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PRESENT PRESSING DUTIES.

It seems to be necessary to repeat,
many times, simple instructions on
simple matters. The settlement of
tithing for the year is an example. We
are informed that some of the Saints,
and a few of the Bishops in this State
of Zion, are under the impression that
no tithing will be received at the
Presiding Bishop's office during the re-
mainder of the year. This is a great
mistake. While it might be better, in
a number of instances and for several
reasons, that payments be made di-
rectly to the ward Bishops in settling
tithing for the year, it should be un-
derstood that such donations will be re-
ceived at the Presiding Bishop's office
up to December 31st, 1903, and that
they will be included in and accepted
for the present year's accounts.

On Saturday December 19, a prelimi-
nary statement of receipts at that of-
fice up to that date was made, and
each Bishop was furnished with an ac-
count for his ward. This was to en-
able the Bishops to account to each
tithing-payer for amounts paid in at
the Presiding Bishop's office, as well as
those paid to ward Bishops, and thus
each individual when making yearly
settlement, can learn if his or her ac-
count is correct and the proper
credits have been given. But a final
report will be made to the respective
ward Bishops of amounts received at
the Presiding Bishop's office up to De-
cember 31st. These, with the amounts
received by the ward Bishop up to that
date, should be credited to the payer
in this year's tithing account. All
amounts paid after December 31st, 1903,
will have to be credited on the ac-
counts for 1904. This ought to be plain
enough for anybody to understand.

The ward Bishops and clerks should
familiarize themselves with the forms
that have been furnished for reporting
ward accounts and affairs, so that they
may be filled out accurately as re-
quired and by the time specified. Uni-
formity is desired and it can be effected
if each Church officer will be diligent
and do his duty. The time allotted is
short, to be sure, but it is ample in
most cases and a little extra work and
persistence will make it possible to
return the reports punctually. The
ward Bishops and clerks are therefore
earnestly urged to get down to busi-
ness at once, and every member is re-
quested to call on the Bishop of his
ward at the time announced for tithing
settlement for the year 1903.

The keeping of records is one of the
important duties that are in some in-
stances woefully neglected. Minutes of
meetings taken on scraps of paper or in
pencil on a pad, are not sufficient. They
should be legibly written in ink and
signed by the secretary. The Presidents
of quorums, societies, and associations
are expected to see that this is done by
the secretary, and in cases where it
has been neglected the work should be
taken up and completed by the close of
the year if possible. At any rate, from
the beginning of the new year correct
accounts of meetings should be entered,
and kept thenceforward up to date,
and the back reports be entered in their
order as fast as convenient.

Ward records of names, baptisms, and
genealogies of members, with particu-
lars of blessings of children, and ordi-
nations to the Priesthood are still
very incomplete. It is expected that
the Bishops of wards will see that the
clerks perform their duty in this
and other respects. Also that minutes
of all ward meetings of every kind are recorded, in
ink, in ONE book, which will become a
history of ward proceedings if kept in
chronological order. This will include
meetings of the priesthood and Bish-
ops' courts proceedings, so that one
book will make a complete historical
record. The Bishops are not asked for
their views on this matter. Instruc-
tions have been issued from the Church
authorities, and these should be com-
plied with so that uniformity in this
particular may be established.

It is not expected that men will act
as ward clerks when much labor is en-

tailed, without compensation. Means
have been provided for payment for
such labor, and therefore no legitimate
excuse is receivable on that ground.
The records of the wards and of the
societies in all particulars must be
made up correctly, and preserved for
reference. Continued negligence of this
requirement is reprehensible. The
ward Bishops are expected to supervise
all record-keeping in every department
and organization. Financial accounts
must be absolutely correct and they
will be closely audited from this time
onward. The Bishops and clerks
should see to this matter themselves
and check up every account so that
it will be found accurate on further in-
spection.

If the ward authorities and visiting
officers will work together to this end
we will be able to get our Church re-
cords in such a condition that correct
statistical and financial reports can be
furnished whenever required, and that
without sending persons around each
block, to count the members and find
out the figures that ought to be ob-
tained from the books. Now let every
officer in the Church learn and perform
his duty, and there will be pleasure,
satisfaction and blessing instead of
corrections, complaints and repeated
reminders.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

The celebration at New Orleans of
the transfer of the so-called Louisiana
purchase is described as magnificent.
And well it might be, for it was one
of the great strides of this nation to-
wards world-embrace.

