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THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 26, 1902.

A BLESSED DAY.

Christmas day was a time of general joy in this city. We believe it was the same throughout the land. The property so much spoken of was evident, in the rush of business and the circulation of money. Up to midnight of Christmas eve stores were crowded, the streets were thronged, and happy purchasers of Christmas gifts were loaded with parcels, and Christmas greetings saluted the advent of the great Christian holiday.

The little folk will have cause ever to remember the visits of Santa Claus in 1902. Scarcely a house in Salt Lake was missed in his rounds. The diversity and plenty and beauty of the presents that gladdened the hearts of young and old, exceeded all precedents. The poor were not neglected. Good cheer was distributed with no niggard hand. Conviviality was everywhere observable, and yet there was good order, and the ubiquitously inclined manager to keep within bounds and there were but few evidences of excess.

It was a glorious day. The weather was as pleasant as could be desired. While sufficient snow was in sight to make the scene appear seasonable, the balmy air and soft sunshine mellowed the wintry surroundings and made cheerfulness apparent. It was a blessed day, and drew together many hearts that had been somewhat estranged, and knitted closer together the ties of family and of kindred.

The benedictions and congratulations that sounded on every side must have had an influence for peace and good will, borne upon the atmosphere and penetrating to every social circle. For all the happiness and gladness, and bounteous plenty of the season, let gratitude and praise ascend to the Eternal Source of every blessing, who sent the Christ into the world for the redemption and exaltation of mankind.

THE VENEZUELAN OUTLOOK.

The trouble in Venezuela is still on, but the outlook is encouraging for a peaceful settlement by arbitration, either by a commission appointed by President Roosevelt, or by one chosen according to the rules of The Hague convention. The matter seems to be well under way, though there are difficulties to overcome.

The situation, as has been repeatedly pointed out, is unique. None of the powers interested can desire to prolong it. Germany suggests that she be paid 1,700,000 bolivars, before her claims are submitted to arbitration, but in case Venezuela is unable to pay this in cash, it would be folly to insist upon this as one essential condition. For Germany cannot collect the money. She will not care to declare war and land troops. She may seize custom houses, but the blockade makes this measure useless. And besides, the blockade cannot really be binding upon a third party, as long as war is not declared. It is liable to cause complications that will add difficulties to the final settlement.

Of course, President Castro has no more chance of getting the powers to hear his case than President Kruger had, although Venezuela's independence is not disputed. Arbitration is a measure between powers of somewhat equal magnitude. And as long as Venezuela cannot offer any acceptable security for the fulfillment of the conditions that may be imposed by an arbitration commission, she cannot expect to be heard. But the case will be different if President Castro's proposition is backed by the United States government. It will then be accepted without further difficulty. And all South America will receive a demonstration of the necessity of having a strong power upholding the autonomy of the small countries in this hemisphere.

It may be true that the United States ought not to accept the responsibility for the Venezuelan debts, and yet, if that were the only condition on which peace could be assured, it would be better to do that, and then arrange with Venezuela afterwards. However, it is not necessary for this country to enter into any formal contract with the others as to that. There is no other way now out of the trouble than a peaceful agreement. The allies evidently thought Venezuela would collapse at once, at the approach of the combined fleets. But this did not happen, and now, to get out of an awkward situation, the most pleasant way seems to be through arbitration; and therefore the prospects for peace are good.

AN OLD REMEDY REVIVED.

It is funny to see newspapers in the year 1902 speaking of an "alleged remedy for smallpox," as something new under the medical sun. It is the old recipe, published repeatedly in eastern and western journals, and given over and over again in the Deseret News during the last thirty years. Our readers will recognize the recipe as follows: Take sulphate of zinc, 1 grain; sugar of milk, 1 grain; half tea-

spoonful of sugar; mix thoroughly with a little water, then add four ounces of water. Dose for an adult, one teaspoonful every hour for twelve hours; for children under ten years old, half a teaspoonful hourly.

This remedy has been used with excellent results in both the old world and in the new for many years, and has been found efficacious in some of the following simple remedy and preventive, that was used during smallpox epidemics in England with success several years ago, and has been adopted in a number of instances in Utah; viz.: Cream of tartar, 2 oz.; Epsom salts, 1 oz.; one lemon sliced; in one quart boiling water; sweeten with sugar to taste. Dose for an adult, a small wine glassful three times a day; less for children according to age.

We believe the best remedies and precautions to be observed in epidemics, are isolation and sanitation. Every case should be isolated. Quarantine rules should be strictly complied with. Cleanliness should be observed. All fecal and waste matter should be removed and deeply buried. Disinfectants should be liberally used as every effort possible, be put forth to prevent the spread of contagion. We believe that more is accomplished by these means than stamp out the dreaded disease than any other precautions. At the same time we do not desire to throw a straw or a nostrum in the way of wise advice from competent physicians.

