

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Editor.

Forrest G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:

One Year	in advance	\$2.00
Six Months	"	1.25
Three Months	"	.75
One Month	"	.25
Single copies	"	5c

NEW YORK OFFICE:

In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising, from our office 127 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 35 Geary St.

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

Address all business communications to:

THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered as the First Class Matter of Salt Lake City in special class matter according to the Act of Congress March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 4, 1903.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held Sunday, April 5, 1903, at 7:30 p. m., in the Tabernacle. The attendance of stake and ward officers and teachers is urgently requested and all the Saints are invited. A preliminary meeting of stake superintendents, assistants and secretaries will be held in the assembly room of the Salt Lake Business College, Templeton building, at 5 o'clock p. m., Sunday, April 5. A full attendance is desired.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

GEORGE REYNOLDS,

JOSEPH M. TANNER,

General Superintendency.

AS TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Deseret Evening News.

Please permit me to put before you the following questions:

1. Does not the Mormon Church come under the head of Christian church?

2. If so, would the Mormon Church belong to the Catholic or Protestant church?

3. If the Mormon Church does not come under the head of either, and still belong to the Christian church, what is it?

The foregoing questions have been submitted for the evident purpose of puzzling the editor, or involving this paper in a theological muddle. However, we will reply:

The "Mormon Church," so-called by its opponents, an appellation sometimes adopted by its members for convenience, does not come "under the head" of what is usually termed "the Christian Church." That is a heterogeneous mixture of diverse organizations with conflicting creeds, and by many people includes both Catholicism and the numerous divisions of Protestantism. The "Mormon" Church belongs to none of them.

What is it, then? Is it itself the true Christian Church, set up anew by Christ Himself. He established it in the nineteenth century. It is His Church. He is with it by the presence and power of the Holy Ghost, and He ministers through His servants whom He has appointed. It belongs to no other organization. It stands sui generis.

To call divided Protestantism and hostile Catholicism together the Christian church, is to utter an absurdity. To single out one of them as alone the Christian church, is to exclude and condemn all the others. Question for question: What or which is the Christian church in the confusion, mystery and conflict of modern so-called Christianity? Can our querist make intelligent reply?

WHERE SHE SPENT HER TIME

One of the active, paid, traveling anti-Mormon lecturers in the East is a woman called Dr. Sarah J. Elliott, who preaches her misrepresentations of "Mormonism" on her alleged familiarity with the people here and their lives and doctrines, through a residence among them of eight years. The Deseret News has given some particulars of her untruthful addresses, and when we say that she asserts that the "Mormons" place Joseph Smith above Jesus Christ, sufficient is told to show her mendacity. But we here introduce a letter from a reliable source in South-eastern Utah, to show what her residence was among the "Mormons," so that our Elders in the mission field may be posted upon that point. His words:

"She came to Utah about eleven years ago and settled in Grand county on a cow-ranch with her brother and his wife, where she did not see a 'Mormon' to average once a year for six years, and I doubt very much her seeing any kind of a human being except the family she lived with, other than an occasional cowboy passing the ranch. The family and herself moved from the ranch to Moab where she was employed to teach the primary department of the public school, where she was a total failure, as it was beyond her ability to teach anything but would only talk and mould mud and make two branches of education (7) the children of her department graduated in."

"As a doctor—well if it takes cheek, guile and brains with a good supply of pliancy to make a doctor, there is nothing more to say."

There are a few persons living here yet who hold her in esteem, but the majority of the people of the neighborhood felt that when she left here and entered on her crusade, she had at last found her right place. In lecturing on "Mormonism," she might as well lecture on the hereafter, so far as having any influence of the subject."

Our correspondent could furnish other particulars that would be of greater interest to the public than to the lecturer herself. We may obtain them for future use if necessary, but we are not in the business of personal vilification. "When ye are reviled, revile not again," is a scriptural injunction, wise to obey. But some times, for self-defense, it becomes necessary to be posted as to the doings of our unprincipled adversaries, male and female.

This is the woman who recently in-

elited an attack on an Elder who responded to her challenge to anyone who could dispute her statements, by asking permission to "say a word" in reply. He was thrust out of the assembly by excited women and tumbled down the stairs, and would have endured further violence but for the interference of a gentleman who intervened in his behalf.

