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Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 14, 1900.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY (?)

The morning papers publish special dispatches with heavy headlines and dated Dec. 13, announcing a wonderful discovery said to have been made near Dongola, Illinois. The Herald account is entitled: "Illinois Farmer Says He Found the Manuscript of Moroni." The Tribune heading is: "The Book of Mormon. Original Manuscript Claimed to Have been Discovered in a Stone Case Near Dongola, Ill." The Herald "special" says:

"Carbondale, Ills., Dec. 13 .- Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm near Don-gola, recently grubbed an oak stump out of a field near his residence and found a stone about a foot long and eight inches in diameter. The peculiar shape of the stone, which resembled a shape of the stone, state attention, and pocketbook, attracted his attention, and class evanination he found carved on its face in the English language the following words:
"This stone contains the original manuscript of Maroni (Mormon.)
"JOSEPH SMITH."

"The ravages of time had apparently made little headway on the stone. A hole had been drilled entirely through stone and at the bottom end red cedar plugs had been driven in. Upon removing the plugs several sheets of parchinent containing writing in hieroglyphics, which could not be deciphered,

The Tribune "special" is similar, but states that the words in English on the face of the stone were:

"This stone contains the original

manuscript of the Book of Mormon. Now as to the facts. The "specials" to our contemporaries dated Dec. 13, were manufactured from a Dongola paper about two weeks old, the following from which was sent to us on December 3rd, ten days before the 'specials" were dispatched:

"A farmer living near here by the name of Penrod, while digging in his garden a few days ago unearthed a garden a few days ago unearthed a relie which is perhaps a great curlosity of some value. It was an oblong-shaped stone, about three inches in length, covered with undecipherable hieroglyphics. Upon investigation, Mr. Penrod found the stone to be hollow, the opening having been cemented over. Boring into the hollow he found a small roll of manuscript, several a small roll of manuscript, several pages of which were covered with characters similar to those on the outside of the stone. On one sheet, written in English and signed by Joseph Smith, the 'Mormon' Prophet and founder of the Church, is the information that the stone contained the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon, and was buried there in 1842 to keep it from falling into the hands of the enemies of the Church, who were in pursuit of him. We have not seen the stone nor manuscript, consequently are unable to give much account of it."

That elipping was mailed to us by Elders William C. Wilson and William L. Waite, who are missionaries in Southern Illinois. They had visited Mr. Penrod, who resides about seven miles west of their meeting house at Vienna, Union county. They say they found him to be "an honest looking farmer about 38 years of age." He showed them the stone, which he found while digging potatoes close to an oak stump. His hoe struck the stone and he dug it up. Noticing its peculiar shape, he examined it closely and saw the inscription on it, which was : "This Stone contains the Book of Mormon, 1842."

The Elders thus describe the stone as they saw it:

"It was of an oblong shape about 3½ inches long 3½ inches beveled off to an edge each way, and looked as if the ends were cut off square, with a hole half an inch in diameter in one end and three-eighths of an Inch at the other. It is of a red a piece of petrified wood."

Mr. Penrod said that inside the stone them and which they say was "of a light yellow color, and when opened was inches long." It contained seven linea

"Being driven from place to place by "Being driven from place to place by the enemies of our faith, I place this original manuscript in this cabinet of stone, knowing full well it will be found in time to come. Hoping the finder will place the same in the hands of the Church, I place this tablet be-neath this oak in the year 1842. I am your obedient

I am your obedien "JOSEPH SMITH."

The discovery caused some excitement in the neighborhood, and efforts were made by some religious people to gain possession of the stone and its contents or induce the finder to destroy it. They might as well have saved themselves that trouble. In all probability it is a foolish hoax, but why any one should take such pales to perpetrate it does not yet appear.

