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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 15, 1900.

NOTICE.

The Seventieth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Friday, April 6th, 1900.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

RELIGIOUS LAWLESSNESS.

Readers of the Deseret News will probably remember the announcement, some months ago, of a scheme to convert the "Mormons" of Utah to orthodox Christianity by means of a missionary corps to travel through the settlements in sheep wagons, attended by singers and organs. The plan does not seem to have materialized, and there is no evidence of what has become of the money subscribed by pious people in the East in support of this project. It will also be remembered that solicitations for funds to carry out this enterprise were accompanied by requests not to make the matter known to the "Mormons." The work was to be done "on the sly."

We are reminded of that proselyting dodge and the secrecy with which it was to be enshrouded, by a new movement on the part of the organization which is engaged in the latest anti-"Mormon" crusade, and that goes by the name of the "League For Social Service." It is now sending out circulars, addressed to persons supposed to be willing to add in securing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, making polygamy a crime against the national government. The circulars are signed "Josiah Strong," who usually has the title of Rev. Dr., as a prefix to his name. They contain a request to send to the League, "as soon as possible," a statement of how many "franked speeches" in aid of the movement can be distributed by the person or society thus addressed, when they will be furnished "free of charge."

This refers to the slanderous speech made by Charles B. Landis of Indiana, in the House of Representatives January 24th, 1900, which was commented upon at the time in this paper. The letters signed by the Rev. Dr. contain the following naive admission and caution:

"We are happy to state that arrangements have been made by which we can send you, in franked envelopes, as many copies as you can use. As you will get the benefit of the frank, you will be subjected to no expense or trouble whatever, except that of addressing and mailing the envelopes.

"While the law allows us to communicate by letter the above fact in regard to these franked speeches, it forbids anyone to announce it in print. Permit us therefore to caution you touching that matter."

If this is not in spirit a violation of the franking privilege extended to members of Congress, we are unable to call it by any other name. This attempt at secrecy exposes the nature of the whole disreputable business. Here is a wholesale use of the frank of a member of Congress by a religious society, endorsed by a leading light in the so-called "Christian" world, contrary to the intent of the law which bestows it solely upon national legislators and certain government officials, and good people all over the country are invited and persuaded by the pious president of that society to engage in the unlawful scheme.

"Anything to down the 'Mormons' seems to be the motto of most of the religious ministers and societies in Christendom. The speech which is thus being circulated throughout the United States contains a number of direct and atrocious falsehoods. Some of them are personal libels. The gentlemen who are falsely accused, we suppose, have no redress against C. B. Landis for his attacks upon them, while addressing the House of Representatives in the capacity of a member. But we are of the opinion that this protection does not reach so far as to cover Rev. Dr. Josiah Strong or the society of which he is the president.

Whether the individuals against whom false witness is borne by these religious people, care to prosecute a suit for libel or not, we do not know. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is so accustomed to being misrepresented and abused, that it is not likely to avail itself of legal means to repel the slanders contained in the pamphlet circulated by the League for Social Service, although probably a strong case might be made in this instance.

One of the personal libels which this society is publishing through the land, is the alleged plural marriage of a young lady at Gunnison with one of the Twelve Apostles. We do not mention names, although they are paraded in print by these religious scandal-mongers, because the story is utterly false and without any foundation in

fact, and we do not wish to aid in circulating the slander. It is a libel against each of the parties and punishable by both the criminal and the civil law.

Another libel is one that we have noticed before when commenting on the speech of Mr. Landis. It is that against Hon. Alma Eldredge, of Summit county. Here is an extract from the speech:

"Alma Eldredge was nominated as a Republican, presumably upon the St. Louis platform representing, as our friends on the other side would say, 'vast aggregations of consolidated wealth.' Mr. Eldredge was not a polygamist, but Mr. Eldredge was a Danite. Mr. Eldredge was a Blood Atoner. Mr. Eldredge had murdered his man, as a member of that infamous instrument of the Church for the extermination of apostasy, was indicted, arraigned for trial, and escaped conviction simply because the witness against him had in the mean time been killed."

While the gentleman thus maligned and shamefully traduced may not have legal redress against a member of Congress who thus assails a law-abiding citizen of the United States, honored by the community in which he lives, he can, if he chooses, vindicate himself by legal process against the person and the League engaged in the infamy of publishing these atrocious slanders to the world.

In reference to the "Mormon" people, Mr. Landis used the following language, thus libeling the whole body of the "Mormon" Church.

"The Danites, as pitiless a band of cutthroats as ever handled the glittering steel, carried on their murderous work of the Church but the missionary battled on; the Blood Atoners silenced in death the voice of apostasy, but the missionary worked on," etc.