NO COMPROMISE.

The New York Independent is quoted as saying that a belief in the miracles of the Bible is not essential. Such belief is, in the opinion of the Independent, purely intellectual. It has nothing to do with character. It depends on evidence and goes where the evidence goes. There is sufficient evidence, we are told, of God without miracles.

"Whether Christ was born of a virgin or not, whether His flesh and blood and bones rose from the sepulcher or not, whether four hundred believers saw Him ascend into heaven or not—and we must not hasten to give up our belief—we yet know that the Christian religion rests on the Sermon on the Mount, on the Eleventh commandment, on the regeneration of the soul taught to Nicodemus, on Paul's plain of charity."

That reasoning appears to us to prove a willingness to compromise with the assaults of the Christian religion, who direct their attacks against the miracles in the hope of thereby effecting the fall of the entire structure. But there is no need of compromise on this point. The miracles are as much established historically, as are the moral teachings of our Lord. It can be no more proved that He ever preached the Sermon on the Mount, than that He rose from the dead. His miraculous birth is as well attested as His teachings. You cannot accept one as historically proved and reject the other. The attempt to separate the story of the miracles from the doctrinal teachings must fail. They are so interwoven that they must be accepted or rejected together.

The miracles are essential to Christianity. Christ proved His authority to forgive sins by His power to raise instantly the sinner from the bed of affliction. It is not true that man can get along with teaching and example alone. He needs, in addition, divine power beyond his own wisdom and strength. It is true that if there is no resurrection—Christ did not rise from the dead, as His followers testified He did—the preaching of the Gospel is in vain; faith is in vain; His Apostles were false witnesses; the dead are lost, and religion is deception. The entire structure rests upon the testimony that "Christ is risen." There can be no compromise with infidelity on this point.

GROWTH OF CATHOLICISM.

The phenomenal growth of the Catholic church, both in number and influence during the last decades, is one of the marvels of the age.

The fact is that at present, Protestant princes vie with one another in honoring the head of the Roman church, who was once looked upon as the representative, if not the embodiment of anti-christ.

Each year sees accessions to the ranks of the Roman church. The religious orders show a vitality and growth that are difficult to account for. Even Germany is flooded with these orders. Not since the days of the Reformation have they showed the strength they evince now.

The Catholics control legislatures and make laws. In Germany, where Bismarck fought his "kulturkampf" against clerical influence upon the affairs of the state, the Catholics now even shape to some extent the laws that govern the Protestant churches.

It is asserted that the statements of Europe are largely and in many cases influenced by their international politics by the views that may prevail in the Vatican; and what is more remarkable, that which the ambitious Innocent III. failed to attain, and that against which even Catholic princes and bishops have constantly protested, namely, the assigning of the position of judge on international difficulties to the Pope—this has been first voluntarily yielded to the Vatican by the leading Protestant powers of Europe, Prussia and Germany; the former of these also having been the first to recognize the Curia as a political power on equal footing with other powers by sending an ambassador to the Vatican.

It is but too evident that Protestantism is losing its influence. It has opened the way to a "criticism" that is no better than infidelity. Many have followed that course, but others are heading for Rome as the final refuge. Such is apparently the present situation.

The saying that reform never turns backward, does not seem to be verified. Temporarily at least, there may be a backward movement. In the long run there will be advance, but at times there appears to be retrogression. The waves that beat against the shore rise and fall with rhythmic regularity, but

the tide itself is all the time advancing. It is thus in the world's history. Possibly a period of darkness such as that which prevailed before the reformation, will again mark the world's history, before the bursting forth in glory of the Millennium day of our Lord.

JEWISH IDEA OF MESSIAH.

Rabbi Vorsanger a few days ago held a lecture on the origin and development of the Messianic idea. It is interesting as showing what is the objection at present, among thoughtful Jews, to the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah. The Rabbi, as quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle, said:

"The Messianic idea was born of the promise of God, made to Abraham and his seed, and of the ever present idea of the Jewish nation to free itself from the bondage of its more powerful neighbors. In the Messiah, the Jews expected a leader to political freedom as well as a deliverer from the servitude of sin."

"From the beginning of the nation the political significance of the Messiah was the paramount conscious idea of the house of David. But with the captivity of the Jews and the Jews' years of servitude to Babylon there was born a magnificent literature—the literature voiced in the poetry of Isaiah and Micah, the spiritual idea of the Messiah. In those latter days, declared the prophet should come the kingdom of God wherein dwelt righteousness. Then these two ideas united and became firm in the minds of the Jews; the political ideal of liberty and the spiritual ideal of a higher ethical life became one affluent stream and flowed through the days of the nation's captivity and distress, through their period of wandering as outcasts over the earth, and flows today as strongly as in those ancient times. But to unite these ideas in the personality of the Messiah, the Jews demanded that he must of necessity embody within himself every attribute of power. But more, even than that he must be a son of the house of David. And though Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled this last condition he destroyed the unity of the two ideas and declared Himself but the exponent of the spiritual ideal. Hence no Jew could accept Him, for without his restoration to the power and prosperity of his fathers through the Messiah promised him, the Jew cannot conceive the promise to Abraham fulfilled."

