of Jerusalem, which can be foreclosed next year, and that they have determined to foreclose it. That looks like the beginning of the end. It may be that the divine purposes are ripening fast, and that the next few years will be crowded with stirring events that will declare that the Lord God reigneth."

English papers fear another era of agrarian murders in Ireland. It is well to nip in the bud the tendency now said to be exhibited.

The rumored raising of the British flag in Brazil probably is an exaggeration. Certainly Britain has no designs there, in face of the Monroe doctrine.

It is said that President Kruger and President Steyn are arranging a meeting to discuss proposals of peace. They are rather arranging a plan of defense.

The commissioner of internal revenue has issued an order that bad elder be properly labeled. It is a pity he cannot insist on its being put to a proper use.

Mexican troops seem to be improving conditions, so far as they are concerned, in the war with the Maya Indians. The latter have suffered another severe defeat.

The Clark investigation having closed so far as witnesses are concerned, the public will quite agree with the committee's action in limiting the speeches to six hours a side.

The location of one of the big dams for the Nicaragua canal has been found to be impracticable for the purpose designed. It is easier to change the place of the dam than transfer the ditch to the Panama route.

Great Britain now refuses to grant register to American toothpulpers. Ambassador Choate doubtless will be able to remove the stump that bars the Yankee's entrance to this branch of business in England.

Russia is to lease a port on the southern Persian coast on the same terms as at Port Arthur. That means that Russia will soon own Persia, and be the immediate western neighbor of Great Britain in Asia.

The celebration by Gen. White and his men of the relief of Ladysmith is impressive in its dignity and fervency. The brave garrison had been too hard pressed and were too grateful for the change to celebrate in other than a deeply solemn way.

A big machinists' strike is now on at Chicago, with a possibility that 500,000 men will become involved. The probability is that not one-tenth of that number will come out before a settlement is reached. Sympathetic strikes are not to be inaugurated in haste now-a-days.

Mr. John R. Strong, an English traveler who is familiar with the Boers, was asked when the end of the war would come, and answered laconically, "There are thousands more Cronjes to capture." That seems to be the general opinion of people acquainted with Boer character.

Two actresses will get fame and money out of one supposedly immoral play: Olga Netherlands because she played an objectionable role, and Isabella Evesson because she refused to play it. All roads lead to Rome, and some of them to notoriety, though apparently going in opposite directions.

The London Times is not satisfied with the papal secretary of state's disavowal of responsibility for pro-Boer sympathy recently expressed in the Catholic official organ at Rome. The position of the pope seems to be opposite to the war in South Africa, who ever is responsible, and that is not regarded as a pro-British attitude.

Representative C. E. Littlefield, though sometimes speaking for a small minority in Congress, generally is the interpreter of the best public sentiment. The New York Evening Sun, for instance, thus calls attention to his position on two public questions:

"Representative Charles E. Littlefield, of Maine, who is serving his first term in the House, is making an impression. His article in the 'News' on the 'Father of his Country' and the celebration of this national holiday, even in the far Philippines. Mr. White presents a new aspect of the South African situation. The article is illustrated by photographs, showing the operations of the British and Boer armies, scenes in Pretoria, the balloon corps and the war balloon of the besieged army at Ladysmith, and the British camp in the town. Among the other illustrated articles and poems are: 'The Funeral of General Langton, Famous War Correspondent and Special Writer.'—New York.

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Among the leading local writers, the Era for March presents an article on Prof. Willard Dows, Bishop Orson F. Whitney, President Joseph F. Smith, Dr. J. M. Tanner, Apostle A. O. Woodruff, Church Historian John Jacques, Story Writer Nephi Anderson, and several others. This announcement alone should secure readers for the Era in every home of the Church. It is a summing up of the best of the month, bristling with interesting, instructive and timely articles on education, history, current events, biography, doctrine, mutual improvement work, and good advice to young and old.

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