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WEDNESDAY, - MARCH 21, 1888.

GENERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, April 5th, 1888, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK AND UNWARY.

SOME of the features of the real estate fever now prevalent in this city are specially unhealthful. The speculator hunts for a victim—we cannot command a milder term. The latter must have some qualifications for his position as well as the former. One of these is a lamentable ignorance of the ways of the world, and a certain readiness to yield to persuasion.

When he is found he is operated upon until he is convinced that he ought to sell his property, because of the alleged advantage that will accrue to him in consequence. A price is agreed upon, but he only consents on certain conditions.

The speculator has either already a purchaser in his eye or soon finds one, ignores the conditions and pockets a large margin—the difference between what the speculator pays and what he obtains for the property.

It is not improbable that a person may operate in that fashion and steer entirely clear of amenability to the laws, although such acts are always and must necessarily be antipodal to the spirit of good government, whose essence is justice and whose chief object is to protect the weak from being encroached upon by the strong. Such doings may be even denominated smart business transactions. They are merely seldom and inhuman. It is not only the property which thus changes hands that is made a subject of trade. The ignorance of the victim has also been made an element of barter. Worse than that, perhaps, his confidence has been made a subject of spoliation.

It is useless to raise the excuse in an attempt to damage the position now being taken, that such transactions are common all over the world. The same can be said of many of the vilest practices conceivable. Are such deeds sanctified by prevalence? God forbid!

Is it intrinsically just, right and proper to take advantage of the ignorant, weak and infirm of mind? The answer must be no. Then in what light can a person professing to be a Latter-day Saint stand that will be guilty of such baseness? He presents a sorry spectacle indeed—an incongruity, a striking example of contradiction between profession and practice. He must inevitably suffer ten-fold greater loss than he inflicts upon his more ignorant brother. That light, which is the heritage of every true Latter-day Saint, is increased on two conditions—an effort to understand the truth; and acting in conformity with its requirements. That quickening power is diminished as practice recedes from understanding, and the unhappy individual is left to wallow in the spirit of the world.

For the commission of acts not in conformity with right, justice follows the perpetrator, and sooner or later lays upon him its iron clutch. In other words, as the revelation has it, "Justice continueth its course and claimeth its own." An escape from its demands is an impossibility unless the conditions of release are complied with. Many men seem to fail to grasp this potent and, to the righteous, comforting fact. It is comforting from the fact that the principle operates in two directions. While in the economy of the Just One justice follows and makes its demands upon the infringer, it sustains those who make it a leading point in their career to act in accord with its conditions.

The tempter is abroad.

RATHER ROMANTIC.

It is not necessary that the class of people who delight in the romantic should gratify their appetites in that direction exclusively by the perusal of works made up mostly of fiction. Romance in real life is as common nowadays as real estate agencies are in this city at this juncture of the boom.

An interesting affair of that kind was developed in San Francisco on the 8th inst., by a news-gatherer of the New York World, which gives a lengthy account of the affair. Some time ago Theodore Cornelius Gevers, son of Baron T. Gevers, of Holland, suddenly disappeared from the university of which he was a student, and could nowhere be found. As he belonged to one of the most wealthy, notable and distinguished families of the Netherlands, the event created considerable stir in that country. As it was considered possible that the young fellow might have made America his destination, the Netherlands representatives in this nation were instructed, to endeavor to discover his whereabouts, and circulars of inquiry were sent out, but it remained for the enterprising news catcher to discover the runaway.

Young Gevers was found at the Crown Point restaurant, corner of Folsom and Twenty fourth Street, San Francisco, where he was employed in the humble capacity of dishwasher. He is tall, slender and intelligent looking. He speaks with more or less facility six different languages. When he accepted the post of dishwasher he was reduced to his last two-blts. His employer was astonished above measure when he learned the station of his help, and said he was very attentive and industrious. Gevers declined positively to give any reason for his strange conduct, being proof, in that regard against all the subtleties of the newspaper representative who ferreted him out. It is said that young Gevers's mother has been greatly prostrated with grief at the mysterious disappearance of her son.

The story of this diswashing son of a Baron is rather a romantic affair, but under the practical crust of every day life, the world is full of romance of a realistic character.

GERMANY.

