

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

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## "MORMON" SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The morning papers contain a report of the union meeting of sectarian Sunday school workers, held on Monday. From both accounts it is made clear that one of the chief features of the occasion was an attack on the "Mormon" Sunday schools, which are not excelled by any in this country or in Europe. It seems that no gathering of so-called "Christian" professors is to them completely interesting, without a display of bitterness and the fulmination of some falsehoods against the Latter-day Saints, or "Mormons," as they are called by their opponents. The Herald reports say:

The feature of yesterday's sessions of the Sunday school rally of the State association at the Y. M. C. A. was a spirited discussion of the influence of Mormonism upon the denominational work among the young. The subject was brought up by the Rev. E. S. Lewis, D. D., of Columbus, O., one of the visiting clergymen. He asked as to the influence of what he called "this alien faith" upon the work, and several undertook to give the correct answer. The Rev. Hugh McCreery was the first to attempt to shed some light upon the subject. He said that he couldn't explain the influence, but could illustrate it by a story. The story, summed up, was that one of the denominational Sunday school teachers asked one of her pupils who was the only perfect man that ever lived, and the answer was "Joseph Smith." This, Mr. McCreery contended, showed how the children were influenced by their surroundings and by their playmates. Professor Gillilan of the High school presented a similar view, and told another anecdote. It was to the effect that his little 10-year-old boy had asked him "that man over there really has three wives." Said Mr. Gillilan: "It's a bad atmosphere. I want to save my family from it, but I don't know what to do."

The Tribune account of the same meeting contains the following:

After considering several questions which were presented by the various workers, Dr. Lewis asked for expressions of opinion as to whether or not there were any peculiarities presented to the workers here which did not have to be met by workers in other States owing to the presence of the Mormon element. Rev. Hugh McCreery, Rev. E. G. Hunt and Mr. Gillilan expressed the opinion that there were. Mr. McCreery said there were ten thousand Mormon children in Utah who were not trained to recognize the spirituality of Christ; that if, as he asked, they would name Joseph Smith as the only man who had lived without sinning, Mr. Gillilan thought there was a certain atmosphere which could not be seen but could be felt and which was not desirable in a child to raise the children of Christian parents. Rev. Mr. Hunt expressed similar views. Mr. Axton cited the fact that the Mormon Sunday schools are in a thriving condition; that there are ten of their Sunday schools in this city which have an average attendance above that of the largest Sunday school of the Gentiles, and he saw a condition which must be faced and met, and he called upon his hearers to search out the best methods to meet it.

Both papers state that Mr. Thomas Weir objected to this "railing against the Mormons," and thought that instead of magnifying the evils among them the "sins of the Gentiles" ought to receive attention. He further asserted that "statistics showed a higher percentage of Christians among the Indians of North America than among the whites of the Western States." After this it is asserted, "the subject of Mormonism was dropped." Mr. Weir's remarks acted as a sort of stopper to the flow of anti-Mormonism.

The Latter-day Saints will readily perceive the direct falsehood of the assertions made by the Rev. (?) gentlemen, who seem so jealous of the prosperity of "Mormon" Sunday schools. But persons unacquainted with the faith of the people "everywhere spoken against," may not be able to see through the dust raised by pious Sunday school workers, and many will doubtless be deceived by the untruths they so unblushingly told on Monday. It is on their account that we give some attention to the subject and present a few facts for general consideration.

First as to the personal character of Joseph Smith. There is not the slightest thread of reason on which to weave the fabric of falsehood as to the notion about Joseph Smith being "the only man who had lived without sinning." We believe the story told by Mr. McCreery in illustration of the untruth to be either a fable of his own concoction, or one of those silly tales that are told to travelers. Like the prophet's attempt to walk on the water, and to make a new leg or arm for a cripple. They are absolutely without foundation in truth and lack even the essential elements of humor.