The Rabbi is mistaken in his statement that Jesus does not fulfill the double ideal of Messiah. Jesus as distinctly declared Himself the restorer of His people to power and prosperity, as He proclaimed the spiritual ideal. He was misunderstood by His contemporaries, and He is evidently misunderstood today. He came to become the King of all the earth, not through the means usually employed by conquerors, but by spiritual forces. If this fact is understood, there is no difficulty in accepting Him as the Messiah, fulfilling all the expectations founded upon the ancient sacred writings.

Miss Love has been found. Yes, love will find out a way.

There are no goodies and candies in last night's stocking.

The Monroe doctrine extended to Venezuela ex proprio vigore.

If ever one needs a day of rest it is after a Christmas holiday.

Dr. Lorenz should be able to straighten out this Venezuelan difficulty.

Lack of coal in Boston should agree with the Bostonese cold temperament.

The latest orders to the Red "D" liner Caracas are to go "way back and sit down."

All the little boys and girls have voted Santa Claus to be the nicest man that ever was.

Every time Sarah Bernhardt has a new gray hair she adds a new laurel to cover it up.

When deemed necessary a Kansas mob can lynch a negro as quick as they can in Kentucky.

And now Cuba doesn't want reciprocity, it is said. She must have got something equally good.

Just notice how much longer the days are getting. Only a few months and spring and flowers will be here.

So there is to be a billion dollar gas trust. It will afford a splendid opportunity to blow in a little hot air.

Congress proposes to build a seven million dollar temple of justice. Justice comes high, but we must have it.

Crown Princess Louise is under surveillance in Geneva. This really looks like locking the stable after the horse is gone.

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New York Evening Sun.
The action taken by England and Germany in making a joint demonstration against Venezuela can only have good results. It emphasizes our standing on the Monroe doctrine, and makes that rule of conduct more than ever a guarantee of the safety of the nations in this hemisphere. The silly legal fiction of a "peace blockade," which is as much of a contradiction in terms as a "peaceful war," was exploded the moment there was any prospect of an American ship putting it to the test.

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Mr. Balfour's reputation of that figure, a "peace blockade," and his frank declaration that acts of war in Venezuela really constitute war, of which prompt notification will be made, can but clarify an awkward situation. The likelihood of our embroilment is by so much diminished. No American ship will be turned back except by an effective blockade, of which we have been legally notified. The English premier thus overrules the joint international lawyer in command of the German cruiser, who seized a public vessel with the solemn assurance, "this is not a measure of war."

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Boston Transcript.
As it is, the Monroe doctrine is an American policy which the world may not like but to which it defers. Expanded to an unlimited indorsement of South America, it would become a challenge to the world and a nuisance to us. Expanded, it will die between the world's opposition and our annoyance.

New York Mail and Express.
Unfortunately it is not yet a thing of the past. It takes more than the mere promulgation of the plan to put the settlement of the dispute in Minister Bowen's hands to settle it. The germ of the settlement is in this proposition, but there will be no assurance of peace until the blockade is actually called off.

MINISTER BOWEN.

Boston Herald.
Our Minister Bowen at Venezuela appears to be well equipped for the emergency. He has been in the consular and diplomatic service for 12 years, and is a son of the late Henry C. Bowen of the New York Independent. He was transferred to his present post from Spain, where, as consul at Barcelona, he got a good insight into Spanish character. Besides being a diplomat, he is a poet, a fighter and a linguist, speaking French, Italian and Spanish, besides his native English. Born in New York, he was educated in Germany, Italy and France before entering Yale, and the law school of Columbia university. When he was a student at Yale he had a little difficulty with a tutor on a matter not affecting his scholarship, and he was graduated somewhat prematurely; but quite likely

both the tutor and Yale have forgiven him before this, now that he has achieved an honorable distinction in the public service, besides writing a book on international law which is rated of standard quality.

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The Washington Evening Star is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and has issued a special edition of gigantic proportions, including the history of half a century of progress in the National Capital, and the evolution of the Star itself. The Star is a great newspaper in every sense of the word. It is a fine specimen of American journalism. Among the interesting illustrations of the anniversary number are a group picture of the "Evening Star" company in 1857, showing Crosby S. Noyes and S. H. Kauffmann in the center, also a group of men who direct the Stages, Noyes and Kauffmann, with whitened hair, still in the center, but supported by four younger men, two named Noyes and two named Kauffmann. May the Star long continue to shine in the bright constellations of American journals.

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