Napoleon sold the territory, because
he was highly in need of money. It
cost this country \$15,000,000, an enor-
mous sum in 1803. But today that ter-
ritory is itself an empire in wealth.
Its agricultural products alone are
possibly worth a hundred times the
purchase price, and it has become a
blessing to millions.

That event is, further, an ever re-
maining object lesson of God's pro-
vidence leading this nation onward,
Louisiana was given us, against the
criticism and protests of many near-
sighted Americans. Chance, some
would say, was working for us. There
was a revolution on Santo Domingo, as
there is now, Napoleon had already
marched out his forces, and was only
awaiting the subjugation of the revolt
in that island. Further re-enforce-
ments would undoubtedly have fixed a
French power on that portion of the
country. But pestilence and the valor
of the black men fighting for their li-
berty made it impossible for Napoleon
to realize his plan. Knowing that the
fleet of Great Britain was already in
the Gulf ready to take New Orleans
by force, Napoleon hastened the sale
and thrust Louisiana into our hands.
Thus God was working for us, as He
did anciently for His chosen people.
And the hand of Providence may be
seen clearly in the progress made ever
since.

AFTER SANTA CLAUS AGAIN.

Last year, some ministers proposed
the banishment of Santa Claus from
this country, and this year a New York
preacher advances a similar proposi-
tion. He argues that Christmas has
become "completely secularized;" it is,
he says, an occasion for extravagance,
overwork, and weariness, and as such
it is a reproach to religion. "Better
abolish the festival," he exclaims,
"than make it a semi-pagan saturna-
lia."

Preachers who, in the Christmas
festivities, can see nothing but extrava-
gance, overwork, and weariness, may
be excused for wishing the observance
abolished. But they are blind, and
their judgment is worthless. Brotherly
love, unselfishness, faith, hope,
and charity are in evidence on all
hands at this time of the year, and this
is well. As long as Santa Claus lives,
the story of the greatest Gift to the
world will never be entirely forgotten.
It may be true that the season is
one in which many abuses occur, but
our world would be empty and barren,
indeed, if everything that is abused
were done away with. That is irra-
tional. During pagan times, the people
rejoiced and made merry at this time
of the year, because they saw in the
lengthening of the day another tri-
umph of light over darkness, and a
pledge of the return of life. They
celebrated the near victory over the
forces of gloom and the coming resurrec-
tion of all nature to renewed activity.
The festival was continued after the
fall of paganism, with the added mean-
ing to it of the triumph of the true
Light of the world. Neither the church,
nor the world, can do without such
festivals. Their general influence is
for good, notwithstanding the fact that
some abuse them. They are monu-
ments of events of history, and the con-
templation of them often prepares the
heart for the reception of truth.

SUCCESSFUL FLYING.

It is now claimed that the most suc-
cessful air navigation on record, is that
made by the Wright brothers of Dayton,
O. It is claimed that they made headway
against a twenty-one-mile breeze and
landed without any difficulty. That cer-
tainly is a good record. Hitherto the
flying-machines that have been tried
have been practically helpless in a
breeze.

The Dayton airship is built on the
box kite principle. The aeronauts, we
are told, made a kite thirty-three feet
in width, five feet in depth from
front to rear and five feet in height. It
possessed sufficient lifting power to
support a small gasoline engine and
two men, and, after being propelled for
a short distance down an incline erected
for the purpose, sustained itself in
the air. The gasoline engine furnished
the motive power to two propellers, one
working horizontally underneath and
raising the machine higher in the air,
the other working vertically in the rear
and forcing it against the wind. The
latter thus performed the same function
as the string or wire used in flying
an Eddy kite, while the weight of the
men and machinery acted as ballast,
keeping it in a correct position for the
action of air pressure. The machine is
said to have been forced against the

twenty-one-mile breeze at the rate of
eight miles an hour, and traveled three
miles before a descent was made.

This account proves that a kite can
be constructed strong enough to carry
considerable weight, and that a contri-
vance of that kind may be made to
move against the wind, but how would
it act if steered with the wind? The
successful airship must, like the bird,
be made to soar and go in any direc-
tion desired. The balloon principle and
the kite principle must be combined.

The Russian bear hound of war has
not yet been turned loose.

After today the days will be longer.
Watch closely and you will observe it.

No soldier ever stood more loyally
by his guns than Secretary Root is
standing by General Wood.

Chicago is engaged in the laudable
work of driving out smells. If it suc-
ceeds it won't know itself.