It is not known that the Prophet Joseph Smith ever visited that part of Illinois, and his history, taken from his diary, gives a full account of his movements during 1841. The notion that a stone of that size contained the manuscript of the Book of Mormon, is

nanuscript from which it was printed vas placed in the corner stone of the Vauyoo House when its foundation vas laid; the original characters were inscribed on metallic plates, fastened together in the shape of a book with rings; and there is nothing about the stone and its contents that indicates anything to establish the contrivance as in any way connected with Joseph

It is possible, however, that some one who had seen the few lines of hieroglyphics, copled from the original plates and taken by Martin Harris to Professor Anthon, might have made a copy of them and placed it in that stone, to create wonder and excitement among the country folks. We did not think it of sufficient importance to mention it when we received the etter from ou. Elders, or it would have appeared in the "News" ten days ago. But seeing that our morning contemporaries have made such a "special" sensation out of it, we give the facts as sent to us by our correspondents, and as published a couple of weeks ago in a country newspaper in Illi-

STILL EXPOSING ITSELF.

The Salt Lake Tribune is still exposing its own turpitude and denseness of mind, in vain endeavors to show that the Deseret News has been "hostile to vaccination," when it has simply opposed "compulsory vaccination." Returning to the charge, it makes the annexed quotation from the "News" of

"The great objection of the anti-vaccinators is to forcing people to submit to the repulsive practice of putting disit wrong in theory. They are sure that it is not efficacious in practice. To the dogmatism of the faculty, they offer the evidence of the acknowledged errors of the past. The filthy inoculation system has gone, with other heresies of medicine such as bleeding for almost every omplaint, calomel for all forms of disease, the denial of water to a fever palent, and other frightful blunders which were once like fundamental principles in materia medica."

It will be observed by the careful reader, that this extract states the posttion of a society organized here to fight compulsory vaccination. Such societies have the support of many of the foremost scientists in the professional world. Yet the Tribune sets forth this statement as the position of the Deseret News. But on the same day as the foregoing remarks appeared, we also said editorially:

"The Descret News stands for the the people in this matter. While It does not admit that the opinions of medical men are conclusive on question which is in dispute in the medical world, it has done nothing to prevent such persons as believe in the virtues of vaccination from adopting "News" Jan. 12, 1900,

Of course the Tribune did not quote these remarks. They would have disposed of the charge which it valuly seeks to fasten on the "News." We understand fully its purpose in these we were always careful when publish ing the views of persons opposed to vaccination, to give them not as ours but as those of the writers, and to announce repeatedly that this paper was not fighting vaccination per se, but contending for the rights of the public as agains tthe force-work of irresponsible and arbitrary officials who were attempting to compel people to bow to their autocratic will,

Unlike our contemporary we were and have been willing to give both sides a hearing, in a controversy over a public matter affecting the welfare of many thousands of people. But

the views of each were given as their own. 'The "News" has not at any time endeavored to prevent voluntary vaccination or the publication of advice or arguments in its favor. The Tribune may keeep on gnawing a file but that does not appear to sharpen

its intellect or improve its utterances. NEW YORK'S SMALLPOX.

The present outbreak of smallpox in New York renders some statistics on that disease, for that city, of interest. Dr. Roger S. Tracy says that a "high point" in the number of cases seems to be reached every sixth year. In 1875 there were 3.397 cases. There was a yearly decrease until 1878, when there were only five cases. In 1879 it rose to 65. In 1880 there were 64 but in 1881, 1,338 cases. In 1882, the decline again became noticeable, there being only 702 cases. In 1883 a further decline to 26 took place, and in 1884, there were only five cases. In 1885 the number rose to 98; in 1886, to 109, and in 1887, to 343. Bewide and I inch thick. It was tween 1887 and 1893 there was a similar decline the first three years, but the number increased the next four years, and for 1894, 770 cases were recorded. In 1895 there was a decline to 41, and in 1896 to 5. In 1897 there were 73 cases, cast and looks like it might have been | but in 1808 only 16, while in 1899 there

Were 99. This, whatever the cause may be was a roll of paper, which he showed shows a remarkable regularity in the rise and fall of this disease, as far as New York is concerned. It should be about eight inches wide and nine possible by close observation to detect the time cause of this fluctuation and of hieroglyphics or "peculiar looking to find the remedy. One theory that characters," and the following in Eng. | has been advanced is that it is closely connected with atmospheric and climatio conditions, and the statistics kept should be useful in ascertaining the merits or demerits of this supposition.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The Senate, in executive session, has passed the amendment to the Hay-'auncufote trenty, favorably reported by the committee and proposed by the late Senator Davis. The amendment provides that none of the sections in the treaty, referring to the neutralization of the proposed Nicaragua canal shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the naintenance of public order.

