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RETROSPECTIVE.

As the closing hours of the old year
silently roll by, it is pleasant to con-
template the many blessings and priv-
ileges enjoyed since last New Year's
day. It fills the heart with gratitude.
It is also profitable to remember the
mistakes made, with a view of avoid-
ing them in the future. They should
teach us humility—a lesson that is of
the utmost importance, though so dif-
ficult to learn. Even the losses we may
have sustained, through death, or sick-
ness, or various other causes, add to
our treasure of valuable experiences,
that will be of future benefit. And so,
we gladly acknowledge the hand of the
Lord in all things.

To the Latter-day Saints it is a
source of great satisfaction to know
that the work of the Lord is continually
growing throughout the world. There
are now in the neighborhood of
1,500 missionaries in the field, and the
number is too small for the demand.
From all parts of the world come re-
quests for more laborers. Thousands
desire to hear the Gospel explained,
who cannot be reached by our Elders.
Numerous baptisms have been reported
during the year, though there has been
no special excitement in any part of
the field. South Africa is opening up
to the Gospel. From Cape Colony it is
spreading northward, to the interior,
thus reaching a class of people to
which it has not formerly been sent. In
Belgium very good progress is made;
also in the Scandinavian countries, and
in other parts, and the year has been
one of marked missionary progress.

According to the reports received
from all parts of the field, it is safe to
say that the anti-"Mormon" agitation,
though deplorable for the sake of those
engaged in it, has had the opposite ef-
fect to that intended by its originators.
It has in many instances been the cause
of opening doors to the Elders, that
otherwise would have been closed. It
has aroused the curiosity of many and
induced them to inquire. That is the
report from nearly every mission.

At home the Saints have been great-
ly blessed in their Sabbath meetings,
their quorum meetings, and their con-
ferences, quarterly, and semi-annual.
These last gatherings especially have
been more numerous attended than
ever in the history of the Church, and
they have been characterized by a
spirit of brotherly love and unity, and
the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The
Authorities of the Church have the un-
divided confidence and support of the
Saints. This is also shown in the
amount of free-will offerings in the
form of tithing and other donations,
these being in the aggregate larger, it
is believed, than any previous year.
The faith of the Latter-day Saints who
endeavor to live in the light of the Gos-
pel of the Redeemer, is growing strong-
er, and their testimony is becoming
ever more firmly established.

The raising and dedication of a monu-
ment to the memory of the Prophet
Joseph Smith on the spot where he was
born, is one of the memorable events
of the year. It will stand there as a
testimony to the fact that a Prophet
was raised up to this generation—a
martyr, who sealed his testimony with
his own blood. It is a witness in stone
to the restoration of the Gospel in this
age, as well as a tribute of love from
the Saints to the memory of that ser-
vant of the Lord. It very well typi-
fies the progress of the Church from
the beginning to the present time.

The past year does not present very
many striking features in the ecclesi-
astical world, but there are some. One
of these is the agreement of representa-
tives of over thirty religious bodies
of America to recommend the forma-
tion of a federal council, to meet in
1908, and to speak and act for those
bodies on matters that may be brought
before it. Undoubtedly, the suggestion
will be carried out, for it appears en-
tirely feasible, if differences in creed
are overlooked, and then we will have
a vast religious organization in this
country formed for the purpose of ex-
ercising its influence on public life in
every direction.

One of the leading features of the
year was a so-called evangelistic move-
ment. Great excitement was looked
for in several places in the United
States, and some remarkable revivals
were reported from Wales and from
some of the larger English cities. But
on the whole the religious excitement
did not assume the proportions expect-
ed, and some are still looking for fur-
ther revivals next year.

The membership growth of the sec-
tarian churches is reported somewhat
more encouraging than for some of the
preceding years. Still the results do
not seem to correspond to the enor-
mous energy spent in that direction.
Among those who are reporting
marked increase are the so-called
Disciples, the Lutherans, the Episco-
palians, the Roman Catholics, the Pres-

byterians and a few others. It appears
that the denominations that are boast-
ing of being most orthodox have gained
the largest membership.

