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

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 2, 1901.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

To the Officers and Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Dear Brethren and Sisters—Agreeable with the decision of the Council of Apostles at their regular meeting Thursday, Oct. 17, we hereby call a general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, the 19th of November, next, at 10 o'clock a.m. for the purpose of voting upon the Church authorities.

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

IMPORTANT TO SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Next week there will be organized by the Latter-day Saints University, under the authority of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board, a training class for Sabbath School teachers of the kindergarten grade. The class will meet every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock in room 206 of the Latter-day Saints' business college building, beginning November 9th.

This class is intended to prepare lady teachers for the important duty of instructing the youngest pupils in the Sabbath schools. In most of the schools, the kindergarten grade is always the most difficult to manage with success. And yet it is, perhaps, the most easily managed of all the grades, if the teachers know what to do with the little ones.

The underlying principles are, to keep the children busy with something they can do and like to do, and always to approach every exercise from the standpoint of the child himself. Comparatively few people have even the remotest idea of how to do this, but a course in kindergarten training makes the problem clear and the task easy. The transformation of noisy, disorderly, discontented kindergarten classes into quiet, industrious, and attentive enthusiasts, is a sort of miracle that is frequently witnessed in the Sabbath schools, as a result of securing teachers who understand and can apply the methods of the kindergarten.

The services of a competent teacher, Mrs. Donnette Smith Keeler, have been secured to supervise the work and to give part of the training. She will be assisted by one or more other competent kindergarten teachers. The course will probably extend from November to June. One lesson of two hours' duration will be given each Saturday afternoon. The subject will be treated from the religious standpoint of the Latter-day Saints, and will doubtless be of the utmost value as an aid to the work of the Sabbath schools.

We learn that a letter has been addressed to every Sunday School superintendent in the Salt Lake, Davis, Granite, and Jordan stakes, urging each of them to send two lady teachers, having natural aptitude for the work, to take this course. In view of the importance to Sunday school work of having teachers specially trained for this difficult grade, it is to be hoped that the request of the Union Board and the effort of the Latter-day Saints University, will meet with a prompt response from every superintendent, and will be favored by the ward and Stake authorities.

THE BRAIN AND THE MIND.

A few days ago reports were published in the newspapers of this country, as to expert examinations of the brain of a deceased criminal. Nothing was found of an abnormal character, but the size and quality and texture of the organ were found to be above the average. Such investigations in the interests of science are quite proper, for it is sometimes demonstrated thereby, that defects in the organization of the human structure are the direct cause of eccentricities and deviations from the strict lines of truth and morality. Autopsies also reveal facts and conditions which aid in the cause of medical and surgical progress, and thus become beneficial to humanity.

The advance made in the science and art of surgery during the century that has passed has been remarkable. It gives hope that the present century will develop still greater marvels, and that the result will be increase of longevity in the human race, and the lessening of human suffering, with the rectification of many bodily defects.

But after all, it is in vain that we search through the body to find out the mysteries of the mind. If the physical structure were all that there is of a man, persistent investigations might lead to the discovery of mental powers and possibilities. But, in the language of scripture, "There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." While it is true that the organs of the body have much to do with the tendencies and activities of the mind, after all, they are but the mediums through which the intelligent spirit receives outward impressions and acts upon things that are physical.

It is only by the recognition of the fact of this dual constitution of the human being that man can comply with the demand, "Know Thyself." That

the mortal body is not all there is of an individual, appears to us almost self-evident. The spiritual nature is so different from and superior to the carnal nature, that the distinction seems clearly apparent from self-investigation. The teachings of religion make this certain to all believers. There is no form of religion at all worthy of the name, that does not affirm the existence of an intelligent ego that will survive when the body has returned to the ground. This is the doctrine of the Latter-day Saints.

This great truth is particularly emphasized in "Mormonism." By direct revelation we learn that the spirit of man is the offspring of God. That it did not come from the earth, nor from the elements that compose this globe or its atmosphere. The spirit, though intimately associated with the body so that each has a direct and positive influence upon the other, is not of the earth, earthy, but is from a higher and different sphere. "The body without the spirit is dead," but the spirit can live without the body. It existed before the body was formed as its dwelling place. It quickens the tabernacle in which it dwells. It is a son or daughter of the great Eternal God.

