

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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tian people and some agitators with ul-  
terior motives wish to see adopted,  
is a matter of very little concern to the  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints, except in this one particular: It

alms a blow against the State of Utah,  
which is entirely undeserved, and serves  
to place it in a false light before the  
rest of the nation. The headquarters  
of the Church being within the bound-  
aries of the State, it is concerned in  
the welfare of the commonwealth,  
which is largely composed of the mem-  
bers of that Church.

The provisions of the enabling act by  
which Utah entered the Union, were in-  
corporated into the State Constitution,  
and have been enacted in its  
statutes. The State is able and  
willing to enforce those pro-  
visions when necessary, and in spite  
of rumors to the contrary, polygamous  
marriages have long since ceased and  
have not been solemnized under the  
auspices of the Church. Agitation for  
the proposed amendment gives color to  
the falsehood which the enemies of the  
Church industriously promulgate, and  
the Latter-day Saints therefore deprecate  
the movement.

Another thing: We regard the at-  
tempts to tamper with the fundamen-  
tal law of this great nation as unwise  
and mischievous when they are need-  
less. That sacred instrument, whose  
framers we believe to have been in-  
spired by the Almighty, should be  
guarded against the patchwork which  
inconsiderate hands would fasten upon  
it to its detriment. Only when abso-  
lutely necessary to the welfare of the  
whole people should it be added to or  
revised. In the case under considera-  
tion, there is absolutely no reason  
whatever for such action, and nothing  
in the desired direction would be ac-  
complished if the movement started by  
religious agitators should prove suc-  
cessful. The wise men of the nation  
ought not to be swayed by the pre-  
judices of sectarianism, nor be led into  
folly through the domination of the pul-  
pit.

THE RIGHT WAY IS EASY.

There is a much easier, less expensive  
and surer way to secure the payment of  
the policeman's salaries, than by man-  
damus the City Auditor, who can not  
issue warrants for the payment of city  
funds without proper authority.Let the Captain of Police certify to the  
payroll, as acting head of the depart-  
ment, pending the decision of the Su-  
preme court on the legality of the  
Chief's confirmation. If this method is  
ordered by the City Council had been  
followed, the policeman would have had  
their pay long ago. It has the merit  
of being lawful, which cannot be truth-  
fully said of any of the expedients pro-  
posed by the minority of the council,  
and offered simply to put the majority  
in a false light. What obstinacy is it  
that has stood in the way, all along?  
Not that of the "solid eight," nor of any  
city officer who has been governed by  
law. The citizens of Salt Lake should  
see that they are not hoodwinked by the  
sophistries, schemes and tricks of the  
real opponents of the payment of the  
police, nor the subtleties of news-  
papers that are simply playing a game  
of politics.

SIGN LANGUAGE.