With regard to higher criticism, con-
servative theologians hold that it has
almost been buried, while higher critics
themselves believe they have gained
significant victories. The fact probably
is that the sacred Scriptures are less
generally studied in our age than at any
time since they were first given to the
public in the vernacular tongues.

In the Roman Catholic world the final
separation of church and state in
France and the termination of the so-
called concordat have occupied the at-
tention of the entire world. Some pro-
minent Catholics see in these changes
a great disaster to Catholic interests in
France. They fear that a period of
atheism will again sweep the country.
But as to that, it is probably too early
to judge.

The spirit of union has been operat-
ing among the Canadian religious bod-
ies, as well as those of the United
States. In that country the Presbyter-
ians, Methodists and Congregationalists
have actually made efforts to unify
those three denominations under the
name of the United Church of Canada.
It seems that the leaders of this move-
ment have agreed upon the Presbyterian
creed and the Methodist form of
church government, with the addition
of the Congregational council and the
Presbyterian presbytery. It will cer-
tainly be of great interest to see what
the result of this somewhat complicated plan
will be. Among the Protestant denom-
inations of Canada, the Methodists are
said to be most numerous. They are
followed by the Presbyterians. The Con-
gregationalists also form an influential
body, and the three united should be
quite a power in the Dominion of Can-
ada.

FOUL MURDER.

The sympathy of the entire commu-
nity is sincerely extended to the family
and relatives of Mr. Sheets, who was
so ruthlessly murdered Thursday even-
ing, apparently by some of the ruffians
who have, for some time, infested the
city. Mr. Sheets was the son of a
respected Pioneer family. He was in
the prime of life, as to physical health,
and was prematurely cut off from the
land of the living, without any warn-
ing. May the stricken widow, and the
children find consolation and strength
to bear the affliction with which the
old year closes to them, and makes
their otherwise happy home desolate!

Undoubtedly, a serious condition
exists at present in the city. The per-
sistent, libelous agitation has again
born the fruit the sad experience
of the past has taught us to expect.
Toughs and ruffians of every descrip-
tion have come here in the hope of be-
coming able to rob and kill, and escape
punishment in the furious onslaught
upon the "Mormons." We warned the
people, some time ago, that such would
be the case, unless the conservative ele-
ment of all creeds and political affilia-
tions asserted itself. In the interest
of the city, against the unscrupulous lead-
ers of the war upon one class of citi-
zens. The evil has come sooner than
expected.

We have a repetition of the condi-
tions that prevailed some years ago,
also as a result of a bitter anti-"Mor-
mon" agitation. At that time it was
suggested by some of the leaders of
"reform" in Utah, that it would even-
tually be well to import some sin and wicked-
ness, as nothing would draw the
youth away from the Church quicker,
or more effectively. And it came. Nests
of iniquity multiplied like mushrooms.
Gamblers' halls were established under
the very windows of the courts, and the
city was filled with murderous thieves,
until it became more dangerous to cross
a street here an evening, than to travel
among the Bedouins of Arabia. Mat-
ters went from bad to worse, until some
of the anti-"Mormon" agitators them-
selves concluded to call a mass-meet-
ing to protest against the flagrant vio-
lations of law. The citizens, finally,
had to organize and support night
watchmen on every block, to hunt
down the desperados, and by such he-
roic means order and safety were re-
stored.

We are confronted, it appears, by
similar conditions, and for precisely
the same reason. The false impres-
sion has been created abroad that a
state of war exists here; that the "Mor-
mons" are "outlaws" and therefore the
lawful prey of any robber. When some
of the insane anti-"Mormon" haranguers
are considered, the rationale must be ex-
cused for concluding that this is just
their opportunity. And so they come.

The question now is how to get rid
of them. Possibly, the citizens will
have to be called upon again to cleanse
the city. No unlawful means should be
resorted to, and even the sugges-
tions of mob measures should be re-
legated to the dark dens whence they
emanate. Energetic action is called
for, but it must be in accordance with
law.