In the life of Joseph Smith, published in the Millennium Star, also in the well known work on the subject by President George Q. Cannon, and in the revelations of God contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, the fallings and follies and sins of that man, called of God, are very plainly mentioned. These are text books in the "Mormon" Sunday schools and Mutual Improvement Associations. Here is an extract from the Prophet's own diary:

"During the space of the time which

interceded between the time I had the vision, and the year eighteen twenty-three—having been forbidden to join any of the religious sects of the day, and being of very tender years, and persecuted by those who ought to have been my friends, and to have treated me kindly, and if they should be to be deluded, to have endeavored in a proper and affectionate manner to have reclaimed me, I was left to all kinds of temptations; and mingling with all kinds of society, I frequently fell into many foolish errors, and displayed the weakness of youth, which, I am sorry to say, led me into divers temptations, to the gratification of many appetites offensive in the sight of God. In consequence of these things, I often felt condemned for my weakness and imperfections; when, on the evening of the above mentioned twenty-first of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to prayer and supplication to Almighty God, for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before Him; for I had full confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation, as I had previously had one."

The answer is found in his "Life," by George Q. Cannon, p. 29:

"But he had not yet learned to justify with the virtues and fallings of others, and often he reproached himself with sinfulness because of his enforced associations. His quick conscience was to exonerate every youthful folly, and he regarded many of his fallings, and of thoughtlessness as offenses at which the heavens must frown."

In a revelation given to Joseph Smith on July 23 the following is found:

"Behold, you have been instructed with these things, how strict were your commandments; and remember also the promises which were made to you, if you did not transgress them: 'And behold, how oft you have transgressed the commandments and the laws of God, and have gone on in the persuasions of men.'—Doc. & Cov., p. 42.

Another revelation to the Prophet, March 8, 1832, commences thus:

"Thus saith the Lord, verily, verily, I say unto you, my son, thy sins are forgiven thee according to thy petition, for thy prayers and the prayers of thy brethren have come up into mine ears."—Doc. & Cov., p. 324.

On May 6, 1833, the Lord said:

"And now, verily, I say unto Joseph Smith, Jr., you have not kept the commandments, and must stand rebuked before the Lord."—Doc. & Cov., p. 232.

That should be sufficient on this point, except that these things are and have been taught in all the Sunday schools of the Church, as may be seen in the books that are used for systematic instruction. Even if it were true that some child gave the answer to a question as stated by Mr. McCreery, it would be no evidence that the child was taught such nonsense in a "Mormon" Sunday school, and much less would it justify the falsehood that ten thousand "Mormon" children were "trained" to make a similar reply. If Mr. McCreery is not ashamed of his "false witness," it must be because of a conscience "seared as with a hot iron."

Now as to the "spirituality of Christ." There is a series of Leaflets, used in all the Sunday schools of this Church, forming a volume issued by the Deseret Sunday School Union. It can be had of George Q. Cannon & Sons' company. The first part of the book is occupied with lessons on the life, character, divinity, atonement, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have not space to spare for many quotations. But these Leaflets are so arranged as to form lessons to be learned with a summary of each and questions and the answers to them for the pupils to commit to memory. There are thirty of them, all taken from the New Testament, besides others from other books. We will only give one of the summaries headed, What We May Learn From This Lesson:

1. That mere belief in God is not sufficient to save men. 2. Men must have a living faith which will lead them to obey God's laws. 3. All must be born again—of water by baptism, of the Holy Spirit by the reception of the Holy Ghost. 4. Jesus had come down from heaven. 5. That Jesus well understood the necessity and manner of His death. 6. That Jesus was the only begotten Son of God, that those sincerely believe in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. 8. That God sent His Son into the world to save the world, not condemn it. 9. Of the great love of the Father to mankind, in giving His only begotten Son as a ransom for their sins, and of the Son in assuming the sins of the world and offering up His life as an atonement therefor.

There is no Sunday school in Europe or America where there is a more systematic and thorough training imparted to the children, young and old, as to the divinity, love, mercy, justice and eternity of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, than in the so-called "Mormon" Sunday schools. And it appears that Mr. Axton is so jealous of their large attendance, compared with the slim gatherings at the sectarian Sunday schools, that he wants "the best methods searched out" to meet this condition. Well, it will be found by "searching" that maligning and misrepresenting the "Mormon" Sunday schools, will not prove one of the best methods to be employed, either to lessen the one or increase the other.

