

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, SEPT. 4, 1905.

ANOTHER VISITATION.

War, pestilence, and famine nearly always go together. This rule is not broken as regards the Russian empire. For a year and a half its young men have been slaughtered on battlefields in foreign lands, and blood has flowed at home, in revolutionary outbreaks. Now famine is said to threaten many provinces where agriculture necessarily has been more or less neglected. And to other horrors cholera is now added. And this visitation is not confined to Russia. Germany and Austria are also said to be threatened. Strenuous efforts are being made both in Russia and Prussia to master the situation. But the difficulties to be overcome in the Cauc's domain are serious. It is admitted that in many Russian villages the vitality of the people has been very much impaired through poverty and privations, and that their power of resisting attacks of disease, consequently, has been very much reduced. The thousands of soldiers involved and scattered all over the country are recognized as a menace, because they are liable to fall the victims of pestilence. The trials and tribulations of the Russians are many. The news that peace had been concluded ought to send a thrill of joy through the empire, from one end to the other, and particularly among the governing classes on whom rests the responsibility of restoring tranquility, and repair, as far as possible, the damage done. But the ruling classes do not rejoice. They are disappointed. They hoped for a continuation of the war. They have De Witt for gaining a most remarkable diplomatic victory. They seem to prefer war, famine and pestilence to the success of anyone connected with the people.

SCANDINAVIAN CONFERENCE.

The commissioners appointed by the two Scandinavian kingdoms to confer regarding the dissolution of the union, are now at work. Their sessions are secret, and the deliberations are more jealously guarded than those of Portsmouth. Beyond the announcement, said to be made on high authority, that it, undoubtedly, will take a long time to reach an agreement, nothing is known as to the progress of the negotiations. It is surmised that the commissioners have from the outset met some serious difficulties; but this does not of necessity follow from the statement made. It makes it clear, rather, that the representatives of the two governments need weeks, or months, to thoroughly go over the situation, and view it from all sides. It may also be that they hope that time will smooth down the ruffled surface of public sentiment, and make the acceptance of the inevitable less painful. We believe the people on both sides of the peninsula have already commenced to view the situation with more calmness than was manifested at first. This is a guarantee of a peaceful solution of the pending dispute. The chief contention of Sweden is that the union cannot be dissolved by the action of one country alone; that both countries have rights under the existing treaties, which one country cannot violate without forfeiting the respect of the civilized world. The leaders of the Norwegian nationalists appear to be willing to concede this, and there can, therefore, be no danger of a violent rupture.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

The September number of McClure's magazine contains a notable article by Arthur E. McFarlane on prolonging the prime of life. It is an account of the wonderful discoveries of Professor Metchnikoff, regarding the functions of the white corpuscles of the blood to protect the organism against the attacks of injurious microbes, as well as repair any damage sustained by the system. This scientist believes that it should be possible to utilize the knowledge now obtained concerning the struggle between microbes and phagocytes—as these corpuscles are called—for the purpose of prolonging youth and life. The work assigned to the phagocytes, in the preservation of the human organism, is most wonderful. They build up the tissue where it has been lacerated; they attack and destroy the invading microbes of disease. But one kind of these cells, the macrophages, under the influence of certain poisons attack the cells of the body itself, and gradually break them down—the atrophy of the "age disease." Professor Metchnikoff deems it possible to stimulate the phagocytes to beneficent activity in guarding the body, and to eliminate the irritant poisons which

render them malignant. The various serums and anti-toxins, such as those for hydrophobia and diphtheria, are regarded as "reinforcing agents," which increase the number of phagocytes, and stir them to their proper work. On the other hand, among the "irritant poisons" just referred to, is one deposited by the yeast germ in wine and liquors, the cause of alcoholism; others are poisonous microbes in the digestive tract—notably the microbes which bring about putrefaction. The foe of this particular bacillus Professor Metchnikoff believes he has found in the germ of the ferment which is used to curdle milk in Buissonia. Hence what is sometimes called the "sour-milk toxin," which is intended to arrest the ravages of age.

It is always interesting to follow the researches that lead toward the source of truth concerning any subject, and especially in regard to health and life. Wonderful discoveries have already been made, and still greater are suggested by the facts that have come within view. Professor Metchnikoff believes that it should be possible to prolong life until 140 years can be considered the normal time of man on earth. His researches are therefore followed with intense interest.

Metchnikoff is a Russian by birth, about 60 years of age. He has devoted his life to the study of biology. In 1882 he became famous. He had commenced microscopic observations of young starfish, and tiny species of fresh-water crabs. He soon found that the function of the leucocytes, or phagocytes, was to repair tissue. He saw those of the starfish grub repairing and protecting wounds made by his own hands in its outer and inner skin. He watched the phagocytes of the crabs struggle, sometimes successfully, sometimes unsuccessfully, against infection from germs. It was this great discovery that entitled him to a place among the great scientists of the age.

THE TEN TRIBES.