We do not publish the foregoing letter to furnish information for use at her lectures, but that our friends at a distance may know something of her wonderful and intricate acquaintance with the "inner circles of Mormonism." The world appears to relish humbug, and hypocrites will command both money and adulation. If they have the hardihood to berate and abuse the people who have redeemed these desolate wastes from solitude and sterility, and who are planting the seeds of truth and righteousness in the wilderness of a fallen world.

ATTACKS AN EPISTLE.

A contributor to one of the theological quarrels is out with an effort in which he attempts to prove that the Epistle to the Romans is not an inspired book. His idea is that it is not an "epistle," but a controversial treatise and was not written by Paul, but compiled from a multitude of antagonistic sources. He asserts that it is superficial even to barrenness, and seems to the simple-minded to be deep only because the unrelated parts are put together in such unskillful fashion that the crazy patchwork is full of insoluble puzzles.

This attack is interesting, chiefly for the resemblance it bears to some of the attacks made on the Book of Mormon. The same spirit evidently inspires all such assaults upon the Word of God. Otherwise it is unimportant. The learned writer alleges that in the early Christian centuries "many such" alleged letters were written under assumed names. Interesting, if true. If he could produce a few specimens of early literature, such as the Epistle to the Romans, he would need to do no more to acquire lasting fame. A German resident of Cairo some years ago discovered a mass of tattered papyrus, which finally was recognized as fragments of "The Acts of Paul, the Apostle," a book that was long held in high respect. But literature, such as the Epistle to the Romans, did not, indeed, abound; or if it did, it has not been preserved.

It is curious to note, how the individual books of the Bible have been made the objects of attack, each in turn. The Revelation by John has been abused by otherwise orthodox theologians. The Gospel by John has at sundry times been declared to be false. The Epistle by James was denounced by no less authority than Martin Luther. The books of the Old Testament have had a similar fate. Critics have stumbled over them and fallen. But the books remain, like the rocks around which the winds rage and the waves strike century after century, without making any notable impression on them. The work of the Almighty remains, while the handiwork of man lasts but a moment and is soon forgotten.

PROTECT THE CHILDREN.

The following is an extract from an address by M. Payot, inspector of public schools of the district of Marne, France, on a subject of world-wide interest. Speaking of the injurious effects of scenes of violence placed before children, he said:

"I request the teachers to see to the removal from the walls of the school of all pictures representing scenes of violence. In one school I counted in fifteen engravings fourteen that have beheadings, tortures, massacres and treacherous murders. These engravings are generally hung up to illustrate history, but are historically false and ridiculous. But were they even in every respect true they should none the less be removed from schoolrooms. We should be careful not to familiarize children with sights of violence and ferocity."

The brutal instincts of the human race are not yet sufficiently weakened or crowded out by higher ones to admit of our placing before the eyes of the young scenes of murder and other atrocities. Our moral law is based on the intangible law of absolute respect for human life. How can a child help being shocked by the inconsistency of the lesson in this effect with the pictures before his eyes? He may not pay attention to the lesson, but he will scan the engraving and remember it. We should teach children that unjust war is a horrible inheritance of ancestral brutality, and that a nation which takes up arms without having first tried every means of conciliation, without having made strenuous efforts to settle differences by arbitration, commits an abuse of force. That nation dishonors itself. It places itself beyond the pale of reason and humanity, and its conduct is bestial. It fills into the consciences of the children, which be assured will receive it, this truth, in which the safety of civilization lies—namely, that a nation has an inviolable soul and that all abuse of force committed against a nation is an act of brigandage."

The views here expressed are right. It should be added, though, that a great number of grown up persons are children in this respect that they always scan the details of horrors with eagerness, whether placed before them in picture or sensational stories. And, as children, they are morally injured thereby. Their brutal instincts are stimulated at the expense of the higher.

It is encouraging to hear a French educator condemn the taking up of arms by nations, without first exhausting every means of conciliation. France is a country where militarism is held in high honor. But perhaps the French nation is commencing to realize that there are higher honors than those achieved on the field of death and carnage.