The discordant clique should be sup-
pressed, and all should work together
for social and moral improvement. If
this were done, the lawless element
would soon seek other haunts. We ap-
peal to the conservative citizens and
ask them to unite for the preservation
of peace; not because the "Mormon"
Church has anything to fear from its
assailers, any more than have the stars
from the banking dogs; but because
contention means danger to every citi-
zen from the outlaws that always gather
where strife is going on. Let us have
peace in the interest of public safety
and morality.

UNNECESSARY CRUELTY.

The following sentiments, credited to
Mrs. Myrtle Madden Fiske, are worthy
of thoughtful consideration. They
might even suggest a subject for a
New Year's resolution which should be
easy to keep:

"In Spain today one may see cruel-
ties that show how tenacious of life
more savagery is, even under the guise
of civilized amusement. In Spain old
horses, worn out in faithful service to
mankind are blindfolded and given

over to the tortures of the bull ring.
The noble spectacle that these animals,
with the faded bulls and gaily dressed
matadors, furnish, is applauded by
brave men and delicate and presu-
mably refined women. Little children
are also permitted to look upon it.
The world has not yet learned that the
greatest coward is he who treats with
cruelty a helpless, living thing; nor has
it yet quite learned that the vilest
soul is that soul which finds pleasure
in inflicting pain. In other countries—
even in our own country—distinguished
men, noble men, brave men, find a pas-
ionate delight in ruthlessly taking the
lives of harmless, kind and beautiful
creatures. A brave and intelligent man
who may be a model of kindness to his
loved ones and his daily associates fires
a bullet into the breast of a bird as it
wings its unsuspecting way through
the air; and as it falls, shattered and
lifeless, its plumage crimsoned with its
blood, the man feels a thrill of rap-
ture!"

FOR THE SICK AND POOR.

We have just learnt that our public-
spirited fellow citizen Joseph E. Tay-
lor, has notified the directors of the
Latter-day Saints' hospital that it is
his intention to keep, for the entire
coming year, at his own expense, a bed
in that institution, for the benefit
of any poor patient that the managers
of the hospital may recommend, and that
may not be able to pay the hospital
expenses. We know that the gentle-
man does not care to have the fact
publicly proclaimed, but we take the
liberty of mentioning it, because, in
all probability, there are others who
will be pleased to act on the suggestion
and make a similar New Year's present
to the hospital, or, rather, to suffering
fellow-beings; for, it is a blessed gift
to them, and not to the institution. Ev-
eryone acquainted with the subject
knows that the hospitals of the city
often are called upon to care for indi-
gent persons, and that they sometimes
have a struggle to meet the expenses
thus incurred. The idea of keeping a
bed an entire year for the benefit
of such sufferers, must commend itself
to all as extremely practical, and we
hope that other citizens will take the
hint. We presume every hospital in the
city would be glad to accept many such
liberal New Year's donations. There is
a special reward for benevolence to-
ward the worthy poor—a reward that
cannot be fully appreciated until the
day when the Lord will recompense
each one according to his deeds in the
flesh.

CONFLICTING RUMORS.

It is not without interest to compare
the conflicting rumors about the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
that are given circulation in the
country from the various cen-
ters from which such rumors
continually emanate. We have be-
fore us the report of an address made
by a well known plagiarist and prevari-
cator, who has been entertaining eastern
audiences for years on what he
calls the "Mormon" menace. This fel-
low, many years ago, made a trip of
Europe, and startled German Metho-
dists with tales about the "Mormons,"
of his own invention. He told them
how the "Mormons" worshipped Joseph
Smith as one person in the Godhead,
and Brigham Young as another. And
such falsehoods he disseminated
abroad, while at home he was enter-
tained by the "Mormon" people, as a
friend!

