

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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LATER-DAY SAINTS.

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Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

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SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 8, 1900.

## OUR TRUE POSITION.

It is never pleasant to be misrepresented. It is not always necessary, however, to notice the false witness against what one does or says. Occasionally it is proper to do so and the Deseret News now refers to an accusation made a few days ago and to which our attention has been drawn, because it has a public interest. A paper which has often willfully misrepresented us states that "some people are unscrupulous enough to circulate about town, ride on street cars, etc., when they are afflicted with the disease that is prevalent, and that 'the reason it is here is more due to the Deseret News than to any other cause.' And further that 'When an attempt was made last winter to stamp it out by general vaccination the 'News' opposed it by all its power.'"

The paper that makes these charges is afflicted either with a bad memory, or it still harbors that rankling hatred which has so often prompted its false and malicious attacks on the Deseret News. Reference to the files of the "News" will demonstrate the utter untruthfulness of both the specifications we have quoted. In the first place, the "News" has supported and urged the necessity of strict quarantine regulations and strongly advised the isolation of patients and of all persons exposed to contagion. In the second place, it has not opposed vaccination "with all its power," but has repeatedly stated its position to be simply against "compulsory vaccination."

If we had been disposed to fight vaccination per se we could have filled the "News" with articles, correspondence, statistics, protests and quotations from eminent physicians sent to us on the subject. We did give place to a few communications, both from opponents and advocates of vaccination. But this paper, again and again, explained its position to be against the compulsion which certain individuals were endeavoring to bring to bear, contrary to that personal liberty which is so dear to every free man and woman.

There is no paper in this State which has advocated the necessity and benefit to the public of sanitary regulations, including isolation of the diseased and the quarantining of persons exposed to infection, to the same extent that the Deseret News has urged these measures for the public health and safety. If people who have been exposed to infection with the public, it has been in the face of our repeated protests and warnings. We have even dropped words of caution to physicians who have waited on patients afflicted with the disorder that has caused so much trouble, and we have shown the necessity of the disinfection of their clothing and a change when they visit people not thus afflicted.

We have pointed out the likelihood of the spread of contagion by persons not themselves diseased, who have been in company with those who are smitten, proving that a vaccinated person, or one immune from any cause, is as liable to carry contagion in hair or clothing as an unvaccinated. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that vaccination is a protection to the individual against smallpox, it does not secure his clothing from infection and he can carry it to others whether he is a physician, a clergyman, a merchant or a day-laborer, if he has been in company with a smallpox patient.

Following are paragraphs from editorials in the Deseret News during January, 1900, when the controversy on this subject was at its height:

"The Deseret News does not wish to prevent any person from resorting to vaccination or any other supposed remedy for the spread of disease. It is opposed to assaults upon the liberty of the citizen to the extent which some reckless people propose. The quarantine is frequently necessary. It should be strictly observed when imposed by the proper authorities."—"News," Jan. 5, 1900.

"The Deseret News desires it to be distinctly understood, that while it is given place to communications which are opposed to the theory and practice of vaccination, its own opposition is and has been all along simply against the compulsion which is being exercised under the guise of a school regulation. In addition to that, it has objected to the dogmatic assertions of a few members of the medical fraternity in this city, which reflect upon everybody's intelligence. When it is declared for the purpose of influencing the City Council and the board of education, that the reputable physician is opposed to vaccination, they state that which is untrue."

"We have to repeat, once more, that our fight is on behalf of the people who resist the unwarranted attempts to encroach upon their rights and liberties. Let those who believe in vaccination, who, unbelieved, are willing to submit to the dictum of unscrupulous officials, vaccinated themselves and the 'News' will make no objection. Our protest is against the endeavor to force upon the taxpayers of this city, something that hosts of them object to, and which they will resist to the last and which Deseret News, Saturday January 15th, 1900."