The New York Tribune tells of the  
Easter observances in the church of St.  
Ann, where the anthem "Christ is Risen"  
was interpreted by sign language,  
for the benefit of the deaf mutes. The  
congregation, it is said, was powerfully  
moved, and no doubt derived as much  
satisfaction from the rendering as  
would a company of persons possessed  
of the sense of hearing from a well-  
balanced quartet of trained voices. The  
same was true of the hymn, "Angels  
Roll the Stone Away," and the stir-  
ring anthem, "Now is Christ Risen  
From the Dead." It was not mere dumb  
show of laborious spelling by combina-  
tions of the fingers, but an intelligible  
interpretation which those who do not  
know the sign language found extreme-  
ly interesting. This suggests to the con-  
temporary quoted the thought that sign  
language, perhaps, offers the only prac-  
ticable basis for a universal language.  
Such a language, the Tribune thinks,  
would be considerably easier to master  
than any one burdened with the com-  
plications of grammar. "Basic ideas,"  
the argument runs, "are practically the  
same, no matter what the language  
chosen for their expression, and if a  
method can be found of expressing  
ideas in dignified pantomime the in-  
terests addressed may translate it into  
words as well in one language as in an-  
other if he understands it at all. Con-  
versely, he may do his thinking in Ger-  
man or Russian, and by the sign lan-  
guage make himself intelligible to the  
Englishman or the Spaniard. This he  
can do to a limited extent as it is; and  
with a little training and the employ-  
ment of a few conventional gestures,  
to express what may be called abstract  
ideas, intercommunication between per-  
sons who do not speak a common lan-  
guage might be made a very simple  
matter."And that brings to mind the fact that  
there did exist, if it does not now, a  
sign language of the American plains,  
whereby those skilled in it could ex-  
change thoughts, no matter what their  
vernacular was. We have read some-  
where of Bill Hamilton, who was sent  
from the western plains up among the  
Indian tribes of the British possessions,  
and he found that he could make him-  
self understood by signs, and that he  
understood the signs of the various  
tribes he met. In the party that accom-  
panied him was a gentleman who had  
studied the sign language of the natives  
of South America, and he, too, under-  
stood the signs of the North American  
Indians, and they understood him. It  
has been proved that an Apache Indian  
from Arizona and a Nez Perce from the  
far northern part of the west, have  
been able to converse together by this  
means.The sign language of the Indians has  
undoubtedly grown out of the necessity  
for the children of the plains to com-  
municate with one another from long  
distances. On the vast deserts it was  
not always convenient to go forward  
and backward with messengers. And so  
a horseman would ride in a circle to  
signify to his comrades a mile or more  
away, that he desired them to come on.  
A blanket fastened to a long pole and  
thrust into the air would be a call to  
a scattered party to gather and go into  
camp. Smoke and fire were found  
convenient means of signalling, espe-  
cially when danger threatened, and cau-  
tion was necessary.From such sign language the transi-  
tion to the signs used for common con-  
versation was easy. This sign lan-  
guage was executed by movements,  
gestures and positions of the hands and  
arms, and other parts of the body.The old sign talk, however, is not as  
common as it used to be. The change  
that the existence of the Indian has  
undergone, renders that mode of com-  
munication unnecessary, and it is per-  
mitted to pass away. And this fact  
suggests the thought, that if a sign lan-  
guage were felt to be a necessity for  
international communication, it would  
be invented and studied, but as long as  
its necessity is not felt, it will not be  
created. It is the demand that calls for  
the supply."Poles to build a church," says an ex-  
change. Why not lumber? Or better  
still, brick.Boston is to have an Institute of Ad-  
vanced Thought, Something in the  
transcendental line?The President's Yellowstone trip is  
over. "Ain't I glad to get out of the  
wilderness, out of the wilderness."Columbia university has a genuine Ger-  
man count among its students. Still  
he doesn't count any more than any  
other student."Proud-plod April, dressed in all his  
trim, Hath put a spirit of youth in every-  
thing."Perhaps the most important piece of  