Now as to Mr. Gillilan and his "anecdote" and inference. It is true that a "ten year old boy" did ask if a certain man "really has three wives," why should that "cause a bad atmosphere?" If a Sunday school pupil should ask him whether it was true that Abraham had several wives, and was called the "Friend of God," would that make "a bad atmosphere?" If another "ten year old boy" should ask him whether it was true that God gave to David "all the wives of Saul into his bosom" and that he was yet "a man after God's own heart," would the "atmosphere" be improved? And if the still further question was asked why Jesus Christ proclaimed His Father the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob and yet two of those worthies, with whom the righteous are to "sit down in the Kingdom of God" had several wives, would the atmosphere become so bad that Mr. Gillilan could not breathe for gasping?

That gentleman is a High school teacher, paid out of the public funds for his work. That does not include vilifying and berating part of the taxpayers who support him. We do not wish to interfere with him or any Sun-

day school workers, in anything they may do for the benefit of their own schools or the sects to which they belong. They may labor along their own lines without any interference from the "Mormons." But we protest against their attacks upon our Sunday schools in the manner reported in the morning papers, and we voice the sentiments in this respect, not only of the large majority of the people of Utah, whose faith has been falsified, and whose doctrine have been distorted by men calling themselves Christian ministers and teachers, but of many who are not of our faith.

If they have been misinformed, it is time they were corrected. If they are wilfully maligning the "Mormon" Church and its teachings, they ought to be rebuked and shown up in their true character, as unfit to teach the children of Christian people, either in a secular or sacred capacity. They are unworthy of the respect of any decent citizen, unless they have spoken in ignorance, and for that there is small excuse, because our Sunday schools are open to all and the text books used can be had by anybody who chooses to purchase them.

That a convention of Sunday school workers should spend its time in vilifying, slandering and maligning other Sunday school laborers, through jealousy of their success or for any similar unworthy motive, is a disgrace to all who engaged in it, and they have need to repent and should acknowledge the wrong they have committed.

Mr. Thomas Weir seems to be the only one of the speakers that was endowed with fairness and wisdom on the question, introduced by a visitor who knew nothing of the subject, and we commend Mr. Weir's suggestion to the consideration of his associates. They had better employ their time in dissipating the darkness within their own circles, and in correcting the errors in their own clashing creeds and crumbling sectarian institutions.

## THE OREGON.

The mishap to the magnificent ship Oregon in Chinese waters seems to have been much more serious than was at first realized. Even if there is a possibility of lifting her off the rock that is said to have pierced her, this cannot be done without great cost.

The Oregon was launched at San Francisco about seven years ago. She won fame during the war with Spain, when she, commanded by Captain Charles E. Clark, made a run of 15,000 miles down the Pacific coast, and then turned northward, and in due time reported for service, and took part in the ever memorable naval battle off Santiago. And the great feature was that the ship, notwithstanding its long voyage, was almost immediately, at her arrival in Cuban waters, ready for service. A stronger testimony to the qualities of the vessel, and the skill with which it was handled, it would be impossible to conceive of. There is at present no more popular ship in the American navy than the Oregon.

At the time of the mishap the vessel was in the charge of Commander Wilde, who had been given this position on account of the great confidence placed in him. There is no disposition to blame the officer for the occurrence; still it must be a bar to his rapid advancement. It is to be hoped that the accident can be satisfactorily explained, and that the ship can be put into shape for service in the conflict that seems impending.

Since the above was written word has been received through an Associated Press dispatch that the vessel has been floated and is expected to reach Port Arthur. This will be welcome news to every patriotic American citizen.

## GERMANY AND CHINA.

As has been surmised in these columns, the murder of the German minister at Peking, is in Germany regarded as an insult to the German flag, which must be wiped out in blood. The policy of the German government was set forth in a brief speech by the Emperor, to a detachment of soldiers about to leave for China. And his address must be accepted as a notice to all the world, that from now on Germany will play a leading role in the Chinese drama. It is, in fact, tantamount to a declaration of war against the Chinese empire.

The Emperor said in substance that the insult offered the flag demanded exemplary punishment and vengeance. He declared that he would not rest until the German flag, joined with those of the other powers, floated triumphantly over China's flag, and until it has been planted upon the walls of Peking, to dictate terms of peace to the Chinese.