It is therefore endowed with divine qualities and potentialities. These, which are in embryo, are capable of development through successive experiences and ages, into divine perfections. The body is confined in its operations within defined limits, and the spirit dwelling in it is to a large extent "cribbed, cabined and confined" therein, but yet it reaches out beyond the stars, and nothing that is temporal, or mortal, or earthly can give it complete satisfaction and contentment. Its destiny is eternal. Its future will have no end. Its progress is without limit, either as to duration or increase in light, power, dominion and glory.

To dissect a human body, then, in order to discover the tendencies or qualities or peculiarities of the mind, which is a property of the spirit, is to a large extent but labor in vain. Yet we do not wish to be understood as raising any objection to post mortem examinations. They are frequently necessary to determine the immediate occasion of death, and to advance the cause of science by which humanity may be benefited. We simply desire to direct attention to a subject which is of vast importance to every living soul, for it is just as essential to the happiness of mankind that we should know something concerning the higher and more important part of our being, as to become fully acquainted with that earthly part which perishes and goes back to earth.

DEAN FARRAR ON REFORM.

Rev. Farrar, dean of Canterbury, who is looked upon as one of the most intellectual churchmen in England, recently startled the religious world by stating in public that the Church of England must institute essential reforms, if it desires to retain the masses of the people within its folds. He said that ceremonies, rituals and theological subtleties must be abandoned, and a living spirit infused into the forms of the state religion. The working people, he declared, are drifting away from the church. "The prayer book no longer attracts the people. The poor of the cities complain that the services are tiresome and too long. The sermon and the gambling den are more valued than the sanctuary." If this state of things is to be changed, the church, in Dean Farrar's opinion, must rouse itself to action, and quickly. Ministers must look to their enthusiasm and their office as reformers.

The facts, as stated, cannot be successfully contradicted. They are common everywhere in Christendom, and perhaps more so in the Protestant than the Catholic world. But it may be doubted that reforms no matter how essential, will suffice. In the language of holy writ, no man can successfully mend an old garment with new patches.

The trouble is that people have had the very foundations of all religious faith shaken. They were driven from their belief in the authority of popes and councils, to take a stand on the infallibility of the Bible. And for a time, the change of position seemed to be rather beneficial, in so far as it stimulated individual thought and awakened individual responsibility. But today the most tremendous efforts are being made to show that the Bible too is mostly myth; that its inspired writers were mistaken, and that the human element in it is preponderating. What is left to rest faith upon, when God is argued out of human history, and divine inspiration pronounced an illusion? With no God manifested, no revelation, no divine authority, no authentic record of revelations, how can there be a true religion? No wonder, if Christ fades out of view among the heroes of the past, that Mammon is enthroned in His stead. The god of Mammon remains a terrible reality. Higher criticism has not endeavored to reduce him to a myth.

It does not better the condition to say that modern criticism aims at uplifting mankind, from the contemplation of the teachings of prophets and apostles to the admiration of the ideal Christ. For the Master Himself has condemned that proceeding by the emphatic declaration that he who despises His messengers despises Him. There is no escape from this. There is but one remedy for the conditions about which Dean Farrar complains. This is for the world to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ as again given to it through the instruments which He selected to be His messengers in this age and generation. It should be self-evident that no one can, from a mere human level, raise the world from its fallen condition, no matter how much enthusiasm is put into the effort, or how much money is spent on it. It is God's work to be done in His way, and in accordance with His instructions. But this presupposes divine revelations, a divinely organized Church. That, and not reform, is what the condition of the religious world calls for.

LOMBROSO ON DEGENERACY.

Lombroso, the noted Italian criminologist, has now made a statement which is considered startling. He recently examined plaster casts of the heads of famous men, in the presence of a number of surgeons and scientists, and the result, according to his theories, was that there are few monarchs or other prominent individuals, in literature or politics, that do not show signs of degeneration in one respect or another.

His language on the occasion was not selected with particular regard for euphony or courtesy, if he is correctly reported. The "Car," he pronounced "an innocent, melancholy idiot." King Edward's head, he said, indicated "general degeneration, incapacity to comprehend abstract concepts and a mediocre mind." He was particularly hard on Emperor William and the Sultan of Turkey, whom he characterized as "irresponsible, because irretrievable criminals." Chamberlain, Cecil Rhodes and Rudyard Kipling were declared mentally unsound.