"The contention however on which the

Deseret News has taken a decided position, is on the right of believers in the virtues of vaccination to force its practice upon those who do not. We repeat, we have no quarrel with people who want to be vaccinated or to have their children vaccinated to the operation, but we want them to have the same consideration for others who most strongly object to it in practice and repudiate it in theory. Let us all be fair in our discussion and avoid anger and excitement!"—"News," Jan. 15th.

"This paper acknowledges the right of local authorities to establish quarantine to isolate persons known to be afflicted with or exposed to contagious disorders, to adopt and enforce regulations, sanitary in their nature, to promote cleanliness and to remove filth in which disease germinates, and to do all reasonable things which they are required or permitted to do by law. But it denies the right of any person, society, committee or board to compel, directly or by indirect means, the inoculation of an unwilling, healthy person with virus from a diseased animal or human being."—"News," Jan. 15th.

"Nobody wants to prevent children or adults being vaccinated from choice. But there is a natural and constitutional objection to having it forced upon unwilling subjects. That is an invasion of personal liberty unwarranted by law. The protestants against the principle that individual liberty must be often surrendered to some extent, for the public benefit. There is no dispute as to that. But that liberty must be limited by law."—"News," January 23rd."

Some of the most prominent Elders of the Church believe that vaccination is a preventive to some extent at least of smallpox. Others do not take the same view and still others are in the position of thousands of intelligent people, who are in doubt because of the contradictory evidences offered on either side. But most of them are opposed to the compulsion which is attempted upon people who strongly object to submit their children to something so repulsive to their feelings and opinions. There has been no official Church direction that we are aware of to influence people to resist direction or edicts from any board or public officer in this city or State. The Church does not engage in that kind of interference. Every member of the Church, however, is as free to exercise the rights and liberties of a citizen as any non-Mormon may lay claim to be."—"News," January 23rd.

The foregoing excerpts are from editorials of nearly a year ago, and were prompted by the misrepresentations of our opponents, who seem determined not to treat fairly any person or paper that differs from their views. The "News" has always supported lawful regulations for the promotion of the public health, and is ready to do so today. But it has been opposed to the arbitrary exercise of unlawful power, and expects to be while it has any influence to wield in behalf of truth and liberty.

## WELL INFORMED.

The Laramie Boomerang has the following unique paragraph:

"James P. Peterson of this city received the sad news yesterday that his father, Andrew A. Peterson, died at Wanship, Utah, Nov. 23. Deceased leaves a family of eight sons and four daughters to mourn his death. He was a pioneer, having crossed the plains fifty years ago with Brigham Young, and at the time of his death was an Apostle of the Mormon Church. Four years ago Mr. Peterson was defeated by seven votes for the presidency of the Church."

The fund of information embodied in those few sentences is quite astonishing. The worthy deceased, whatever may have been the excellence of his life, and the sorrow that has been caused by his death, was not a pioneer as stated, was not an Apostle of the "Mormon" Church, was never mentioned in connection with its Presidency, and no one is ever elected to that position in the manner asserted. For multum in parvo of absurd mistakes the Boomerang paragraph stands unrivaled in newspaperdom. We mention it simply to show how little the average journalist outside of Utah knows of "Mormon" affairs. We regret that the name of the respected deceased has thus been made prominent in connection with such egregious blunders, but it serves to illustrate the unreliability of newspaper reports concerning anything that relates to Utah.

## ANGLO-RUSSIAN UNION.

The Anglican church, it will be remembered, rejected the overtures of the present Roman pontiff for a union under the one head; now it is claimed that there is a strong tendency in the so-called high church party toward the Greek church, and according to all accounts this tendency is being encouraged and met half way by the prelates of the latter.

The discussion has been started by a recent brilliant function at Fond du Lac, Wis. On that occasion Rev. Dr. Reginald Heber Weller was consecrated as co-adjutor of the bishop of the place. Seven bishops of the Episcopal church took part in the ceremonies, and the Russian Greek bishop of the Aleutian Islands came all the way from San Francisco, by special permission from the holy synod, to honor the function with his presence. Another notable prelate present was the head of the so-called Old Catholic church of the United States.