news ever sent out by the A. P. is the  
fact that W. K. Vanderbilt will marry  
Widow Rutherford.The gunners of the Alabama are the  
best in the navy. Their total percent-  
age of hits with the guns of all calibers,  
was 53.7. How the news would please  
Sommes were he alive.Two German medical students have  
been sentenced to six months in prison  
for fighting a duel. And this is re-  
paration made for the wanton killing  
of an artilleryman by Naval Cadet  
Huessner.It would be well for the Methodist  
brethren now in conference to begin  
their services by singing the hundred  
and thirty-third psalm: "Behold, how  
good and how pleasant it is for brethren  
to dwell together in unity!""As Mr. Roosevelt observed about the  
Spanish war, there was glory enough to  
go around," says the Springfield Re-  
publican. Honor to whom honor is due.  
The remark, become famous, was made  
by one Winfield Scott Schley, U. S. N.,  
after the fight off Santiago de Cuba.If sheep and cattle cannot be driven  
through either City Creek, Emigration  
or Parley's canyon, how will they get  
from the winter ranges of the desert to  
the summer ranges of eastern Utah?  
The ducks and the geese have wings  
and a way but the four-footed animals  
have not.Every one is more or less interested  
in the long sleep of the young lady in  
the hospital. But her slumber is not as  
a wink to a nap compared with the case  
of a French woman who has been  
asleep for twenty years, and the only  
sign of life which she has shown during  
that time was recently, when an ab-  
cess on her arm was lanced and then  
she moved slightly.One of the Methodist preachers,  
speaking of class meetings, character-  
ized those as the corner stone of the  
Methodist church. Class meetings, no  
matter how excellent, are not mentioned  
in the Bible as the corner stone of the  
church, and the Methodist claim that  
their organization is founded entirely  
on that sacred volume. There is a dis-  
crepancy somewhere as to the corner  
stone.A "real" Italian nobleman has come  
over to this country to marry a real  
American heiress of large fortune. Asked  
if a hundred thousand dollars would be  
a fair dowry, he answered: "It would  
do, but it is not much return for the  
honor my title brings. My family is  
nearly 500 years old and has large es-  
tates near Naples." His family is very  
old and it is real indeed of him to be  
willing to wed one of a country so young  
as America. The title he offers is cheap  
at half price. Walk up, young ladies.  
Now is your chance."I note by the census reports that  
the population of Salt Lake City has  
more than doubled in the past ten years,  
and it would seem to me that this is  
only a beginning of greater prosperity,  
which naturally follows the enterprise  
and thrift of its people, and the natural  
and artificial advantages of its soil to  
any nothing about undeveloped mineral  
wealth," says one interview by a con-  
temporary. This statement comes with-  
in the category "important if true." It  
certainly is news to the people of this  
city and the census bureau.President Hadley of Yale thinks the  
north committed a grave error in con-  
ferring the ballot upon the negro. Oth-  
ers have thought the same thing, and  
possibly they were right. But it is too  
late now to rectify any error made  
then. Undoubtedly there are tens and  
tens of thousands of white men in the  
country who have the right of the bal-  
lot who are absolutely unfit for it. A  
man can never be fully fitted for citi-  
zenship until he has had practice in it,  
any more than a man who never goes  
near the water can swim. But the elec-  
torate grows better and more intel-  
ligent each year though there are many  
seemingly discouraging things con-  
nected with it. All improvement of  
every kind is more or less difficult and  
uphill work.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Cassell's Magazine of illustrated en-  
gineering begins its twenty-fourth vol-  
ume with the following list of articles:  
"Coming Machinery in Chinese  
Mines," Oberlin Smith and Henry A.  
Janvier; "Modern American Machine  
Tools," Charles H. Benjamin; "Small  
Water Powers with High Heads," by  
Thurbern Reid; "Distributing Illumi-  
nating Gas at High Pressure," by F. H.  
Shelton; "The Great Eastern Railway  
Disaster," by James Holden; "The  
Cotton Oil Industry in America," by  
D. A. Tompkins; "Railway Trains on Fer-  
ries," by Archibald S. Hurd; "Recent  
Steam Turbine Applications," by Hon.  
C. L. Parsons; and Current Topics—  
New York.