The language here used is vague enough to meet the various objections raised against the treaty. The object of it is to reserve to this country the right to close the canal to any future enemy, but doubt has been expressed as to whether the reserving clause a manifest absurdity. The printed would have any legal effect, as long as

we have no possessions in the vicinity of either terminus of the canal. To make it effective, if this view is correct we would have to acquire territory on oth coasts. Senator Elkins seems to have had this in mind when he offered

this further amendment: "Nothing in this treaty shall be con-strued to prevent the United States acquiring sufficient security and sovereignty, or to prevent it from building, operating, maintaining, controlling and defending the said canal (referring to the proposed Nicaragua canal), or for any other purpose that the United States may deem for its

best interest. The Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850, between this country and Great Britain, prohibits either of the two powers from extending its dominion over any por tion of Central America, or from exercising "exclusive control" over any canal across the American isthmus. It stipulates that the two powers shall enter into a sort of partnership in the matter of protection of any such canal. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty lets the whole world into this partnership to some extent, by providing that "there shall be no discrimination against any nation or its citizens or subjects in respect of the conditions or charges of traffic, or otherwise,

There is an impression that the canal ought to be built without any previous agreement whatever, with Great Britaln or with any other nation, but in international relations, as in the internal politics of any country, everything is now-a-days done by compromises and if the question is of building an international highway of commerce, the rule cannot be ignored. The Czar of Russia, indeed, will build railroads and dig canals through his own territory, for strategic purposes, without conferring with anybody. But the Niaragua canal is not to be a military highway. It is not a short cut through the United States territory. It is to be constructed through a country which itself has treaties which other powers, the importance of which will be materlally affected by the proposed enterprise. Other powers have rights in the matter that cannot be honorably ig-

nored. Such considerations underly the denands for the neutralization of the The advantages of this are thought to be many. If the canal be neutral, this country would be relieved of the burden of defending it, and the people would be saved many millions which otherwise must be spent on ships and fortifications. It would lessen the chances of intervention in a future war, since neutral commerce would not be interfered with. It would prevent the construction of a competing canal, since there would be no discrimination

against any other nation. The number of amendments proposed in the Senate indicates the importance attached to the treaty. There should be no false step taken at this time. Unless everything is perfectly clear and above board now, future complications France have had much friction over the Suez canal. The Nicaragua canal attacks. But they will utterly fail, for | should not be made another so-called "problem," bringing to mankind, like the gifts of Prometheus in the myth, both the blessings of industry and the horrors of war.

> China may be expected to offset the indemnity bills of the powers by wash

> Prince Tuan is reported to be fleeing. dressed as a Buddhist monk. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth."

> Mark Twaln is making his mark as a political thinker and speaker. And his mark is a blaze on the path of

> Andrew Carnegie has just given the city of Chattanooga \$50,000 for a library. It isn't a very bad man who goes about the country giving away libraries.

> In Canton, China, it only costs twenty-five cents a piece to behead people. China will find that it costs infinitely more than that to execute foreigners.

> This continual holding up of railroad trains is stealing from the country its good name and robbing the railroads and passengers of their trash, or

Judge Gibbons has been giving the Chicago police a terrible arraignment. A Chicago policeman cares ro more for an arraignment than a duck cares

That Carbondale, Ill., man who claims to have found the manuscript of the Book of Maroni is a Sucker, but he must not try and play the people of Utah for suckers.

A petition has been filed in behalf of the State of Indiana asking that a receiver for the Order of Chosen Friends be appointed. Another case showing that "most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly.'

The "News" published, some time ago, an article on the collection of old Bibles in the national museum, giving some particulars of biblical curlosities. We have since received inquiries from people having peculiar editions of the Bible as to where they can apply to dispose of the books. We can only give them the advice to write to the Librarian, National Library, Washington, D. C., who will doubtless impart all necessary information, freely.