The Greek bishop is quoted as saying that he came in the interest of unity, and that he was well pleased with the ceremonies. He said the two communions are drawing ever closer together, and he took what he had seen on the occasion referred to, as an evidence of the coming unity of the two churches. He suggested that the opening services of the general convention at San Francisco be formed on the lines of the consecration of Bishop Weller, as that would have "great weight with the holy synod of Russia."

The living Church, the organ of the High church party, is delighted with the entire performance. "Oh," it exclaims, "for a statesmanship in this church broad enough to rise above petty considerations and to mold the official functions of the whole church on those lines which our catholic heritage would suggest as appropriate!" This, however, is not the view of all Episcopalians. One of their organs charges that the bishops who took part in the Fond du Lac ceremonies are guilty of having "made themselves adepts and abettors of ritual anarchy in the American church."

We can hardly believe that the little spectacular performance at Fond du

Lac, notwithstanding its processions, music, anointing and oratorical exercises, is very serious. Churches established on national lines do not melt into one another, except certain advantages are to be gained. But what advantage could the Russian church gain by joining the Anglican division, or vice versa? The Anglican church might join either of the two, or even Rome, were the clergymen thereby secured a more ample salary. But as for the two churches represented at Fond du Lac, no such advantage is in view. No doubt the Russian bishop would gladly see the Episcopalians adopt some of his ceremonies, and the Episcopalians would equally gladly learn of the conversion of the holy synod to the thirty-nine articles of faith, but it should be evident to all that there is no probability of any such occurrence.

There is, on the whole, no prospect of the reunion of the scattered fragments of Christendom. Unity there will ultimately be, but not by any such methods. It will come when the Spirit of God moves among the dry bones, building them up anew to living forms. The final unity will be established upon a platform of the eternal truth and not upon a mosaic work of human creeds.

## ONE MORE WITNESS.

The Popular Educator for November, published in Boston, Mass., has the following article which will be of interest to a great number of our readers:

"Near Manté, Ecuador, a remarkable archaeological relic has been found—one of the most interesting monuments in South America of an unknown and extinct civilization. Upon a platform of massive blocks of stone, on a summit of a low hill, is a natural amphitheater and arranged in a perfect circle are thirty enormous stone chairs, evidently 'the seats of the mighty.' Each chair is a monolith, cut from a solid block of granite, and they are all fine specimens of stone carving. The seat rests upon the back of a crouching sphinx, which has a decidedly Egyptian appearance. There are no backs to the chairs, but two broad arms. This is supposed to have been a place of meeting—an open-air council of the chiefs of the territory now known as Ecuador, who were the Incas of Peru several hundred years before the Spanish invasion, says the American Antiquarian. Tradition teaches us with more or less obscurity that the territory now known as Ecuador was divided into several independent but allied kingdoms, and that the people reached a high state of civilization. They worshipped the sun and the moon, to both of which they raised temples. They had a knowledge of astronomy and were skilled in other sciences and arts, but they had no written language, and the only records that tell of their existence are rude monuments like the chairs described."

Students of the Book of Mormon will see, in the foregoing paragraph, additional evidence of the truth of that remarkable work, which gives the only authentic account of the origin of the early inhabitants of the continent, and of the progenitors of the present tribes of American Indians. The name of the town in Ecuador is strongly suggestive. It is a Book of Mormon name, which has been adopted by a city in Sampele.

The whole paragraph is of value, among the numerous discoveries of later times that give testimony to the authenticity of a book which has received more ridicule, and less unbiased examination, than anything of importance that has issued from the press during the great and wonderful nineteenth century.

It is probable that these accumulated bits of evidence will at length have their due weight, upon the minds of scientific investigators, and before many years of the new century shall pass away, the world will open its eyes to the value of the record of the ancient inhabitants of the Western hemisphere, and marvel at the blindness and folly of the people who rejected what God revealed, among the extraordinary developments of the century now passing away.

Dewet is being hard pressed but thus far has not been "squeezed."