The member of Congress who uttered these and many other false and vituperative accusations against prominent men, and against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was merely repeating stories that had been told him by persons engaged in the anti-"Mormon" crusade. He knew nothing of what he was talking about. The purpose he had in view was the exclusion from the House of the member from Utah. We have no idea that he entertained animosity against the individuals or the people who he was thus abusing. When the object in view was achieved that was the end of his attack.

But the society which is now circulating these falsehoods throughout the land is responsible before God and before the law for its infamous work, and should be exposed to honest people. In addition to defaming the "Mormon" people willfully, it is outraging a provision of law intended for the benefit of national officers and law makers alone. It is libeling a church as well as individuals, at the expense of the government. It is using the United States mails for that purpose. While endeavoring to place the "Mormons" in the light of law-breakers, the League and its Rev. President are endeavoring to make innocent persons participants criminals under cover of secrecy.

If that is in accordance with the spirit and tactics of modern Christianity, it is the very antipodes of the kind of Christianity taught by Christ and His Apostles. However, the probability is that it will result in directing public attention to that which is popularly called "Mormonism," in such a way that honest and inquiring people will be led to investigate and finally come to the knowledge of the truth. Thus good will come out of this intended evil. It is written "offenses must needs come, but woe unto them by whom they come!"

AN IMPORTANT OFFICE.

The bill for an ordinance creating the office of Inspector of provisions in this city is in line with municipal legislation on that subject in other progressive communities. The stipulation, however, that he is to "obey all orders of the health commissioner and the board of health" is too sweeping and too vague. The other duties assigned to him should be the chief requirement. If he attends to them, his time will be well occupied. If he faithfully inspects the dairies and slaughter houses, and makes proper tests of milk products and other food offered for sale in this city he will earn his salary well.

It is now generally recognized that there can be no more important duty of the health department than the supervision of food, and especially milk. In this matter the public can be protected against greed and fraud only by authorizing somebody to make it his sole concern to look out for them.

Milk inspection is particularly important. The fluid is subject to rapid chemical changes, and easily becomes injurious to the health of the consumers. A large portion of these are children at an age when pure food is of the greatest importance. Many diseases which in former years devastated communities were traceable to the milk supply. There is evidence enough that diarrheal disorders, typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever and tuberculosis sometimes originate in contaminated milk. It is now common, in some places, to use only so-called "pasteurized" milk, where such is supplied without increase of the cost, but when it cannot be had, the public should certainly exercise some control over the trade.

Proper supervision of slaughter houses is also necessary. Animals rendered unfit for food by means of old age and long abuse, or on account of sickness, should certainly not be permitted to pass into the public market.

Then the water supply should be closely examined. Proper filtration should be insisted on, and the sources of supply should, besides, be kept as free from contamination as possible. There is enough to do for a conscientious inspector of food in any city of the size of Utah's beautiful capital. We want to be able to say truthfully to the stranger that comes here for the pure mountain air, and the refreshing baths in the lake, or the springs, that in addition he finds here the purest food, the best water possible to procure.

WHAT IT COSTS.

The secretary of the California Commission to the Paris exposition, Mr. V. W. Gaskill, has published some figures showing the cost of living at the French capital during the Fair.

The hotel rates will be increased 25 per cent. That means that in first-

class hotels, rooms can be secured at from \$10 to \$15 a day, European plan; second-class hotels offer rooms and board at \$2.50 per day and third-class hotels, but good and neat, at \$2.00 per day. Several boarding houses, at \$2.12 per day.

The prices at restaurants for noon and evening meals are given as follows: "Thirty cents, 40 cents, 50 cents, 60 cents—or an average of 50 cents per meal; hence, a room at \$1.50, two meals at 50 cents each—\$2.50; 25 cents for morning breakfast—a total of \$2.75 per day and absolute bohemian independence to go where one pleases and spend surplus money for amusements."

The prices at the theaters range from \$3 to \$11, and less at some of the vaudeville and concert halls.

Carriages can be secured at, single trip, 30 cents, with tip, 35 cents; by the hour, 40 cents, with tip, 45 cents. Rides on omnibuses and trams cost, with transfer, 6 cents; without transfer and on top of the vehicle, 3 cents. On the river boats 2 cents is asked for a ride through Paris on the Seine.

The prices given do not seem exorbitant, but in calculating the total expense, a hundred per cent can easily be added, as nobody goes to a world's fair for the purpose of barely living. The real cost can be better estimated after the return home from the gay city.

Iron and steel prices are still up. They appear to be hard and fast at the top notch.

The Puerto Rican bill dispute is to be settled piecemeal. It is the most peaceful way.

The government of New Zealand, it is said, provides work for all applicants at the rate of \$2 per day.

According to a German newspaper there are now in Europe seventy-one marriageable princesses and only forty marriageable princes. Here is a dilemma.