According to the report in an Illi-
nois paper, he recently stated publicly
that the great danger of "Mormonism"
is not now from polygamy, but from
the ascendancy the "Mormons" are at-
taining by virtue of their commercial
influence. In this connection he paid
the present of the Church, President
Joseph F. Smith, a well deserved com-
pliment, by asserting that he is as great
a leader as was Brigham Young. The
"Mormons," he said, are establishing
their communities all over the West,
and in a short time they will hold the
balance of power in Wyoming, Mont-
ana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington,
New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and
California, and then, of course the
doomsday of the American Republic
will, according to this prophet of Babel,
come with certainty.

Now, contrast this prognostication
with another, which appears in an
Eastern contemporary. According to
this authority, "the railroad, the tele-
graph and the printing press are de-
molishing 'Mormonism' in Utah more
rapidly than its missionaries can gain
converts elsewhere." This view of the
question seems also to be the one taken
by some of the fabricators of anti-"Mor-
mon" sentiment here in Utah, who free-
ly predict that in a few years "Mor-
monism" will be a thing of the past. It
is pretty evident from the conflicting
rumors and reports that the father of
lies is busy among the opponents of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, to no pur-
pose!

This Church has developed, and is still
developing, as the plant from the seed,
and it will go on growing until the
plans and purposes of the Eternal One
shall have been accomplished. But the
triumph of "Mormonism" is seen, not
only in the numerical growth of the
Church, but still more in the fact that
the fundamental truths on which that
system rests, are penetrating the en-
tire world, having an influence for good
in everything that pertains to modern
society. "Mormonism" never aimed at
becoming imperium in imperio—a state
in the state. Its sole aim is to be a
force for righteousness, for truth, for
loyalty, and every virtue, in every
country, in every nation and in every
state, to which it shall be sent, and
thus help preparing the world for the
advent of the Lord and Master. This
is its only purpose, its only aim, and
no opposing power on earth, or
above earth, or below, for that
matter, can stay it from accom-
plishing this purpose. The faith-
ful witnesses may possibly be slain
in the streets of Babylon, but even
death will not frustrate the work of
God. The history of the Prophet Jose-
ph, and of the Church, should have
taught the world that lesson.

A happy New Year!

Salt Lake City has met its Waterloo.

The midshipmen at Annapolis have

eyes but see not when hazing is going
on.

New Year resolutions may be had at
all the book stores.

The early bird doesn't get the worm
this kind of weather.

May the New Year bring happiness
and prosperity to all!

Santa Claus is usually followed by
the collector's claws.

Say what they will against ex-Gov-
ernor Odell, there is some Merritt on his
side.

Eternal vigilance and not vigilantes
is the price of life and liberty in our
streets now.

Cromwell's charge against McCurdy
may become as famous as Cromwell's
charge at Naseby.

Inventor Holland says we shall soon
be flying like birds. Very wisely he
does not say how soon.

Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons says she is
willing to talk compromise with Rob-
ert but reconciliation never. Can it be
that Bob is too old even for a talking
match?

General Chaffee indorses the general
staff army reserve bill. It would have
been rather surprising if he had not,
seeing he is head of the general staff
that drew it up.

President Schurman of Cornell is in
favor of football "as she is." Can it
be because he has the largest hands
and feet of any college president in
the United States?

It is up to John A. McCall to "make
good" the money that Andy Hamilton
received from the New York Life and
has not accounted for. He said he
would, and no doubt—

On his retirement from the army, it
is said General Corbin will enter the
political field and run for Congress. If
he does, he may be transferred from
the retired to the "also ran" list.

It is now predicted that we will see,
in the near future, steamships 1,000 feet
long and with 100 feet beam. It is
thought the increased traffic will nec-
essitate the building of such monsters of
the deep.

The women's clubs of the country
are looking for the psychological mo-
ment to make an attack on the Senate
for the expulsion of Senator Smoot. We
pity the psychological moment when
they find it.

New Year's resolutions are again in
order. Here is a suggestion: Pay what
you owe as soon as possible, and enter
the new year with a wise resolution to
keep free from debt for ever. Be hon-
est with the grocery man, too.