Hereafter people will have to take their oleomargarine straight.

In the building up of a big navy it is by no means the first step that costs.

"Pink eye" has appeared in Chicago. That city ever did take a roseate view of matters.

Thus far in the Kitchener-Dewet fox chase the latter has proven the more fox of the two.

Bull fights in Arizona have been prohibited. Nothing less than train robbery goes there.

The Cuban constitutional convention seems to be making neither progress nor constitution.

The best way to keep warm in winter is to burn coal. How to get the coal is another question.

Gov. Roosevelt has determined to turn lion hunter. This is much better than being a tuft hunter.

Alice O'Donnell, the New York trained nurse who killed a little child, must have had very bad training.

It is probable that the name of the new America's cup defender will be Eagle. "May the flight of the eagle ever be thine."

Gov. Tanner (of Illinois) days are surely numbered. The Times-Herald publishes just the number remaining of his term each day.

It is now charged against Mr. Hanna that once upon a time he wrote poetry. It is a historic fact that Judson Harmon, when attorney-general, wrote poetry.

The officer whose duty it is to collect dog licenses could find profitable employment for a few days by visiting various parts of the city and "colaring" the uncollared dogs.

Holland and Portugal not being represented in the concert of the powers at Pekin have determined to draw attention to themselves and so have arranged a little diplomatic rupture among themselves.

And now great men and small are telling the people what are the ten great books produced during the nineteenth century. It is much to be hoped

that this question will not assume the dimensions and last the while that the hundred-best-books question did. That got to be everybody's nightmare.

There is some talk of making a special silver dollar for the Philippines. The coin to contain something less than the regular silver dollar. This, if done, will be a departure from the policy of the trade dollar, which contained eight grains more than the standard dollar.

The vacated University building would make a splendid home for the High School. If it could be purchased by the Board of Education, and if the lease now under contract could be vacated, the change would be an excellent thing. The building and grounds are also admirably adapted for a public hospital. The price set by the land board we consider very cheap for such valuable property.

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

New York Independent.

This should be understood, that as it exists, the Protestant Episcopal church is a church of order and law, rather than of liberty, so far as its form of worship is concerned. The two last general conventions were devoted to minor amendments of the services in the prayer-book. These bishops are guilty of a conspiracy against the laws of their church, as they exist; and they might properly be called to strict account at the next general convention, or brought to trial for an offense vastly worse than those for which Episcopal rectors have been condemned in the past. Yet we do not say that we hope this will be done. If these rebels are not called to account, it will be understood that liberty has been achieved, and that the law is no longer binding. That is the way that liberty from law is generally secured, by putting the law on the shelf and forgetting it. That is the way the Presbyterians are doing with their Westminster confession; we hardly expected the Episcopalians to do the same with their prayer book.

New York Churchman.

The Presbyterian Creed, the Westminster Confession, is likely to remain unrevived until that church, like Hamlet, gets ready to reform altogether. Forty-five presbyteries have voted to dismiss all discussion of the matter; 133 are willing to discuss it further. This, be the sure, is somewhat more than the necessary two-thirds, but the more intransigent presbyteries have already voted, and it is probable that those who are content to let sleeping dogs lie will be able to carry the matter. The total number of presbyteries is 200. Doubtless many of those who vote against revision do so because they do not see just where it is to end. Very few, if any, would find it conceivable that the Westminster Confession could be the product of any one's thought. As long as it remains an ancient document, it is capable of manifold interpretation. It can be even explained away. A revision dated 1900 would be less amenable.

New York Observer.