EVER since it became apparent that Emperor Wilhelm, the Crown Prince and Bismarck must die not far apart, American editors have expressed anticipations of great internal disturbances in the German empire, which they have predicted would follow the taking off of these three central figures in it. But it is claimed in German dispatches that the unity of Germany inspires the inhabitants of all parts of the empire with a fervid patriotism scarcely second to that which led so many Americans to fight in order to prevent the dismemberment of their country. The pride of the German races in the glory, prestige and power which have come to them as a result of union, is relied upon to preserve that condition, and maintain the iron-like strength of the governmental fabric forged and framed by that wonderful pair of history makers, Wilhelm and Bismarck.

According to the dispatches from Berlin, the death of the Emperor was not attended, nor has it been followed by any perceptible shaking of that fabric. Amid the most profound manifestations of a universal national grief, the Crown Prince was seated upon the throne, and the current of imperial authority was not broken. But the succession was consummated with remarkable promptness, if not because of conditions in Germany, then for the reason that the state of European affairs demanded that the great Prussian empire should not remain an unnecessary hour without a crowned head. The quickness with which Frederick seized the reins of government, after his father's death, is a significant circumstance.

True, Bismarck lives and is vigorously performing his accustomed duties; but there are rumors that he and the new Emperor differ in their views to an extent which will lead Bismarck to resign. So radical a change in the ministry and policy of the Iron Empire as Bismarck's resignation would produce, would be likely to result seriously, if made before the political pulse of Europe beats more temperately. As a reason for disbelieving that the Chancellor is about to retire, the pathetic fact is given that the days of Emperor Frederick are admitted to be numbered. He has donned the crown preparatory to wearing a shroud; hence Bismarck may confidently be expected to remain at his post until another generation of the house of Hohenzollern mounts the throne behind which he stands.

But time is implacable, and the great Chancellor is himself growing old; and if he is the Atlas upon whose shoulders rests the German world, that world of course must soon sink. But it is the claim of Germany that Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm possessed too many of the attributes of greatness to erect a structure, admitted

to be of iron, upon a foundation of flesh; and that the union of the empire, the patriotic pride of her people in that union, and the strength and power which it has given to them, form the underlying and binding strata of the state.

But Bismarck's sudden removal would be a startling thing. Even though it might not cause any serious internal disturbance were the empire in a position to take time for a deliberate adjustment of her own affairs, yet there is much reason to believe that the derangement of the German ministry which would inevitably attend the death of its head, would be regarded as the opportunity of France and Russia.

While Germany is singing a requiem over the remains of her dead emperor, his successor is hushbanding his failing physical powers with the faint hope of surviving the surgeon's knife. Bismarck's hand is steadily the helm of state, but age is fast enfeebling its grasp, and strong and ancient foes are waiting to take advantage of any bewilderment or distress that may overtake the Prussian empire, from either internal or external causes. Times in central Europe are certainly precarious, though the tenor of Berlin dispatches may seek to inspire a different view.

SCARCER TIMES AHEAD.

In the whirl of the worldly spirit that seems to pervade the community at the present juncture, many of the Latter-day Saints have become oblivious to some important matters that formerly held a prominent place in their minds. One of these is the belief or certainty that a time of scarcity will at some time arise—a famine for bread.

It is needless to particularly quote from predictions ancient and modern which point to such a condition as a fact of the future. The later prognostications of that character are clear and unqualified and have been frequently repeated. Those for whose benefit they were given have either reached a point where belief in the validity of these predictions has vanished altogether or has become dimmed or entirely swallowed by the cares of the world. It is dangerous to allow those worldly considerations to become pre-eminent and all-absorbing.

According to prophetic forecast the time is to come when people whose nerves are now strung to their utmost tension in the hunt for gold will be forced to direct their energies toward hunting for bread, providing they do not take time by the forelock and, foreseeing the evil, provide against it.

Those who are pickled in the spirit of the world will call this fanaticism, but we care not a straw for that, feeling confident that the time will come when they will be forced to call it by a better and truer name. It will be a sorry day for the Saints if they conclude to discard the landmarks of safety laid down by the Lord through the prophet Joseph Smith and others who have been inspired by a similar spirit to that by which he was imbued.

