

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 9, 1901.

## HOPE INCREASES.

The great suspense in which the people of this nation, and indeed the best of all the nations, have been held since the attempt was made on the life of our beloved President, has been somewhat relieved by the reports from his physicians of the favorable symptoms in his case. Anxiety must yet be felt, and this will continue until it shall be definitely announced that he is out of danger. There never was more unity of feeling among the people of any nation than that which animates the people of the United States on this momentous occasion. The sorrow which wells up in the heart of men and women of every shade of belief and opinion at the sufferings of the President and his patient wife, is supplemented by universal prayers in his behalf. Even the most skeptical as to Divine interposition in the affairs of men, cannot refrain from fervent ejaculations showing their inmost desires and hopes and invocations. Surely the faith and supplications of a united people will prevail, and our President be spared to complete his life's labors, unless the Almighty has otherwise decreed, either for the chastisement of the nation or the accomplishment of designs as yet hidden from human view. Hope brightens the outlook and every message over the wires lights up the prospect; and we earnestly trust that no dark and ominous cloud may obscure the brightness of our desires. God save the President!

## THE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, held on Sunday, showed the beneficial effects of the change by which three meetings were held on that day, instead of having two on Saturday and two on Sunday. Conditions in this Stake of Zion are somewhat different to those existing in other Stakes. The people in this city are, in a large majority, engaged in occupations which prevent their attendance at meetings on Saturday and to some extent on Monday. Therefore, the attendance, except on the Sabbath, has been somewhat meager in past times. Yesterday the Assembly Hall was well filled in the morning and so was the Tabernacle in the afternoon and evening.

There was a most excellent spirit during all these sessions. The instructions were practical, and if carried into effect will prove greatly beneficial to the people of this Stake. The assembly in the afternoon was highly gratified and edified by the remarks of President Lorenzo Snow, which we publish in full this evening. The vigor, and strength of voice he exhibited were very remarkable, and the sentiments he expressed concerning the attack on the President of the United States, found a cordial response in every breast.

The discourse delivered by Apostle Rudger Clawson in the morning was also of great moment, and as it was reported in full will probably be published at a later date. The prospects of this Stake are excellent and we believe will be brightened and extended through the holding of this quarterly conference.

## WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE.

The intimation by a professed minister of the gospel, as reported in press dispatches, that he would favor lynching the assassin who attempted to murder the President, shows that the speaker was influenced more by passion than reason and by vengeance rather than judgment. If he had been present when the President was shot, and had carried out his expressed intent of "blowing the assassin to pieces," he would have been guilty of murder, although the crime would have been palliated because committed in the heat of passion and under very great provocation. But a teacher of Christ's gospel ought not in the heat of passion, or for private vengeance, or in wilful violation of law.

The question of what to do with the wretch who tried to kill the President, naturally agitates the public mind. Laws for the protection of the person, recognize a distinction in guilt between attempted and accomplished murder. While the penalty for the latter is usually death, the former only reaches a few years' imprisonment. This arrangement is faulty, and the laws of states and nations need changes in this particular.

The essence of crime is admitted to be in the intent. When an individual, for any reason, deliberately plots and plans the death of a human being, the offense is the same in the eyes of justice whether he fails or succeeds in his endeavor. But the law does not view these acts in the same light. In Utah, murder in the first degree is punishable with death. But an assault with intent to murder is punishable by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than twenty years. The minimum penalty for administering poison or other deadly substance or liquid with intent to kill is five years' imprisonment.

Thus a deliberate plotter against the life of a fellow-creature who does not succeed in his murderous design and acts, may escape with five years' imprisonment, and even with but one year's if he makes his assault with a deadly weapon. And the maximum penalty in any event if his victim does not die, is but twenty years' imprisonment. There should be discretion with the judge in such cases, perhaps, but life imprisonment at least should be possible.

If the creature that assailed the President escapes the death penalty through the recovery of his victim, he can only be imprisoned seven years, it is said, for he must be tried in the State and county where the terrible crime was attempted. It would seem that such an offense as his should be made capital. But even if he were executed, the law would not apply in his case for that would be retro-active.

It has been suggested by a high legal authority, that attempts on the life of the President of the United States may be classed as treason. But thoughtful consideration of this point will not support it. In our opinion, laws to be valid must be constitutional. The Constitution defines treason in terms that can scarcely be misunderstood. It is levying war against the United States or adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. Of course an attack on the person of the President is in one sense an assault upon the nation. But it is not of the kind evidently intended to be classed as treason by the Constitution.