Lombroso has studied what is called criminology for a number of years, and he believes that the tendencies to crime and mental weakness are indicated by the development of the brain. If there is any scientific basis for this contention, the normal state of mankind must, by his own showing, be one of degeneration. For kings, potentates, politicians, and poets are neither better nor worse than other mortals. Were he to continue his examinations upon the heads of people in all walks of life, he would undoubtedly arrive at a similar result. He would find possible criminals and idiots everywhere.

This, it may be observed, is only another way of stating a truth that has been proclaimed to the world, from the beginning, by those who have had a most intimate knowledge of human nature. The burden of their preaching has always been that "there is none righteous, no, not one," and that every human being must be "born again" before he can see and enter into "the kingdom of heaven." Lombroso's criminology seems but to conform the teaching of holy writ, whether the fact itself is apparent from the cranial structure or not.

There is another fact which should be remembered in this connection, and that is that very often people with irregular heads and features are useful. God-fearing members of society, while others with apparently well-developed brains and prepossessing appearance become thieves and murderers. Clearly, whatever cranial bumps may indicate, no man and no woman is under the domination of evil, except as far as they voluntarily enlist in its service. All can be saved, by the means given to mankind by the Father of all. The Gospel meets every human condition, every human need. The plan of salvation is as extensive, as complete, as the results of the fall. No one need to perish, except he voluntarily rejects the salvation offered.

Turkey has barred French friars, but can she bar French fleets?

"Don't bet on elections," says the Commoner. A splendid example of hindsight.

One of the fattest contracts in the world will be that of supplying the books for the Carnegie libraries.

President Roosevelt will go from Washington to Oyster Bay, L. I., to cast his vote. This is another proof that in politics the President is no oyster.

General Miles is strongly opposed to the canteen system, while a majority of army officers favor it. If a house divided against itself cannot stand can an army?

General Alger owns a pulp mill and it begins to look as though he would eventually be compelled to feed his book to it if it is not to remain dead stock.

The sultan is preparing to meet the French naval demonstration. If he doesn't satisfy France's claims very soon there is no question but that he will meet it.

Uncle Sam owes over thirteen hundred million dollars. It should have a very sobering and steady influence upon him. It would be wise to pay off this debt before launching into vast naval and other schemes.

The only limit to the expansion of the country's business is a shortage of transportation facilities. It is an unsatisfactory condition but infinitely better than a shortage of business and an over supply of transportation facilities.

On Tuesday next the city election will be held. The Deseret News advises all registered citizens to go to the polls and vote for the candidates who in their judgment will best serve the public interest. If there is anything partisan in this advice we fail to see it, for nothing of the kind is intended. If we have a bad administration of city affairs the fault will fall upon the voters who put the wrong men in public office.

"If Missionary Stone had been young and pretty the ransom would have been forwarded long ago," says the Chicago Record-Herald. If that were true it would be the severest arraignment of American chivalry and sense of right ever made. Had it been said by a foreign journal every paper in the country would have resented it. Why should it not be resented by every paper in the country even when made by a journal published in America?

Philadelphia is not such a slow town after all. Josiah Flint of "Tramping with Tramps" fame, and who has constituted himself a thorn in the side of the New York police, has been taking a census of the under world of the City of Brotherly Love and he finds 80 so-called respectable gambling houses, 1,000 police shops, 500 disorderly houses, 5,000 gambling slot machines and 1,000 speakeasies—all under the protection of the blackmailing police.

If this be so, his majesty is the most important convert yet made to the theory. Were such a union formed the continental nations would have more to fear from Germany herself than from America. That country is already the keen competitor of the United States and England in the markets of the world and could a commercial close corporation be made by Europe it would not be very long before Germany would be the chief stockholder, and being that would dictate its policy to the other stockholders. A European customs union would be water on Germany's industrial wheel.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Baltimore Sun.

Religion, as a matter of fact, has always been, and always will be, the most potent influence in man's life. It is universal, indestructible. From the pillars of Hercules to the pagodas of China, from the north to the south, the earth is everywhere filled with her works. Some special preachers, who have some new-fangled theory to foist upon the world, may assert the contrary, but as often as the heart of the people is touched the nations fly to God for refuge.

Universalist Leader.

Today multitudes of people are inquiring for that which is true regarding the character and government of God, their relations to Him, and His purpose concerning them. It is not enough to tell them that in many things Augustine and Calvin and Arminius and many later teachers were in error, that their hard doctrines were not true. They need the truth as it is in the Gospel of Christ, and to have that truth plainly unfolded to their minds. And they do not care for, they do not need, agnosticism in any form. There is no sound reason why they should. The Gospel is positive, comprehensive, unequivocal and unambiguous, on the great questions of life, duty and destiny. And it is this positive Gospel that the hearts of the people yearn for. Give it to them.