Health at Home

through Hires Rootbeer—a  
delicious preparation of  
roots, herbs, bark and  
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scription. Restores every  
member of the family.

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restores the blood, builds the  
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admission into the Union (which by  
the bye we do not admit) what reason  
would that afford for changing the Con-  
stitution of the United States, by  
amending it so as to make a radical  
difference in its tenor and purport as  
regards the relation of the federal au-  
thority to that of the several States of  
the Union? Would the alleged violation  
of criminal laws in any State justify  
the extension of federal law over the whole  
country in that particular?But, it should be observed that the  
resolution of the "Josephites" favoring  
the enactment of an amendment to the  
Constitution of the United States, is  
founded on something that is stated to  
be "currently reported" and that  
"seems to be." It has no solid basis.  
It is not built upon any established fact.  
This great nation is requested to take  
important action on mere rumor and  
appearance. The exquisite logic and  
profound wisdom exhibited in this dis-  
play of interference of a church with  
the state, must be evident to all rea-  
soning minds that give attention to it.Now, we wish it to be understood that  
the passage of the amendment to the  
Constitution, which some good Chris-  
tian people and some agitators with ul-  
terior motives wish to see adopted,  
is a matter of very little concern to the  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints, except in this one particular: It

SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 23, 1903.

THE HACKNEYED SUBJECT.

At the recent Conference held by the  
so-called "Reorganized Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-day Saints," the hack-  
neyed subject of "polygamy," which  
seems to be uppermost in the minds of  
the ministers of that society, was again  
brought to the front. This time it was  
presented in the form of a resolution,  
introduced for the purpose of endorsing  
a movement by some "Christian" wo-  
men's societies to procure an amend-  
ment to the Constitution of the United  
States prohibiting the practice of poly-  
gamy. This occasioned much discussion  
in the "Reorganized" conference, a  
common result of the formulation of al-  
most everything projected among the  
"Josephites." Without contention the  
chief characteristic of their delibera-  
tions would be conspicuous by its ab-  
sence. After much debate, which is re-  
ported by the Kansas City Journal as  
"feverish," the following resolution  
was adopted and is to be "circulated  
broadcast by the presidency of that  
church as a leaflet.""Whereas, It is currently reported  
that polygamy is still practiced in Utah  
and adjacent states and territories in  
defiance of the laws of God and the  
laws of the land, and"Whereas, The laws enacted by state  
legislation seem to be inadequate to  
prevent or prohibit the practice of poly-  
gamy without the intervention of fed-  
eral enactment, therefore be itResolved, That we, the Reorganized  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints, in general conference assem-  
bled, favor the enactment of an amend-  
ment to the Constitution of the United  
States prohibiting the practice of poly-  
gamy in all the states and territories  
under the jurisdiction of the republic."We copy this resolution for the pur-  
pose of showing the animus of the re-  
ligious body which poses as an organi-  
zation of believers in the doctrines pro-  
moted by the Prophet Joseph Smith,  
and yet disputes and fights against  
some of his enunciations as the revealed  
mind and will of God. Our missionaries  
meet with the most virulent hostility  
from the preachers of the "Reorganiza-  
tion" throughout the country, and much  
of the persecution which our Elders  
have to endure is occasioned by that  
antagonism.The first "whereas" in the foregoing  
resolution repeats a current report and  
gives it circulation, when it is nothing  
but rumor and contains a slander that  
has been rebutted almost as often as  
it has been published. The "Reorganiza-  
tion" thus places itself upon record  
as a disseminator of scandal, and joins  
itself into the army of calumniators of  
the Saints. It pays no heed to the "cur-  
rent" denials of the report, which in  
fairness should have been noticed as  
well as the rumor if there had been any  
real occasion to mention either. The  
refutations that have been made are  
official and positive, while the  
stories repeated in the resolution are  
only gossip and malicious assertion  
without evidence in their support.The second "whereas" asserts a di-  
rect falsehood. There is absolutely  
nothing to show that the laws of Utah  
are inadequate for the purpose men-  
tioned. On the contrary, it is clear that  
they are sufficient, because no cases of  
polygamy as defined by statute have  
been prosecuted since their enactment.  
The facts are that there is less occa-  
sion for further legislation against  
bigamy or polygamy in this State than  
in most of the States of the Union. Any  
additional laws in Utah, whether local  
or national for that purpose, would be  
but repetition and surplage.The resolution based on the pre-  
mises would not be logical or rational,  
even if the premises were correct. Sup-  
pose it was true that there have been  
some cases of bigamous or polygamous  
marriage in the State of Utah since its  
admission into the Union (which by  
the bye we do not admit) what reason  
would that afford for changing the Con-  
stitution of the United States, by  
amending it so as to make a radical  
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