According to census figures, New
York leads all the rest of the cities in
giving charity. But it must be re-
membered in behalf of the other cities
that they do not number among their
charity givers a Russell Sage.

The Russian revolt seems to be prac-
tically over. If it is, now will come
the true test of M. Witte as a states-
man. If the crimes of revolt are to be
followed by the crimes of revenge, it
will only make matters worse in Rus-
sia.

If you want murder and robbery in
the streets, join the mob that has made
its mission in life to divide citi-
zens against each other and keep the
pot of strife boiling. If you want peace
and order, sit down on the originators
of discord and quarrel. Lawlessness
thrives in an atmosphere of contention,
but not where peace and harmony pre-
vail.

It is claimed that dog flesh is becom-
ing a common food in Germany, in ad-
dition to horse flesh, which has been
considered a delicatessen for many
years. The official figures show that
28,607 horses were slaughtered for hu-
man food last year, against 23,627 in the
previous twelve months. This, however,
did not include horses similarly slaugh-
tered by private persons. Dogs killed
for human food numbered 1,017, against
762 in the previous year.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Living Church.
Why are we so slow to learn that a
life is great, not in what it has but
in what it is and does? The Incarna-
tion stood for sacrifice; the giving of no-
less a Self than that of the Son of God,
for men, who deserved not any gracious
gift at all. This, in itself, was too great,
to be made greater by any accompani-
ment of earthly pomp or outward splen-
dor. A crown, a palace, servants in at-
tendance, plenty of the best at hand to
make life comfortable; these things and
the like could have added nothing to
the greatness of the Christ. To such an
extent do we feel they would have taken
from His glory, that our hearts rebel
against the thought even of our Em-
manuel heralded otherwise than by a
sign such as the angel gave; the Babe,
the swaddling clothes, the manger, and
yet how hard it is for men to see that
the things which Christ preferred not
to have can never be the great things
of life for those who are willing to "fol-
low in His train."

Pueblo Chieftain.
It is hard to overestimate the possi-
bilities before the Protestant churches
if they follow up the idea of federated
effort. Under the organization of the
Catholic church prior to the Reforma-
tion, the individual and his rights failed
to receive proper recognition. The Pro-
testant Reformation was a new asser-
tion of the right and necessity of every
man knowing his own life and of every
man directing God for himself. But
necessary as it is that the individual
should have his due, there can be an
extravagant individualism, and most
students of religious affairs are con-
vinced that the Protestant Reformation
has been multiplied far beyond the point
of greatest usefulness. Federation of-
fers a partial solution for the difficulty.

Freeman's Journal.
Liquor won't do as an explanation of
poverty. There is dismal poverty in
many parts of the world where drun-
kenness, or intemperance, in the use
of intoxicating liquors, is unknown. Ex-

This store will
be closed Tues-
day, Jan. 2, for
Stocktaking.

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In behalf of all stockholders, the Superintendent of Z. C. M. I.
desires to extend greetings, and thanks to the entire purchasing
public for their generous and liberal patronage during 1905,
fully realizing that by their support alone has been made
possible the magnificent and phenomenal business which has
come to this institution. This store has experienced a steady, healthy growth
of business right from its organization in 1868, until today it is considered
the most thoroughly equipped, convenient and comfortable trading place in
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It should always be remembered that
noise and fussiness are in themselves
no evidence of spiritual life. On the
contrary they may be the signs of
spiritual degeneration. One of the in-
fallible symptoms of neurasthenia is an
inability to assume the habit of re-
pose. While it must ever be kept in
mind that idleness is no condition of
inspiration, it should also be laid to
heart that perspiration is not synony-
mous with inspiration. Many a church
in these days of boom and bluster is
tempted to forget or to ignore the in-
junction to be still and know the Lord
and also that prayer is still the great-
est force in the world. "We should re-
member," said the late Dr. Parker of
London, "that the river is not deepest
where it is noisiest."

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