A leading point to be considered in relation to this subject is, Do the Latter-day Saints, as a body, believe in the predictions made in relation to it? Do they believe that famine is to be one of the leading characteristics of the latter-days? If the answer be in the affirmative, then the proof should be apparent. That would consist of preparation to meet the expected emergency. In reply it might be said that the people have in past times made ready out the condition has not arisen. This is true, and it merely places the evil still in the category of a future condition. If a man whose duty it was to defend a citadel from an enemy he was positive would some time make an attack were to slacken his vigilance, reduce his armaments, open his gates and leave his stronghold vulnerable at every point because of his uncertainty as to the time the assault would be made, what would be his condition when the opposing force eventually appeared? He would be in the power of the enemy at short notice. As he had been forewarned the responsibility for the disgrace and suffering caused by the disaster would rest upon him. Every head of a family has a citadel to defend. To the extent of his power it is his duty to provide against the inevitable. It is needless to say, "It will not come in my day." A person can be no more sure upon that point than of the precise day when it will occur.

How is a scarcity likely to occur? This is a natural question to ask, but one that is difficult to answer. It may be produced by a variety of causes, and the scarcity itself might be either of a special or local, or of a general character. If it were sectional a failure of crops might cause a degree of want; the same cause could precipitate a general scarcity throughout the world. One particular cause is specified in Sec. 29 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, in which are enumerated some of the judgments of the latter days, "And there shall be a great pestilence sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth."

The ease with which the hand of Omnipotence could sweep the earth with a hailstorm and destroy the growing grain can be comprehended without a stretch of faith by those who believe in divine interposition and interference. It is

not uncommon now to learn of large tracts of country being swept by phenomenal storms, not only in seasons but out of it. There are not many, however, who can see God in the storm as well as in the sunshine which gladdens the earth, causing it to fructify and bring forth in its fulness. There are other and more visible causes which may produce scarcity and place the quantity of breadstuffs a long distance below the demand. There is at least probability of a war in Europe. It may not come immediately, but leading statesmen admit that the continuation of peace for a lengthy period is practically impossible. When it breaks out the struggle will necessarily be one of gigantic proportions. Not only would a conflict of that kind withdraw from husbandry vast hosts of men whose plowshares will take the shape of army ordnance, but the destruction of great breadths of grain raised by those allowed to pursue the agricultural vocation would be a certainty. Indeed famine is the grim and ghastly concomitant of war. In such an emergency there would be corners and tie-ups of wheat in this country by men whose parched souls lust only for gold, no matter if it can only be had by increasing the sum of men's misery. Exports would be tremendous and home prices run up beyond the reach of the poor.

But why should it be necessary to direct the attention of the people to the signs of the times in order to induce them to be in accord with plain predictions of a future calamity pointed out by the finger of revelation? How can we meet the emergency? is the question. We believe it will be safe for farmers to sow as large a breadth of grain as practicable this spring, for in any event wheat is likely to command a good price. If this be the case and full crops result, no loss can accrue. Even now parties are considering the advisability of forming local syndicates to buy up grain. When the season comes around, be not in a hurry to sell. You may profitably cut that last sentence out and paste it in your hats till after next harvest, and then when you get a new hat put it there also.

There are many families who have neither the means to procure breadstuffs ahead nor facilities for storing if they had. All others should consider it in the light of a duty to store up the precious stuff as largely as practicable, that they may have enough in case of emergency, and some with which in that case, to relieve suffering beyond their own doors. The duty of the times in this matter is to act every season as if the one ahead would bring scarcity. If it shouldn't, be thankful, and not on that account bug the delusion that the word of the Lord in the premises is a failure. "Not one jot nor tittle will fall to the ground unfulfilled."

POLITICAL POINTERS.

UNDER this heading the following notes are going the rounds of the press:

The Allegheny county (N. Y.) Republican offers "to accept any subscription between now and June 19, payable only when James G. Blaine shall be elected president of the United States." That is to say, November 6 next.

It would be base ingratitude and stupid blundering on the part of Ohio Republicans not to give Mr. Sherman a solid delegation from that state, and it is not to be supposed that Governor Foraker would lend himself and his name to an anti-Sherman movement.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

Judge Gresham is the favorite of the people as distinguished from the politicians. This would be a good year to try the experiment of compelling the politicians to stand aside and of permitting the people to select the candidate.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

It is claimed that Minnesota is for Gresham as the Republican candidate for the Presidency. If the Republicans really want to interest the Democracy next November they should nominate Sherman.—*Fort Worth Gazette*.

The Buffalo Times (Democratic) disputes the conclusion arrived at by some Democratic journals to the effect that Mr. Cleveland would be nominated against a solid Hill delegation from this state, and adds: "We do not believe that anything can be gained by treating Governor Hill shabbily, or by sneering at his influence or following. That he has a following, and one that it would be party suicide to seriously antagonize, will not be denied by any person who desires to correctly state the facts."—*New York World*.