Optimism properly is thus not a mere dreamy imagining or presumptuous taking for granted that all things will turn out well at last, but is a moral and intellectual attitude which stimulates to vigorous achievement. The notion is distinctly ethical. The darling of the optimist is a daring for a strenuousness of spiritual enterprise which reaches out after the things that shall be because they are the things that ought to be. The secret of a happy life consists in contemplating the best—the highest intellectual and moral types. To look on the bright side of things, we must look on the right side of things. It is the clear duty of every man to be an optimist in this sense. The Christian is not to be a croaker. He can find better use for his voice than to empty it frog-like as part and parcel of a dismal chorus of hoarse cries. The true note for life is not a bacchanian, not a creak or a sigh, but is a trumpet-tone expressive of the enthusiasms and onsets and immortal hopes of a spirit which conquers by faith, which is persuaded better things of humanity, even those which accompany salvation, and which is absolutely sure that whatever happens, evil will finally triumph and God will still rule.

## Biblia.

From among six hundred fragments of writings, Professor Hilprecht has obtained knowledge of the first king known to man—En-shag-shur-ana, lord of Kengi, now known as Babylon, who reigned about 6500 B. C. Kengi was harassed by Kish, a neighboring city and kingdom. En-shag-shur-ana marched against Kish and defeated its ruler, and in the process of the expedition, the tablets tell, was presented to the temple of Bel in Nippur. But later the rulers of Kish took Kengi for it is found that one of them, Ur-Shulpaud, in the midst of this expedition, ruled as king of Kish. The greatest, however, of all the rulers of this dim and shadowy age was Lugalzaggisi, who appears to have been a veritable Alexander. He was the son of Haran, mentioned in Genesis xii, 4. It is contended by many biblical students that many of the facts in Genesis, reciting an invasion of the Mediterranean seaboard from the Persian Gulf, were improbable. But the tablets show that the invasion of Lugalzaggisi, who ruled in 4500 B. C. Sargon, who lived 700 years later, also advanced to the Mediterranean. At the time Lugalzaggisi ruled all the then known world. But after a while the Nippur of Lugalzaggisi fell, and a long period intervened before man built upon the ruins. About thirty feet of accumulated debris represents the age between the fall and the rebuilding by Sargon. One extraordinary feature of the vases bearing records of Lugalzaggisi's greatness is that their interior was hollowed out by machinery, yet civilization today assumes machinery to be of a comparatively recent development.

New York Evangelist.

The Brahmo-Somaj was the first reform movement to appear in modern India. It took its rise from Rammohun Roy, whose activity began early in this century. A fierce opponent of idolatry and caste, he rejected all the later literature, cared little about even the Vedas, but gave special attention to the philosophical treatises attached to the various Vedas, called Upanishads. He not only was an Upanishadist, but he was a Hindu. His spirit was eclectic, and the principle upon which he took his stand was that which still dominates the organization, viz: "No book and no system contains all of truth, and therefore the mind is to be kept open to receive it from any and every quarter." Though severe controversy has from time to time shaken the organization, this principle has been adhered to, and the leaders today emphatically assert that the value of any sacred book or of any religious teacher is, in the last analysis, determined by their respective usefulness in guiding to spiritual truth.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the December number of the Review of Reviews, the editorial comments cover such subjects as the new army bill, the problem of reapportionment in the South, the Jethman Canal, and other matters that will engage the attention of Congress at the present session.

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ent session; the results of the census of 1900, with reference to the proposed admission of new States and representation in Congress; the meaning of the national election; the Cuban constitutional convention; the liberal victories in Canada and Newfoundland; the Chinese negotiations, and European politics, both internal and international. "A Hundred Years of the District of Columbia" is the title of an illustrated article contributed by Dr. Albert Shaw. Mr. Walter Wellman discloses the supposed policy of the Washington government regarding Cuba. The late Marcus Daly is the subject of a brief character sketch by Samuel E. Moffett. Mr. Charles Johnston contributes an estimate of the late Max Muller; Mr. Ezekiah Butterworth, writing on "The Old Age of New England Authors," enumerates an astonishing list of writers who have continued active long after passing the allotted three-score years and ten; Mr. Ernest Knauff, discussing the artistic developments of recent years in the manufacture of holiday books, and Mr. Talcott Williams writes on the new fiction, from both publisher's and author's point of view. The new novels, books of history and travel, and books for children and young people, are reviewed in separate illustrated articles.—New York.

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