The fact is that there are unmistakable signs of a return of the pendulum from the extreme military direction into which it was sent by the policy of Bismarck, towards the other side, that for which the Russian Czar cast his influence and strength. Peace is becoming more popular than it has been for many years. The military burdens are breaking down the machinery of states. The idea that war is good in itself, or even a necessary evil, is relegated to the dark corner where it belongs. It is well that the new ideas are placed before the children. For in

them is the hope of the future. The present generation may be slow to grasp the new ideas, but the children if properly taught, will take them up and carry them out. Give them proper training, and the future is assured.

The key to success often turns out to be a skeleton key.

Yesterday all Wisconsin was shouting, "Hock der President!"

The war cloud seems to have burst over Bulgaria instead of Macedonia.

There are times when one touch of nature makes all the world have the grip.

Just as soon as the trees are through budding the wind will turn over a new leaf.

"Why is New York ugly?" asks the world. It isn't, compared with Chicago.

It grows plainer and plainer each day that the stone cutters do not like the planer.

The farmers are not doing much in the way of breaking the stubborn gibe.

The people of Charleston, S. C., object to Crums from the presidential picnicker.

It must be said in favor of smoke that, like straw, it tells which way the wind blows.

Senator Hanna says that strikes are out of date. The facts are against him. They are quite up-to-date if not stylish.

A Missouri minister proposes to tell the truth at funerals. That minister is either lacking in discretion or a knowledge of truth.

Mr. Roosevelt's stand on the Mormon doctrine is about what Davy Crockett's was generally: "He sure you are right, then go ahead."

The celebrated Indian, Rain-in-the-Face, henceforth is to be known as John Smith. If he knows the history of his people and remembers his ancestor Pocahontas, he will sign himself "John Smith of Virginia."

So the schools are to be closed May 4. They should be run the full nine months. The people are under the impression that they pay enough school taxes to do it. But the people have such queer ideas at times.

Experiments have shown that speech may be transmitted through the ground without the aid of wires. Why not? In ante bellum times slaves were transported through to Canada on the underground.

In the Yosemite President Roosevelt will have as his guide John Muir. He is to the Yosemite what Thoreau was to Walden Pond. Surely the President is to be congratulated upon his good fortune in securing so good a guide. What grand souls Burroughs and Muir are!

President Jordan of Stanford believes in co-education. What the colleges need is the wedding out of the butterflies of fashion and those who go merely for social prestige. Surely the doctor speaks as one having authority and experience.

As usual when driven into a corner on any subject of dispute, the Salt Lake Tribune resorts to lying; not under a mistake, but intentionally, wilfully and with malice aforethought. The "News" did not in any manner whatever intimate that the trouble between the Mayor and the City Council, or the "legal" nonsense of the City Attorney, was a "Mormon fight," or that the "Mormon" question was involved in it. Therefore the Tribune's effervescence of this morning needs no reply, as it goes off into thin air when its anti-Mormon assumption is eliminated. Readers of both papers can readily see how the Tribune twists and turns and deliberately misrepresents this paper. But that is nothing new or unexpected.

Felt's Street-car Directory, just issued from the press, is a very useful brochure, particularly to persons not familiar with the city and its attractions. It gives simple directions as to the routes of the streetcars with plates of their course, so that with a little investigation the reader may find any street, court or avenue in town, and the readiest way to reach it. All the principal places of business, worship, or amusement are pointed out. The time tables of the railroads as well as of the street-car service are set forth and a complete index makes it easy to find what is wanted in the pamphlet. The leading firms advertise in this directory, so that it can be issued freely, and it will be published quarterly by D. P. Felt, 38 Main street.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The frontispiece of the Improvement Era for April is a portrait of Maj. Richard W. Young. This is accompanied by a biographical sketch by Andrew Jackson. "A Week in a Box Canyon" is an Era prize story, by Malcolm Little, and Edward H. Anderson contributes a poem, "Then and Now." W. A. Norton discusses "Some Mistakes Made While Preaching the Gospel." Other contributions are: "A Trip to Mexico," B. F. Grant; "Shall We Practice Hypnotism?" Apostle P. M. Lyman; "Paraphrase," Dr. Geo. H. Brimhall; "A Visit to the Cedars," Joseph J. Cannon; "A Mormon's Creed," A. B. Christensen.

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