ANOTHER GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE.

AT 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a strike of engineers and firemen was inaugurated, extending over the entire Santa Fe system, and involving the Atlantic & Pacific. On the former about 2000 men, and on the latter about 1300, have ceased work. A singular feature of the strike is the mystery which surrounds its cause. When asked why they have quit work, the men simply reply that they are "tired." Their fatigue, like the late epidemic among Union Pacific engineers, seems extraordinary.

One report has it that the engineers and firemen have struck

out of sympathy for their brethren on the Burlington, because the Santa Fe was handling Burlington freight; but that report is flatly denied by another which states the strike was made for "standard wages." This latter statement in turn has a questionable appearance in view of others to the effect that the grievance committee of the engineers and firemen, about a month ago, had a meeting with the officers of the road, at which it is asserted all difference were amicably and permanently adjusted. At the present writing the cause of the strike may be said to be uncertain, and it appears to have been entirely unexpected by the officers of the Santa Fe.

Doubtless strategic reasons have led the out-going engineers and firemen to do as they have done, and those reasons, with the prime cause or causes of the strike, will likely be disclosed shortly. A rumor came by wire a few days ago to the effect that the Santa Fe managers intended to make a heavy reduction in the wages of engineers and firemen, and to replace the men with importations from the Southern States, if the cut should not be acceded to. Whether a move in this direction has been made, and has caused the strike, the telegraph has not yet disclosed.

What has led the engineers and firemen in the Atlantic and Pacific road to join on the strike, is equally mysterious; and the fact that they have done this gives strength to the rumored probability that other roads, including the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf, and the Missouri Pacific, are to be involved.

The Santa Fe system extends from the Missouri River to Mexico and California, and the commerce of a vast area of country is dependent upon it. Stoppages of circulation in great arteries of trade and travel, like the Burlington and Santa Fe railroad systems, damage thousands of interests in an aggregate sum which is incalculable, and amounts to a public calamity. The organization of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is displaying its vast power as it has never before done.

A WORTHY EXAMPLE.

In these times of strikes and combinations of working people for protection against the encroachments of employers, it is refreshing to see and note one example of generous regard for fair play and the equities that should prevail as between the capitalist and his employees.

About two weeks ago the operatives at the Social Mills, Woonsocket, Rhode Island were agreeably surprised at the notice, with their pay, that their wages had been advanced five per cent. There had been no "strike" nor any demand or request from the work people for an advance of prices for their labor. It was a spontaneous act on the part of the proprietors.

The same course was pursued by the Social Company to their employees at the Nourse and Globe Mills. Altogether, two thousand hands were affected by this advance. The cause of this voluntary act was the activity of the market and the low price of cotton, which raised the profits of the mill business.

How many capitalists are there in the country who would be likely to give their employees any portion of the benefits of an improvement in the returns of their business? Not many. The usual method is to grind down labor to the lowest notch it can bear, and cast it aside when it becomes weary, and old and profitless. In some parts of the old world there are firms which make it part of their system to advance wages whenever merit or experience shows an increase to be either fair or desirable, and when old age comes, to pension off or continue in some easy position the faithful hands that have been long devoted to the interests of the house. It is a good, wise and Christian method and, no doubt, brings its material advantages to those who practice it.

A willing worker, a hand that is stimulated by a lively interest in the business and the employer, must be more valuable than one uninspired by such considerations. There is too little heart and sentiment in the relations between employers and their employees and too much of a cold, calculating mercenary principle that regards those who labor, more as human machines out of which so much service can be had for so little money, than as living souls, sons and daughters of the same Eternal Father as of the men who hold the money-bags.

Should the Social Mill Company at some time experience a reverse, and it should become necessary to make a reduction in wages that the business may be conducted without loss, is it likely that when the working people are informed of the fact and asked to accept a less price for their labor they will strike or refuse to accede to the terms? Not when they remember the fairness and good feelings that prompted the advance. Operatives are not insensible to gratitude nor oblivious to fair treatment, and they are not any more blind to justice than to injustice.

There should be mutual understanding and confidence between capital and labor. They are interdependent. There ought to be no conflict between them. And the harmony which should

Tucson, (A. T.), March 13.—Advises from Phoenix state that Colonel Johnston of the Gazette went to the office of the Advance yesterday and gave a thrashing to General Birt, the Advance editor, the cause being reflection on J. Anson which appeared in the Advance.