

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST

RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Office of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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George W. Walcott, Business Manager

Subscription Price

One Year, \$1.00

Three Months, .35

Single Copies, 5c

Entered as Second-Class Matter, October 3, 1878, under Post Office No. 345, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NOTICE

The Sixty-ninth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, on Thursday, April 6th, 1899.

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JOSEPH P. SMITH, PRESIDENT

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

During the early part of April there will be issued by the Deseret News a Church work, entitled "The Articles of Faith," the same being a series of lectures on the principal doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Dr. James H. Talmon.

The lectures were prepared by appointment of the First Presidency, and the book will be published by the Church. It is intended for use as a text book in Church schools, Sunday schools, and in the various associations, conferences of the priesthood, and other Church organizations in which the study of the scriptures is pursued, and also for individual use among the members of the Church. The work has been approved by the First Presidency, and is hereby recommended to the members of the Church.

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STAKE CONFERENCE

The Quarterly Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, will convene in the Tabernacle in this city tomorrow, Sunday, at 10 o'clock in the morning. Meetings will also be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and on Monday at 10 o'clock, and on Tuesday at 10 o'clock. It is very desirable that the officers and members of the Church in this stake should be present at all these meetings. Matters of importance will be presented. The bishops with their counselors, also presidents of quorums and of auxiliary societies, are especially requested to attend on Sunday and Monday mornings. All the sessions of the conference will be free to the general public, and everybody is cordially invited to come and listen to the proceedings.

ATTENTION, LEGISLATORS

The attention of the Legislators is directed to the dispatch from Washington in this evening's News. Another should be taken by the members of the Legislature, before the assembly adjourns. Power must be given to the Governor to do what is necessary, so that a bill may be introduced for the public building for which funds have been appropriated by Congress. Legislators do not let this thing slip. It is important.

POLICE AND FIRE

The police and fire bill, as supported by the Deseret News, has been passed by the Legislature. The Governor vetoed the measure, as it came from that body, but expressed his willingness to sign it in the form drafted by the Mayor and City Council. The changes from that form, made in committee and passed by the Legislature, were not made by the Mayor and City Council. We have no suggestion to make on that point except this:

Let the salaries of the city and harbor in the departments be the best consideration. They belong to the Mayor and the Council is desirous of all public matters. Personal enemies of the Mayor or City Council, or of other persons, should not prevent the public officers. The establishment of the police and fire departments of our city government, under proper control and on a firm basis, so as to insure efficiency, harmony and the best service possible, should be the one aim of our municipal authorities. The present effect of this bill will not come into their hands, and the people of this city will actually wait to see how it will be carried.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Owing to the aggressive attitude of "higher criticism," the question of the genuineness of the books of the Bible has of late years been one of much prominence in the world of thought. The "criticism" is a term which signifies a desire to remove the historical foundations of the Christian religion, in the hope that the superstitious and doctrine would fall. It was most found,

however, that the history of the sacred writings was so well attested as to render it practically impossible. That the text was changed, and an effort was made to prove that the sacred writings have no more claim to inspiration than have other ancient records, in which the traditions, the philosophy and the poetry of a thousand generations are preserved.

The Old Testament was first treated thus "critically." By subtle sophistry and entirely on the style of the writings, the construction of sentences, the choice of words and such other "technical" evidence, the conclusion was reached that there is a very small nucleus of historical truth in those books, around which the fabric of fancy had woven its multi-colored fabric.

This being accepted, with regard to the Old Testament, the way was paved for a similar treatment of the New. For it was recognized that the ten apostles were all together. With regard to the New Testament, it was hoped that criticism would prove that it was not known earlier than the writings of more than 100 years.

In view of this historical discussion it is interesting to note that criticism has been compelled gradually to acknowledge that the New Testament cannot be disposed of in that manner. Recent criticism has been forced to admit that all the New Testament books date from the apostolic age, and were written by the authors claimed for them.

Among the scholars who have recently recommended in favor of this view, is Professor Thüsing, of the University of Göttingen. His conclusions are quoted in the Literary Digest. He thinks the earliest book of the New Testament is the Epistle to the Romans, written about A. D. 50, or some years after the crucifixion. The next to take to be fairly early is the Galatians, written three years later. The letters to the Thimothee and Titus are supposed to have been written the same year. In 54 or 55, Professor Thüsing thinks, Paul wrote his first Epistle to the Corinthians, which has been followed, a few months later, by the two Epistles to Corinth now known as the first and second. The Epistle to the Romans was written in the following spring, during the stay of Paul in Greece. In the year 60 the Apostle arrived in Rome, and the following year he wrote his letters to the Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians.

In the year 62, the "second" Epistle of Peter was written, according to the first. In the same year Matthew wrote his Gospel in the Aramaic language, and in the year 63 Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians. About the same time he was released from captivity in Rome and went to Spain. In the year 64 Peter wrote his "first" Epistle, and Mark the Gospel that bears his name. In 65, Paul returned from Spain and addressed a letter to Timothy and Titus in Thess. In the spring of 66 he again arrived in Rome and wrote his second letter to Timothy. He suffered a martyr's death the same year, or the year following, about three years after the death of Peter.