The Watchman.

It is sometimes said that what we need today is an ethical, as distinguished from an emotional, or sentimental, or doctrinal revival of religion. We confess that we do not know exactly what the distinction means or involves, but we are clear that we need beyond a shadow of question, in all our churches, a revival that will impress upon every member's heart the vast significance of the Christian doctrine of the wholeness of life. The adjustment of Christians to it would take Christianity from the church and the sick bed into the shop, the market, the office, the court room, the golf field and the out ground, and the home. We are all the time talking about the power of Christian example to win men to Christ. When we make spirituality dynamic in every phase of human occupation and interest, we shall see many illustrations of that truth.

Henry Ward Beecher.

Every single day should be to you a day of royal discontent. You never thought as well as you ought to think. You never meant as highly as you ought to mean. You never planned as nobly as you ought to plan. You never executed as well as you ought to execute. Over the production of the scholar, over the canvas of the artist, over the task of the landscape gardener, over the primer's knife, there ought to cover perpetually his blessed ideal, telling him, "Your work is poor—it should be better," so that every day he should lift himself higher and higher, with an everlasting pursuit of hope which shall only end in perfection when he reaches the land beyond.

Hartley DeKart in Bigliotheca Sacra.

There is probably nothing so characteristic of the theological trend of the times as the rejection of authority in religion, including that of the Holy Scriptures. We do not mean merely the rejection of the inerrancy of scripture or any particular theory of inspiration, but the denial of the trustworthiness and authority of the Bible. This drift of current speculative thought toward the rejection of authority as a ground of belief is fruitful in practical results. There is a widespread restiveness under definite statements of doctrine and duty, and a strong desire for greater latitude in the rejection of old beliefs and rules of conduct. There is an undue exaltation of the human element in the Scriptures, and a corresponding ignoring of the divine, till the latter is largely left out of sight. Nay more, in some cases it has come to this, that prominent teachers within the Christian churches hold that whether the scripture records, including what the Gospels tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ, are facts or fictions is a matter of minor importance, that need not affect Christian faith or piety. This is as much as to say that those who reject the historic Jesus Christ of the Gospels may still claim to be His disciples. The most colorful content nothing in the Bible inspired except what "found him." Some modern teachers appear to hold that nothing is to be held as authority for them but what they choose to endorse. They regard the Scriptures merely as the thoughts and lessons which good men of former times address to the people of their day.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The November number of the Improvement Era opens the fifth volume of that excellent publication. It has for frontispiece a splendid portrait of the late President Lorenzo Snow. It then gives the first part of the "History of the Prophet Joseph," as dictated by Lucy Smith, the mother of the Prophet. It has an introduction by President Joseph F. Smith, giving some valuable data about this interesting document. It is published, it seems, for the first time, and without doubt, it will be read with deep interest by the Saints, to whom the memory of the martyred Prophet is ever dear. Then there are "Preliminary Program Selections" from standard authors. Nephi Anderson contributes in this number a story, "The Castle Builder," and this is followed by the first installment of Elder B. H. Roberts' lecture, "Characteristics of Deity, From a 'Mormon' Viewpoint." There is a character sketch of Zina D. H. Young, by Emmeline H. Wells, and a portrait of Governor Wells, with a brief biographical sketch. "Some Leading Events" are interestingly told by Dr. J. M. Tanner, and then there is "Editor's Table," "Notes," "Our Work," and "Events of the Month." The number is one of great excellence and cannot be of true service to the Saints, and to the reading public, without the attention of the Latter-day Saints—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

The November number of The World's Work opens the third volume of this popular magazine. It gives much space to "The March of Events," discussing current topics briefly but vividly. There are a number of full page portraits. The story of American trade expansion is told by M. G. Cunniff. A plea for health is found in Dr. Pick's article on the "Fight Against Tuberculosis," and Arthur Goodrich's "The Description of Zim-mu" gives an idea of the conditions good municipal government must overcome. International understanding and peace are furthered by such articles as those on "The Ethics of the British Empire," by Sydney Brooks, and on the relations of "Japan and the United States," by Midori Komatz. The record of true bravery is in Prof. Ira standard's "The Description of Zim-mu," and phases of our internal expansion and development are touched in the handsomely illustrated description of

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