New York's gambling investigation promises to involve high officials. Gotham's corruption generally comes right to the top before any cleansing is attempted.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canadian premier, must be well satisfied now that he has a thoroughly equipped bear garden on his hands, judging by the report of proceedings in parliament, told of in the dispatches from Ottawa today.

It is related of Earl Spencer that he refuses to allow the bells in the schools on his estates to be rung on festival occasions during the war, on the ground that it is unbecoming while the nation's soldiers are dying in South Africa.

The movement in this city for shorter hours for clerks in certain stores deserves public support. It can be carried, if the public will decide to get through with its shopping before 6 o'clock in the evening, the hour proposed for closing.

Interference in China, for the virtual overthrow of the present government there, has been asked of the United States and Great Britain. Those governments are pretty busy now in fixing their own affairs, without proceeding to regulate China.

It has been said that the average Kentuckian cannot pass a bottle of whisky without taking a drink; but recent events have shown that Kentuckians can march right up to a dangerous crisis and turn away without reaching for it.

The Hague peace conference cannot be a total failure, notwithstanding the fears to that effect expressed in diplomatic circles in Washington. True ideas are immortal, and if the work of the congress does not bear fruit this year, it may another. It may come a century hence, but it cannot be entirely in vain.

An independent government for Cuba seems to be the program in the early part of the coming summer. This is quicker than many thought possible; but the earlier the Cubans get the promised freedom the better it will be for all concerned. Then we will know just what the islanders are capable of.

Eight hours a day for servant girls, instead of the usual 6 a. m. to 11 p. m. term, is a glorious boon; and if Mrs. Emmons Blaine, who has started out with it in Chicago, can evolve a satisfactory plan to carry it into effect all over the country, she will become famed as a benefactress to household servants.

The act of Major Weston and ten men of the British royal engineers, in penetrating the Boer lines north of Bloemfontein and destroying rail and telegraph communication, was an exploit worthy to rank with the heroism of Lieut. Hobson and crew in taking the Merrimack into the channel at Santiago de Cuba.

Says the Denver Stockman: "The sheepmen of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Washington and the Dakotas will undoubtedly be saving themselves many thousands of dollars on their clip by carrying out the proposed scheme of erecting wool warehouses." Now to see a warehouse go up in either of the States named, for a test of its practicability.

WHY MORMONS ARE ATTACKED

The Derby and Chesterfield Reporter of Feb. 23, last, tells a good story illustrating to some extent the reason why modern clergymen are so unanimous in their denunciation of "Mormons." Here it is:

"There is a story told of a young minister who went to conduct service at a church in America. In the vestry he was met by the principal deacon, who asked him what he was going to preach about. The young man said he thought he should speak generally on the prevailing sins of the age. At once the deacon urged him to be cautious. 'For the life of you,' he said, 'don't say a word against the drink traffic, for several of our principal supporters are brewers, and are in other ways connected with the drink trade. Also, I would advise you not to say anything about gambling, especially gambling on the Stock Exchange, as we have several members of the church who are connected with that institution, and, further, don't say anything about competition, or the evils of jerry-building, and that kind of thing, because people are connected with the church who are interested in these matters.' Then, said the young minister in despair, 'what in the name of common sense am I to preach about?' 'Well,' said

the deacon, 'just go for the 'Mormons'; you can condemn them as much as you like, for we have not a single 'Mormon' in the congregation.' In telling this little story there is no necessity that I should point the moral."

It may not be necessary to point the moral, but it can do no harm to emphasize the statement that the little story conveys a sad truth. The Christianity of the first century was a force "not of the world," and therefore a "power unto salvation" from sin and error. The present "Christianity" is of the world, a profession, not to say trade, by which men are seeking to make a living for themselves and families. The ideals are lost. For the sake of the salary, the minister is reduced to the necessity of carrying the cape on both shoulders. He feels safe in attacking "Mormonism," but not the pet sins of his congregation. Like Don Quixote he fights valiantly the enemies of his own imagination, and like that knight he is unconscious of the fact that much of the applause he gains from the world is as insincere and selfish as that of Sancho Panza.

The French call for the number of soldiers available for France in all the world is significant only so far as the French are following Russia. In some plan that may bring on a great war. France alone is not going to measure arms with Great Britain. Combined, however, France and Russia have men and money, and could cause an upheaval that would make the world tremble, hence the importance attaching to their present movements.

The story of the maltreatment of Gen. Pilar's body, told in a New York Post special from Manila, is so horrifying and so unlike the treatment accorded to Filipino rebel officers by the victorious Americans, that it cannot be accepted as even approximately true, until confirmation is received. The facts can be, and should be, ascertained by the United States military authorities; and if found to be as reported, the perpetrators of the outrage should meet with merited punishment.