In 67 the Gospel of Mark was published and the letter of Jude to St. James. The writings of Luke were given to the world in this year, as also the Acts appearing simultaneously. A third part of Luke's historical work, Prof. Thüsing thinks, was not written. The letter to the Hebrews, the author of which is unknown, was written later, he believes, the Gospel of Matthew was translated into Greek. The Johannine writings are thought to be the last, and the Apocalypse is believed to date from the year 80, or 40 years after the crucifixion.

According to this chronology the entire New Testament was written within the brief period of 6 years, and several years followed the disappearance of the last Apostle of our Lord from this sphere of action. The conclusion arrived at is exceedingly interesting in view of the bold assertions of "higher criticism" regarding the biblical writings. For if the genuineness of the New Testament be admitted, the genuineness and authenticity of the Old Testament follows, and "higher criticism" is discredited of its own accord.

The importance of the results of this recently very painstaking investigation appears in the fact that it vindicates practically the dates assigned by previous scholars to the various books of the Bible, according to the testimony of early ecclesiastical writers. Thus, for instance, the Gospel of Matthew has been regarded as written some time between 70 and 80 A. D., the Gospel of Mark between 70 and 80, and that of John about the year 90, and so on throughout the entire collection of New Testament writings.

Professor Thüsing differs with the majority of scholars regarding the Epistle to the Hebrews, as written after the death of Paul, and the Apocalypse as the last book of the New Testament. Perhaps a further inquiry will raise a still closer approach to the generally accepted view on these points, for, so it is remembered, the question involved in this investigation was thoroughly given in the early days of the Christian church, and the conclusions arrived at were based on the most convincing evidence. Inquiry as to this point on the subject can best be traced to the already noted at that early age, and the result must be similar.

To the Latter-day Saints the question has, perhaps, not the same importance as to other Christians, because they are not dependent exclusively on the written word, having revelation and inspiration to guide them in matters of faith and practice. Still, the genuineness of the second book is a matter of great importance to them, because, as Prof. Thüsing says, "the Gospel regarded in this age as the first of the Church of Jesus Christ. We cannot discuss with the Bible as one of the great sources of our faith and the one of the standards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

OUR CHINESE POLICY

The Chinese Yuen-Hoan is authority for the statement that our government has officially informed the representatives of Italy of its disapproval of the Italian policy of Sun Yat-sen.

The protest is not in the nature of a threat, but it is said to be a definite enough to place the United States on record as opposed to Italian territorial robbery.

This is important news. The fact that Italy, before proceeding any further, thought it advisable to ascertain the views of the United States, is the first evidence of the fact that the government has secured a place in the council of great nations and must be heard as to the affairs of the world.

Neither Russia nor Germany conferred with this nation before planning their standards on Chinese soil. Previous to the Spanish war, it seemed to be taken for granted that our country had no rights in eastern Asia which needed to be respected. "America for Americans" was interpreted to mean "nothing beyond America for Americans." It is not so any longer. The presence of our military forces in the Philippines has changed the situation and Italy is the first power to recognize officially the new status of affairs.

The protest against Italian aggression against the Chinese is a declaration that the United States is not contemplating any part in the division of China. What may be done, should the powers show their respective "agencies" and "dispositions" against this country in an open question, but at present the United States has virtually pronounced "opposition" in Asia.

That it is further stated that it is beyond Italy the support of Russia, France and Germany, with the United States and Great Britain stand together on the question involved. It has long been anticipated that the world would eventually be divided into some such blocs—the Russian speaking nations coming together and it is not improbable that this is the beginning of such a grouping.

All eyes are turned to the next step taken by Italy. Assuming as correct that King Humbert has the backing of the great continental powers, and that the United States have taken sides with Great Britain against his Chinese policy, a critical situation will certainly be the result, the outcome of which cannot as yet be determined. However, the probability is that the aim of the European powers will be to divide China without engaging in a struggle war for which neither of them is fully prepared.

The situation is suggested by the refusal to recognize Italy's claims to the rights of the European powers, and the downfall of the present dynasty, and that this movement is not of insignificant proportions is clear from the reports of missionaries, who report that native provinces are involved with populations exceeding that of the United States.

With anarchy reigning, and the Chinese government unable to cope with the situation, the European powers will find the opportunity and pretext for landing troops and taking possession of the country. How to do this without precipitating a great world war, and considering a world diplomatic war, are the questions that will be asked.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

From the readers of the north come these queries:

For the benefit of our theological students, the following questions are asked:

First—Name the kings that ruled over the kingdom of Israel, and the reigns of each.

Second—Who is the Messiah, and when will he come? In the book of Daniel, where is he?

Third—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Fourth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Fifth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Sixth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Seventh—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Eighth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Ninth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Tenth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Eleventh—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Twelfth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Thirteenth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

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Seventeenth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

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Twentieth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

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Twenty-sixth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Twenty-seventh—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

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Twenty-ninth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

Thirtieth—What is the meaning of the "great tribulation" in the book of Daniel? In what year will it come? In what year will it end?

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It was the ancient condition of the young territory and the attitude of the people to decide the issue. The city of Babylon, together with the Greeks, was a great power in the world, and the further it was from the city, the more it was a power in the world.

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