An eastern contemporary quotes a Hebrew scholar on the history of the so-called Ten Tribes, and draws the inference that these tribes are not lost in any other sense than that they amalgamated with the Assyrians in the valley of the Tigris, as well as with their descendants of Palestine, where their descendants, the children of the mixed marriages, may still be found. But this is only a part of the history of the Ten Tribes, and one that has never been in doubt. First, Tiglath-Pileser, the king of Assyria, carried away into Media a large part of the two and a half tribes that dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and made the remainder tributary. This was in the year 738 B. C. Ten years later, when Hoshea neglected to pay the tribute, Sennacherib swept down upon the northern kingdom. After a long, heroic resistance, the conquest was completed by Sargon, the successor of Hoshea. The people, especially those of Judah, were carried into captivity, to Media, and the upper provinces of Assyria.

By these conquests the Ten Tribes were partly amalgamated with the conquerors, and with the colonists sent to settle in the depopulated country. But the fact remains that the continued existence of those tribes during the subsequent centuries is attested by the author of the Chronicles, and by Josephus. It is also a fact that customs, rites, and features clearly of Israelitish origin, are found in nearly all parts of the world. And that can not be accounted for by any other supposition than the one that has support both in tradition and history, that some of the Ten Tribes found their way from the land of captivity, to other countries.

The eastern contemporary which suggested these remarks, by its reference to the Ten Tribes, says that "the Book of Mormon is no more nor less than the story of the doings of the Ten Tribes on this continent." The writer evidently hopes to refute the Book of Mormon by proving that the Ten Tribes became lost among their captives. He, however, misunderstands the Book of Mormon. That sacred record is not, as he says, the history of the Ten Tribes on this continent. It is a history of a rather small branch of the house of Israel, the descendants of Lehi, of the tribe of Manasseh, and his followers. These left Jerusalem in the year 600 B. C., a century after the conquest of the kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians. The impression that the Book of Mormon contains the history of the Ten Tribes after the exile, or seeks to account for them after they are lost to history, is erroneous.

A GOOD REFORM.

According to a correspondence from Rome, the head of the Roman church has instituted a most important reform. It is said the pope has issued a letter recently addressed to the Bishops of Spain and South America, in which he forbids in the future the sale of any privilege, dispensation or faculty by the Bishops and clergy for a money consideration. The custom of selling such dispensations dates, we believe, from the time of the crusades, when it was found convenient to bestow some privileges upon those who aided in the organization of expeditions against the Mohammedans, or took part in those expeditions. Later several popes, it is said, sought to abolish the issuance of dispensations for a money consideration. But for various reasons they failed. Undoubtedly the custom has given rise to abuse, and the pope has done well in meeting the modern demand for reform in this direction. The correspondent goes on to explain that the prospect for the Vatican finances is bright just now because for the first time in thirty-five years the Italian clergy have decided to send an annual contribution to the pope. Of all the Catholic countries of Europe, Italy has been the one that has probably contributed the least to the Peter's Pence fund since the occupation of Rome by the government. This is accounted for by the fact that the con-

tention of the pope for the rights of the temporal power, had caused a friction between the better elements of Italian society and the head of the church. Of late, however, the liberal trend of the policy of the present pope and the permission he has granted Italian Catholics to take part in political elections of their country have tended to make the Italians more favorably disposed towards the church authorities. And this is illustrated, once more, we think, how necessary harmony and good will are to reform and progress.

QUEER POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

The condition of the voting lists in Philadelphia is a sorry spectacle indeed. It is claimed that no less than 60,000 names were found that should have been stricken out long ago. There were names of dead persons, names of persons who had moved away, and names of men who had never existed. One would deem it impossible to perpetrate such colossal election frauds in a country with so perfect government machinery as ours. What chance had the citizens of Philadelphia against the public enemies who commanded an army of over 60,000 fraudulent voters?

The case of Philadelphia shows clearly the duty of every good citizen everywhere, to watch over the management of public affairs, and not trust the professional politicians who enter politics merely for their own personal benefit. Unless the citizens themselves look after the public interest in every detail, they are in danger of being imposed upon by unscrupulous and ambitious aspirants for power and emoluments, just as has been the case in Philadelphia. Eternal vigilance is, as all know, the price of liberty.

Until the recent cleaning out of corruption in Philadelphia's municipal affairs, the citizens of that large city had absolutely no voice in the management of their community. They were governed by a political machine, through an army of voters that had no more reality than the flying Dutchman. The fact proves what can be done, even in a country with popular government, unless each citizen jealously guards his rights and performs his duties.

This is the day when people officially learn to wait instead of to labor.

By signing the treaty of Portsmouth the peace envoys will make their mark.

Naval officers think that Secretary Bonaparte is developing Napoleonic ways.

The promised land of Utah, according to all reports, was broken to the hope.

If the yellow fever is under control, why is it that it is continually breaking out?

The London Saturday Review calls him the Pope of Oyster Bay. Long live the pope!