A year ago, Henry Savage Landor, the distinguished English explorer and writer, stated that President Kruger was preparing for war, and was laughed at. Now, he says Russia has massed 250,000 troops on the Afghan frontier, and that the amer's recent declaration of hatred to Russia is "a veil behind which the Russian and the Afghan will develop their hostile purposes;" and he adds: "I look for trouble for England from France in Egypt and from Russia in India." Concerning the recent triumph of Lord Roberts in the Orange Free State, Mr. Landor says: "England in the South African war is in the condition of a man in a poker game who, having lost \$100, by a stroke of luck wins back \$90, and then would persuade himself that he is ahead of the game." There is no doubt that Mr. Landor's views are shared by very many people in Britain as well as elsewhere. The situation is extremely interesting, if not absolutely dangerous to all the Old World leading powers.

THE PEACE PROPOSITION.

Kansas City Clar.

The people of the United States, with the exception of a small faction who desire that either power or other shall be eternally at war with Great Britain, would gladly welcome peace in South Africa. It would seem that any sane and well disposed person would be glad to have war end, and end, too, without all the people on one side of the controversy dying in the last ditch. It would be a blessed consummation if the war in South Africa could close tomorrow, without any further loss of life, any addition to the wounded, any more graves in the field.

Chicago News.

A short time ago, before Cronje's surrender and the relief of Ladysmith, and when the situation in South Africa looked dark, to most Englishmen, Secretary Chamberlain referred cautiously to the possibility of a racial war of native tribes against the Boers in certain contingencies. The suggestion was an unfortunate one, but now that the tide has turned the news from Cape Town indicates that defeat may work to this end more successfully than the Boer invasion of Natal and Cape Colony. Dr. Leyds said yesterday in the Antwerp cable correspondent of the Daily News that he believes all the Dutch in South Africa would rise in the event of the British determining upon wiping out the independence of the Free State and that of the Transvaal.

San Francisco Chronicle.

What will be the conditions of peace? It is a foregone conclusion that the South African republic will pass out of the history of the Dark Continent. If Great Britain's plans are not disturbed by neutral nations, which up to the present time have not interfered, if that is to be their fate, their passage will be a pathetic scene even to their enemies, in whose estimation they have unquestionably been raised immensely through their undaunted courage and superb fighting qualities. The hope of the Boers that their independence may be saved rests, of course, in the possibility of European intervention. But that seems to be a forlorn hope. The hour when such intervention might have been effective seems to have passed; the tide in affairs has so completely changed.

Chicago Record.

Paul Kruger, whatever his shortcomings in the way of education may be, is without doubt one of the greatest diplomatic living. His every diplomatic move in the proceedings leading up to the outbreak of hostilities was eminently wise, from the point of view of his government. In asking for peace now, Kruger's motives are in but seeking to make manifest to the world the fact that the object of Great Britain is the complete subjugation of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State and the incorporation of those two republics into the territory of British South Africa. Kruger is willing now to surrender all points at issue providing the independence of the republics be conceded. But after the costly war which it has undertaken the British cabinet may be expected to demand complete control over all territory inhabited by the warring Boers. The peace overtures, therefore, are likely to amount to nothing.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

At the present stage of affairs England would doubtless offer liberal terms and all the more liberal on account of the small size of its adversary. On one side is a total of 300,000 brave and worthy people, on the other the British Empire. Defeating the Boers hereafter can hardly be called victory. With the resources behind him Lord Roberts ought to count upon certainties. If England proposes to wipe out the republic the fact should now be announced. Both sides, and the world, are entitled to some knowledge of the objects of the war. The combatants

Z. C. M. I. Cloak Dept.

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are civilized and fully able to express themselves through diplomatic channels. An honest definition of matters might prevent further bloodshed.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

If, in the closing days of the civil war, England or any other power, had come forward with the gratuitous scheme of mediation, what answer, think you, the Union would have made? Just this: "Mediation can not be considered. This is an affair between belligerent forces, and we shall settle it ourselves. We have not spilled our blood and poured out our treasure for nothing." That, in substance, will be Great Britain's answer, if any power or powers come forward with gratuitous proffers of mediation. Terms that would have been gladly accepted before the war, would now be rejected, since so much has been suffered and so much sacrificed.

New York World.

On Wednesday the Pope talked to Count Serpa Pimental, of Mexico, about the "fratricidal South African war," and said: "I daily pray that President McKinley will offer the friendly mediation of America." That prayer of the head of the great Roman Catholic church is the prayer of the whole civilized world. Mr. McKinley has the legal right and the moral right to make the friendly civilized appeal. And he alone of all the representatives of the nations is in a position to make it without offense and with prospect of success.

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