We think that laws can be enacted by the respective States and perhaps by the Congress, which will bring organizations that promote assassination, or the destruction of government, under the head of conspiracies against life and law; and membership in such societies may be made criminal and punishable by severe penalties. Every nation and government may and should protect itself and the lives of its public servants and representatives. Failure to do this is manifest weakness.

There may come some good out of the evil in the awful crime committed in the attack on the President. Attention will be directed to the necessity of providing proper safeguards around our Chief Magistrate on all occasions, and also of devising means for the rooting out and suppression of all organizations, that seek to destroy life and property and governments instituted for their protection.

## TERRIBLE IF TRUE.

If the statement made at the Methodist ecumenical convention in London is true, namely, that out of ninety colored persons killed by lynching in 1900, only eleven had been proved guilty as charged, of assaulting white women, an additional reason for the suppression of mob violence has been furnished, that ought to impress itself on the mind of every rational person.

The unfortunate feature of lynch law is that those who engage in it become irrational. They appear to be so swayed by passion that they are bereft of reason. Often they are more like brute beasts than human beings, like savages rather than civilized people. Under such conditions the most innocent of suspects are as likely to suffer as the most guilty. Let the cry be raised, "Lynch him!" and justice, mercy, law and common sense appear to vanish, and reckless mobocracy rules and riots and incites to cruelty, inhumanity and murder.

In the consideration of the subject, we have never closed our eyes to the horror occasioned by the fiendish assaults by negroes upon white victims. It thrills the system with inexpressible repulsion and wrath. The first impulse is that hanging is too good for the wretch that perpetrates the crime. But the "sober second thought" is that in a country where law prevails, every person however guilty or supposed to be guilty, is entitled to a fair trial before punishment, and that only the constituted legal authorities can properly pass upon the crime and inflict the penalty.

That conclusion must be stamped upon the mind of every individual in this land of liberty and law, or anarchy will be the result of the opposite. The thought that innocent persons have been burned at the stake or throttled with a rope, by mob violence and without the chance of defence, is awful to contemplate and disgraceful to any community where it has occurred, to say nothing of the culpability of the offenders in the sight of the great and just and merciful Creator and Eternal Judge.

Every lover of his country ought to exert his influence, to preserve the majesty of wholesome law and the personal rights of his fellows, no matter what may be their race or creed or color. At the same time adequate penalties ought to be provided for gross crimes, and the means of escape and evasion therefrom which have become so common in this country, ought to be eliminated from our jurisprudence. In any event, down with mobocracy and up with the standard of law and order!

## DEALING WITH ANARCHISM.

The step taken by Maj. Richard Sylvester, president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police of this country and Canada, looking toward the adoption of some uniform policy throughout the world in dealing with anarchists of murderous tendencies, comes none too soon. Such a policy should have been adopted long ago. If some practical measures can be proposed, they will be endorsed and acted upon throughout the civilized world.

In this country it is very generally held that the anarchistic and nihilistic outbreaks, so frequent in European countries, are accounted for on the ground of the oppression that prevails under more or less autocratic governments. True to the principles on which this Republic was founded, an asylum has been offered the politically persecuted. They have been given the privilege of free speech and free press. They have been offered participation in the government on an equal footing with other citizens, and the opportunity of becoming independent in every

respect has been afforded them. Under such circumstances, it was but natural to suppose that there could be no soil here, in which the discontent could grow and develop that criminal lunacy that in other countries prompts to regicide.

But that is a mistake. The fact is that a great many of those who plot and plan against presidents, kings, and emperors do so, because they are possessed by the demon of hatred, not toward any particular form of government, but toward government as such. To them a president, representing the power of the people immediately delegated to him, is as much an object of ill will as is a czar. He holds the power which the people centuries ago gave up to his ancestor and his lawful descendants. To hold authority at all is, in the view of such perverted spirits, a crime. They are a serious product of a philosophy that denies the divine origin of authority in the regulation of human affairs.

It is time to recognize this fact, and to deal with it effectively. Clearly, it is not enough to pour out the fullness of justice upon the heads of the half-witted individuals that are but the tools of others. Some more radical measures are required.