The granite canopy that covers Plymouth Rock has been badly damaged by vandals or relic hunters, the terms being synonymous. There is no other civilized country in the world where such work goes on to the same extent as in America. What is the reason? Is it a wanton desire to destroy or a positive lack of appreciation of things historic and artistic? No matter what the reason, the regrettable fact exists. And this vandalism is a positive discouragement of public enterprise by private persons, and justly so.

At present the country seems to be suffering from an epidemic of train robberles. It is really surprising how frequent these are and how extremely rare the cases when the robbers are apprehended and brought to trial. It requires a bold and cool headed man to successfully hold up a train, but possessing the qualities of boldness and cool headedness the task to the robbers seems quite as "easy as falling off

crimes that it would seem that there should be some remedy for it. In Spain a few years ago (it may be the case now) every train carried an armed guard, detailed from the army. Once more shall America be under the necessity of following Spain's lead.

English press comments on the Davis imendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty are by no means gracious. Some are hostile and bitter, but others more conservative. Speaking of obligations under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty the Post says that when a nation refuses to carry out its treaty obligations the only thing left is compulsion, but that compulsion in the present case is out of the question. That is sensible talk. It seems evident that the Senate does not intend to be hampered by the terms of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and that it will be thrown overboard if necessary. International obligations hould be observed, and the proper way to set them aside is through diplomacy. American diplomacy may be relied upon in the present case as in so many others to accomplish the desired end.

ARMY LEGISLATION.

Springfield Republican. Secretary Root's army bill gets reported to the House military committee with many changes." That was to be expected. Under the rigid rules of the House and the strict discipline of the najority, the bill may go to the Senate as it now stands, but no one can foretell just the shape the bill will be in when t leaves the Senate. On this account, letailed analysis of the army legislation at this stage seems, in the old grandiloquent phrase, to be "a work of supererogation." There is every in-dication, however, that while the army will be made as big as possible, it will

Kansas City World.

be reformed as little as can be.

The bill for the reorganization of our standing army is the first measure that will come up in the present Congress. It is the hope of the administration that it will pass both houses and become a law pefore the end of the present week. The bill in its present form does not differ much from that which failed of passage at the last session of Con-gress in regard to the regulations of the service, but the present measure author-izes the increase in the strength of numbers so as to permit a maximum of 97,000 and a minimum of 58,000 men. It provides for fifteen full regiments of cavalry, thirty regiments of infantry and an artillery force of 18,000.

Secretary Root has shown in his new army bill that he can sacrifice the less to the greater object even at the cost of his own opinions. Not to mention asiderable differences in the distribution of the army and the details of or-ganization, the new measure which he has prepared, and which will probably be but little changed by the military committee, is different from last year's measure in several respects that enpuntered the opposition of powerful duences within the army. The proision for promotion for merit on re ommendation by a regimental board, which was to apply to every third pro-motion, has been eliminated, as well as the provision for the immediate abolition of the permanent staff.

New York Journal.

That army is to be of 100,000 men, of which Mr. McKinley thinks that 60,-000 will be needed permanently. He re-duces the estimate of the number required in the Philippines to a force of from 45,000 to 60,000 men. Whether that guess or MacArthur's 70,000 prove more nearly correct will probably de-pend upon the spirit in which the commission's instructions to settle the land question and disputes over the religious orders are carried out.

Boston Herald.

Congress is making good progress with the business of the session, Al-ready the House has passed the army bill, a measure of such great importance and so contentious in its character that in the days when the House was a "deliberative body" several weeks would have been required for the debate of its various features. It was adopted yesterday by a vote of 166 yeas to 133 nays, being aided in its progress by the knowledge on the part of the opposition that it could not be opposed with any prospect of success or discussed in any adequate way un-der the rules. In the Senate, however, it will have a far more trying ordeal to meet, and will doubtless be amended to a greater or less extent, so that its reappearance in the House for some further consideration is very probable.

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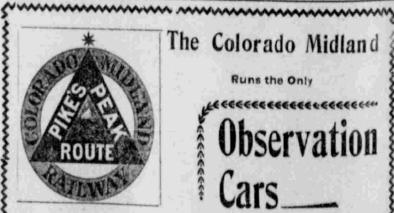
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