The Emperor politely made some reference to "other flags," but it is plain that in his opinion the murder of the German minister places upon the German army and navy the duty of taking the lead in the war of vengeance, and gives the German government the right to dictate the terms of peace. This is a new factor in the Chinese problem, and one which may present new difficulties. Russia has not concealed her intention of leading out, when peace terms are to be dictated. Japan is evidently endeavoring to earn the right of dictating peace terms. And now comes Germany. Will they finally fight for the right to dictate those terms of peace? The German Emperor has made several speeches intended more for dramatic effect than for a declaration of a serious policy, but in the present instance we believe he has the entire nation behind him. He has but given voice to a general sentiment in the empire. The German people, we believe, are willing to make any necessary sacrifice for the honor of the flag and the protection of the interests of the Fatherland. If this is true, the Chinese crisis may be regarded as beyond the control of diplomacy. Germany has virtually declared war against China.

## THE MANILA SALOONS.

A portion of the American press is again commenting on the saloon business in Manila, and strongly condemning those responsible for the alleged in-

crease in drunkenness due to the presence there, of American soldiers.

The New York Independent started the discussion this time by publishing a letter from Harold Martin, the representative of the Associated Press in Manila. According to his report, before the Americans reached the city, there were only three licensed saloons for the sale of brandy, whiskey and such liquors. On May 10th, there were 170 saloons in the city and 53 wholesale houses.

The effect of this increase in the liquor traffic is said to be deplorable. Mr. Martin alleges that an every day scene in the main thoroughfare of the city is drunken rowdism. Women are subjected to "unpleasant experiences" and private cabs and carriages are often forcibly seized by drunken troops.

The writer maintains that this drunkenness is indulged in mainly by Americans. He says:

"Both Spaniards and Filipinos are temperate people; they do not drink to excess. Any one who has been in Spain or who has seen the Spanish soldiers in Cuba in Porto Rico and the Philippines will admit they are not addicted to heavy drinking, and I do not think this point needs any further support. And the Filipino is as temperate as the Spaniard. I have been in these islands for one year, and I have yet to see an intoxicated native. I do not maintain that the Filipino never gets drunk, but the occurrence is unquestionably very rare. It is true that before we came they manufactured and consumed large quantities of this wine that has such a terrible effect upon our own men; but they drank it in moderation, while our men use it to excess. A gentleman who has been two years and a half in the Philippines has just told me he has seen during that time two or three natives who, he thought, were drunk; and inquiry among the old Spanish and English residents of the country elicits statements all of one tenor, that the Filipino are a most temperate people."

If the report is founded on facts, the condition complained of is highly deplorable. We believe the intelligent American soldier can be reasoned with and made to see the mistake of yielding to a murderous vice. We also believe the liquor traffic can be regulated. It should not be too late to do so yet in Manila.

"War," it is said, "is hell." One of its effects is the brutalizing influence it has upon all those who participate in it, as is seen in all places where large bodies of soldiers are gathered, or in ports where sailors and marines land for their revelries. Drunkenness, fights, gambling, and licentiousness seem to be the pastimes indulged in, as a matter of course. If the conditions in Manila are as bad as described, that is but another proof of the degrading influence of army life, and the sooner the war can be ended, and the soldiers returned to their families, and to the duties of private citizens, the better.

## Tomorrow will be the Glorious Fourth.

How can planks in platforms be made unless there is previous log-rolling?

Many a man thinks he is prominent in politics when he is only having "his leg pulled."

The Deseret News will celebrate Independence Day by publishing as early as possible.

The indications are that many olive branches will be used in manufacturing the Kansas City platform.

Look out for particulars of the nominations at the Kansas City convention tomorrow, in the Deseret News of Wednesday.

Mr. Bryan is to be named on the Fourth. And thus once again recurs that old familiar question: "What's in a name?"

A morning contemporary, speaking of the bicycle-on-the-sidewalk nuisance, says: "The place for vehicles is in the streets." Right you are, contemporary, for once.

Prince Tuan and the Chinese do not appear to have heard of the old saying, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." But the saying is as true today as it ever was; and it is applicable to their case.