It is quite possible that a thorough investigation of the entire question, such as proposed by Maj. Sylvester, will disclose the fact that there is such a thing as the abuse of the freedom of speech and press. It may not be possible to entirely suppress, in a free country, the blackguardism that seeks shelter under the right to criticize public men, but the fact remains that the real assassins are to be sought among those who, by oratory and print, inflame to acts of violence. They should be held responsible for their utterances, particularly if connection can be established between their words and the murderous acts of others. Liberty does not mean licentiousness. The two are incompatible. Wrongdoing has no right to freedom. That is the God-given prerogative that belongs to well-doing, benevolence, righteousness.

## THE COMING YACHT RACE.

The impression seems to be prevailing back east that the America's cup this year in all probability will be carried back to England. The Columbia, which again has been selected as the defender, did remarkably good service in 1899. In the first race, with light breeze, she came in 10 minutes and 8 seconds ahead of the competitor, and in the third race, when there was a strong wind, she won by 6 minutes and 54 seconds. But since then, Sir Thomas Lipton has had a boat constructed which has been demonstrated to be superior in speed to his first Shamrock, by from 5 to 10 minutes in thirty miles.

Whether the Columbia can maintain her speed of two years ago remains to be seen. She is said to be in perfect condition now, but even if she is, the race will be very close and correspondingly exciting.

Every patriotic American hopes that the coveted trophy will still remain on this side of the ocean, but if Sir Lipton this time carries it off, there will be very little regret in sporting circles. The better boat is entitled to the prize, and if Lipton is the possessor of the boat he will be as cordially congratulated by his numerous friends here, as by those on the other side.

If the cup this time is taken across the water, the roles will be reversed. American sportsmen will tax their ingenuity and build boats to surpass in speed any so far constructed. New ideas in ship building will receive tangible form, and some of them will doubt be of practical value. This country has led in this line, and will continue to do so. If Sir Thomas takes the cup, he does so with a boat constructed on lines of distinctly American origin, so whichever way the race goes, it is, in one respect, an American victory.

Borers set into old trees while "old sticks" often become borer.

The Iowa has arrived at Panama. When she commands peace there will be peace.

The strike fever has reached Alaska. It doubtless received a cold reception upon arrival.

The kitchen crew of the Yildiz palace have struck. They should make an international affiliation with the Servant Girls' union of Chicago.

It is said that Mr. Richard Croker may become a British subject. It is very doubtful if he has any such intention, for no man would care to be a subject in England after having been supreme ruler in New York.

Private Secretary Cortelyou says that the people will be kept informed of the President's exact condition. This is right and proper and as it should be. It would be a grievous wrong to hide anything from them in this hour of their great sorrow.

If Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock II captures the America's cup and carries it across the water, it will not be necessary for an American yachtsman to belong to an exclusive yacht club as it is now to be a defender of it. Some things are done better in England than in America.

What a beautiful sight it was to see the sweet smiling faces of the thousands of happy children as they wended their way to school this morning. The school children throughout the land are the hope of the nation, the pride of the people, the glory and guarantee of our country's future. Blessings upon them all.

The would-be assassin of President McKinley has been the beneficiary of the American school system, that system on which so much dependence is placed as a panacea for all ills has been placed. It is still a great system, the worker of infinite good and is yet a source of great reliance. But no system can do away with reliance upon God.

of speech and the meeting should have been summarily broken up and dispersed. Such gatherings at such a time of sorrow and grief are an outrage and disgrace and should not be permitted. The American people feel outraged that these gatherings of blood-thirsty wretches are allowed to be and no steps taken to suppress them. They are an invitation to the people to take the law into their own hands.

Admiral Sampson's condition is causing his friends some anxiety. Rear Admiral Belknap, retired, who saw him a few days since at Lake Sunapee, says of him:

"I don't consider Admiral Sampson a well man physically. He has not improved at the Burkehaven and is still weak. No man can suffer bodily weakness for any length of time and retain all his mental energy. Admiral Sampson is affected by his illness just as others would be. He does not talk a great deal, as it tires him. His conversation on ordinary subjects is of sufficient intelligence. He might or might not be well enough mentally to attend the court of inquiry."

All will wish him a speedy recovery to health while his absence from the court of inquiry could not be regarded otherwise than as a public misfortune.

## THE REACTION AGAINST MOB LAW.

Boston Journal.