Undoubtedly Russia will be willing to exchange her diplomatic victory for one military victory.

It is not to be wondered at that Japan and Russia could not be united over a divided island.

Britt and Nelson both like their quarters very much. They hope soon to change them for dollars.

The "mental break down" of a pugilist merely means that there has been a break in the stream of talk.

While first in peace, Komura has very grave doubts about being first in the hearts of his countrymen.

In the shoot at Seabright, the boys of the Buckeye state made more bullets than those of any other state.

Carrie Nation calls Governor Peik a lobster. This was to be expected from one naturally so crabbed as Carrie.

Maudie Gene has finally secured a divorce. And her ex-husband dolefully sings, "Thou art Gene from my gaze."

Al Adams, New York's policy king, is having plans drawn for a forty-story hotel. It should make a splendid rendezvous for the forty thieves.

A portion of the Russian press continues to call it "an inglorious peace." What do they expect as the result of an inglorious war?

France has sent an ultimatum to the Sultan of Morocco. If he doesn't accede to the terms, she will be sending a fleet. And that will mean business.

Mme. Hunt, head of National Milliners' Association, says men milliners become effeminate. Provided they are not already effeminate before they become milliners.

The Porte has replied to the note of the six embassies desiring to accept the scheme proposed by them for the financial control of Macedonia. When it comes to scheming, the Porte is "no slouch."

What a lot of New York society women must be going on the stage, to judge by the great number of jewelry robberies that have occurred lately. But perhaps it is only the amateur stage, after all.

SATAN'S KINGDOM.

The Dundee (Scotland) Advertiser. The unfortunate disaster by which a life has been lost on the Welsh mountain known as the Devil's Kitchen has drawn attention to the curious and seemingly universal practice of pastimes in making regular natural formations after his satanic majesty. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that hardly a country in the British Isles is without some place or thing with the designation devil. All of which prompts the thought that his satanic majesty must be a holder of a considerable amount of property on this terrestrial globe. The Devil's Punch Bowl, the Devil's Ballows, the Devil's Reef, the Devil's Frying Pan, the Devil's Lake, the Devil's Dyke, the

MUST "KEEP" THEIR HUSBANDS.

Judge. According to the revised code of the Methodist Episcopal church, the bride must promise to "love, honor and keep" her husband. The enabling clause in the nuptial formula has been the subject of endless tinkering of late, but we feel that it ought to stay now for a long period where the Methodists have put it. Strongly enough the men were less satisfied than the women with the old word "obey." As many sweet girls seemed rather to want to pledge obedience, but men in his wisdom, born of practical experience, knew how sweetly those same girls proceeded straightway to obey him, and so quietly worked for the repeal of the statute. The new formula is a revolutionary and happy reversal of ancient duty and privilege. The sweet girl now must agree to "keep" the man of her choice.

FREE 9,000 YEARS OLD.

Philadelphia Ledger. The discovery of being the oldest living thing undoubtedly belongs to one of the giant trees, and many attempts to locate it and determine its age have been made. A century ago De Candoille found two yews—one at Fontenay, in Perthshire, and one at Hedder, in Bucks—that were estimated to be respectively 2,500 and 5,400 years old. Both are still flourishing and the older tree has a trunk 27 feet in circumference. A gigantic "beetle" of Central America, with a trunk twenty-nine feet through, was thought by Humboldt to be not less than 5,150 years old. Mexican botanists believe they have now discovered a life-span even greater than this, and at the annual rings, a cypress of Chapultepec, whose trunk made for its circumference, is assigned an age of about 6,200 years.

ALL IN THE FAMILY.

New York Tribune. As a family record the following would be hard to beat: In the town of Thorne, England, a man 87 years old still follows his duties as superintendent of some flagstone quarries. Among the workmen he has seven sons, six grandsons, twenty-nine great-grandchildren and four husbands of his granddaughters and two great-grandsons. Forty-nine members of one family, all connected with the same trade, employed in the same works and living in the same district is something decidedly out of the common.

THE WEALTHY BUSINESS MAN.

Wall Street Journal. When the day comes on which the wealthy business man can be elected to the senate by a free commonwealth without opposition on the ground of his wealth, we shall have advanced considerably in the art of self-government. For it will mean that wealth will have ceased to be a corrupting power in politics. Until then men like Peck will expect to remain under considerable suspicion, when they seek an elective office. There is no help for it at present.

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"Where did you get this tea?"

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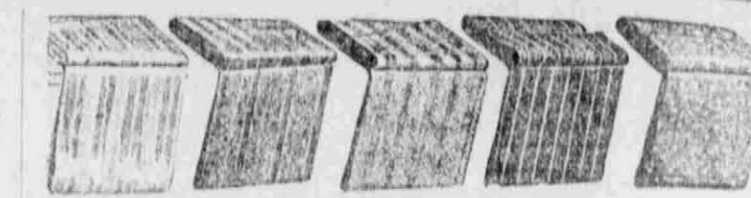
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