The Salt Lake public building is to be allowed to "slumber" awhile longer. This is what it has been doing ever since it was first projected. When speaking about it the officials at Washington should tell us something new.

In a communication to the Mayor and Council of Salt Lake City, a leading bicyclist, among other things, says: "Our sidewalks are extremely wide and comparatively easy to repair, while the streets are wide and difficult to keep in passable condition." Our sidewalks are not so "extremely wide" but that the bicyclists insist on riding on the paved walks, which are only from six to eight feet in width, which is not so "extremely wide" after all. Nor is there any case of record where they have shown any willingness to forsake the narrow strip of paving that pedestrians may proceed unmolested. The broad sidewalk argument in favor of the bicyclists is no argument at all. Bicyclists should not be allowed to use the sidewalks to the great danger and detriment of the public. The walks are for pedestrians and not for vehicles.

## THE WHEAT SITUATION.

Chicago News.

If anybody thinks the rise in the price of wheat is a sign of national prosperity he should take a few minutes off and study the stock market. The advance in price has been based wholly on a prospective reduction of the yield in the United States, and if that makes for national prosperity, why, then, it would be a grand stroke of business to let all the wheat lands lie fallow, in which event the cereal would at once go to \$5 or \$10 a bushel. Every cent added to the price of wheat means that in the opinion of the people who are doing the adding the northwest will have so much less grain to sell—which implies that it will have so much less cloth, iron, groceries, furniture, leather and other commodities to buy.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Though the agriculture of Minnesota is more varied than it was ten years ago, yet it is not sufficiently varied to rely upon any other crop than that of wheat. Fortunately the two Dakotas raise a large amount of flaxseed, and if that should turn out well, the receipts therefor will tend to fill the vacuum in the purses of the people. These three States in 1899 contained a population of 1,812,353 or 25,473 more than Wisconsin. Perhaps the population is now 2,100,000.

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As the 125,000,000 bushels of wheat would have realized to the farmers \$100,000,000, spreading the present disaster over 2,000,000 of people, it is sore in the extreme. The present misfortune is felt the more deeply because it was unexpected, as Minnesota has not experienced a severe failure of the wheat crop in twenty-five years.

Worcester Spy.

The drought has been severe and protracted, and the wheat crop no doubt has seriously suffered. Therefore, it is reasonable to concede that instead of the 250,000,000 bushels raised last year we may not harvest more than 175,000,000 bushels this season. While this will be a serious loss to the growers, it will not be of sufficient magnitude to approach a national calamity. The net results of the harvest would be only 45,000,000 less than last year, or about 100,000 bushels, yet the average annual production of five years, which includes some of our biggest crop years, has been only 523,000,000 bushels, and the average for the last nine years only 514,000,000 bushels.

Chicago Times-Herald.

As a subject of popular and absorbing interest the wheat situation in this country is crowding the Bakers in Africa, the Boxers in China and the Bryanites at Kansas City for first place. If the cereal keeps on in its upward flight no one will seriously concern himself about the antics of the Boxers. Articles have to have rattans, and the opening of China means a larger market for American flour, and hence a higher price for wheat. With the demand constantly enlarging and with no rain in the drought-stricken districts in Minnesota and the Dakotas there is every reason to believe that the present price is far from the top notch.

Springfield Republican.

Crop news is no more reassuring than it has been. Advice from the spring wheat States show no improvement in conditions. Senator Washburn of Minnesota, returning from a journey through the Dakotas, says the crop of those states and Minnesota will not exceed 50,000,000 bushels—which is the worst report yet made, indicating a yield only about one-fourth of that of last year. Mr. Washburn is in the flour business. The present drop in quotations is due simply to a feeling that the advance had been overdone, and that not enough account has been made of the heavy wheat production in Kansas and the Southwest.

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Of the 5,000 copies of this popular book published last year only three or four hundred remain and the author has decided to sell these through the ordinary agencies for Church publications. Your local agent will order the book for you or it will be sent postpaid from the Deseret News Office. Cloth, \$1.50; Half Morocco, \$2.00.

# STOCKS, INVESTMENTS AND BONDS.

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