All honor, we say, to the Alabama jury and the Alabama judge who have had the courage and good sense to convict a lyncher of murder in the first degree, and to give him a life sentence for the crime. Let us hope that their example will be made a precedent. There is no way to stop lynching so short and so effective as this. Just as soon as intending lynchers understand that they will be held individually accountable, and that righteous public sentiment will sustain the courts, there will be a swift subsidence in the lynching craze. Every lyncher is at heart an coward, and the noise or the prison immediately in view will unnerve him.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

The significance of this trial is best appreciated by remembering that Welkumpe is in the heart of the southern lynching belt. It indicates an awakening of justice in that section, and sets an example that may spread as widely as has the lynching habit. The south has long been discredited by its unlawful violence against the blacks. Immigration from the north and even from Europe has been discouraged by the recurrence of lynchings. But since one county has aroused itself to the administration of justice the outlook is less gloomy.

Indianapolis Journal.

Following soon after the action of two or three Southern sheriffs in holding mobs at bay, it shows a healthy growth of public sentiment against lynching.

Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

This conviction is cheering news. It shows that there are spots in the south where people are beginning to think that it is a crime to hang a black man without due process of law. Let the idea spread. It is a good one. When white men can no longer indulge in the amusement of hanging a black man on slight provocation, without running the risk of being deprived of their liberty, it is a sign that a wholesome respect for law is beginning to manifest itself.

Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

The fact that it is possible for an Alabama jury to convict a white man of the crime of lynching and to punish him by imprisonment as his punishment is indicative of an improved state of public opinion.

Chattanooga Times.

There is not a reputable journal in this section that does not refer to these outbreaks of lawlessness in the language of reproof, condemnation, denunciation. The few sheets that approve of lynching and do so with an eye single to the amount of "business" their wicked, infamous utterances may bring them. It is a time and occasion for plain speaking, and there can be no middle ground for men to occupy. The increase in the number of crimes that bring about lynchings, the resort to the stake and flog to avenge other crimes, the outraging of women, the readiness to kill negro offenders for any crime or on mere suspicion—these things are bringing whole communities to the verge of ruin. They are degrading, blackening and will, if not stopped, ruin the whole south, break up our civilization, and relegate us to a condition of semi-barbarism.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Saturday Evening Post announces that Dr. Nansen will contribute to an early issue of that publication an article on the Arctic expeditions. It will contain important comments and predictions as to the success of the different parties.—Philadelphia.

The North American Review for September has an original manuscript by Victor Hugo on "Shakespeare." Mr. Harold Cox's article entitled "The Public Debt of Great Britain," opens the series of "Debts of Nations," which, in the next few months, will give the readers of the Review a popular statement of the financial responsibility of the nations of the earth. Prof. Goldwin Smith furnishes an article on "The Political Situation in England." Consul-General Ho Yow, the representative of the Chinese empire in San Francisco, furnishes an argument in favor of the abolition of the Chinese exclusion act in an article under the title "Chinese Exclusion: A Benefit or a Harm?" and Congressman Boutwell, under the title of "Is the Rush-Bagot Convention Immortal?" gives the history of a treaty relating to the right of England and the United States to arm vessels on the Great Lakes. In an article entitled "Russia and Popular Education," his excellency Constantin Pobledonostoff replies to an article published in a previous number of the Review by Prince Kropotkin. H. G. Wells, in a fourth article in the series entitled "Anticipations," discusses the future of "War." Mr. W. E. Henley contributes six more poems, which complete the series entitled "Hawthorne and Lavender: Songs and Madrigals," while Mr. Howell has written for the number an interesting and valuable consideration of the value of the short story in literature and its place in our literature today.—New York.

The complete story in the September New Lincolnton is entitled "A Knight of the Highway." It is by Clinton Lohard and its aim is to teach redemption through love and faith. Mrs. Burton Harrison, contributes a story of the Civil War, "What Happened After Mary McArthur Cut Her Finger" is the title of a story by S. R. Crockett. Paul Laurence Dunbar's story, "The Independence of Sivas Bolender," is the second "Ohio Pastoral." "Mrs. North" is said to be written by a high official at Washington, and is a scathing arraignment of a recent novel which deals with Washington social and official life; there is also room for a paper by Professor Edward P. Cheyney, of the University of Pennsylvania, on "Village Life in Medieval England." I. Z. G. contributes a London lyric, "At the Zoo" and "Street Wanderers."

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There are two poems by Guy Wetmore Curry, "Paris," as well as other verse from the pens of Madison Cawein, Margarette Merington, Geraldine Moryck, Cora A. Matson Dolson, Sydney Prentice and Eben E. Rexford.—Philadelphia.

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