Colombia may yet declare war
against the United States, for a bantam
cock when roused will fight anything.

The action of the Chicago striking
liverymen at Saturday's funerals
shows that they wear the Devil's livery.

Attorney-General Crow broke down as
a result of his trip to New York. The
journey was too long, even as the Crow
flies.

Uncle Sam is keeping peace on the
Isthmus while Panama busies herself
with the preliminaries of constitution
making.

In the matter of a successful airship
there is reason to believe that Professor
Langley would rather be Wright than
President.

Rev. Minot J. Savage says there never
was a Garden of Eden. How does he
know? And why doesn't he say he be-
lieves there never was one?

Governor Aycock says that they
have solved the negro problem in North
Carolina. The solution is to deprive the
negro of all his political rights.

What General Reyes should do is to
bring an action in replevin, laying it
in the Supreme Court, which has origi-
nal jurisdiction in cases affecting am-
bassadors and ministers.

And now General Merriam has been
called upon to "explain" certain state-
ments he is said to have made about
General Wood's appointment. When
will army officers learn that they must
not talk, even in their sleep?

If a prisoner who sends in an alarm
at the time of a jail break deserves a
pardon (and we think he does) then a
prisoner who is making a break, but
who saves a guard from certain death,
and that guard swears that he did,
deserves to have a death sentence com-
muted to life imprisonment.

The English press is angered because
of the reference to Waterloo made by
Emperor William, on Saturday, at a
banquet in honor of the anniversary of
the anniversary of the Hanoverian reg-
iments, when the emperor said he raised
his glass "to the health of the German
legions in memory of their incompara-
ble deeds, which, in conjunction with
Blucher and the Prussians, rescued the
English army from destruction at
Waterloo." There is no cause for an-
ger. Everyone familiar with the his-
tory of that famous battle, knows that
when Wellington was hard pressed he
exclaimed: "Would to God that night
or Blucher would come!"

LANGLEY'S FAILURE.

Boston Herald.
Among boys there is an old saying,
"Swim like a stone and dive like a
feather." This is brought to mind by
the series of mishaps which have beset
the Langley machine that was to solve
the problem of aerial flight. Both times
that the aerodrome has been launched
into space it has quickly sought the
bottom of the river. Each time the in-
ventor has declared that it was not
the fault of the flying machine, but of
the launching mechanism. The first time
one might have inclined to the belief
that this was the real trouble, but
with the second failure the public will
naturally ask for a new reason and be
unsatisfied with the old one.

Boston Transcript.

In spite of the second failure of Pro-
fessor Langley's aerodrome to soar, the
other day, we share the confidence
which the inventor displays when he
explains that "the accident was caused
by a defect in the launching apparatus
and not in the machine itself." Ap-
parently the backbone of the ship was
broken as it left the ways. It is to be
remembered that out of four ex-
periments, Professor Langley has had
one conspicuous success. As new in-
ventions go, it strikes us this is doing
very well. We should like the testi-
mony of some of the world's great in-
ventors as to whether, in their earliest
experiments, they averaged out a suc-
cess to three failures.

Los Angeles Times.

The opportunity was scarcely afforded
us to remark upon the prospective fin-
ish of Prof. Langley's next attempt to
fly his little old aerodrome until the
dingus broke in two, tangled its en-
gineer up in the wreckage and went ker-
plunge into the Potomac river, from
which it was fished, but a few short
moist weeks ago, in a highly demoral-
ized and bedraggled condition. The
impression is still strong within us who
are looking on at these flying episodes
that while the walking is so excellent
it is quite as well to quit trying to
navigate the blues.

St. Paul Globe.

The sole fault that can be found with
Prof. Langley's aerodrome appears to be
that it will not stay up. Experts
who have examined it have failed to
detect anything wrong with its interior
mechanism. The steering gear, al-
though there's never been any oppor-
tunity to test it, is apparently entirely
satisfactory; and the new launching
apparatus, according to report, is
everything that can be desired. Could
somebody suggest to Prof. Langley
some simple device that would enable
the airship to stay up, the Smithsonian
professor would undoubtedly be wel-
comed as one of the greatest of mod-
ern inventors.

Boston Post.

This by no means, however, disposes
of the fundamental idea of which Pro-
fessor Langley has been working.
Some contrivance, built upon this idea,
ought to fly. At least, it ought not to
collapse and plunge to earth in such
an unseemly fashion. The fault prob-
ably is in the operation of the details
of construction to the carrying out of
the general principle.

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