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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 25, 1905

DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers: For the Chief Editor's office, 74-3; For Deseret News Book Store, 74-2; For City Editor and Reporters, 359-2; For Business Manager, 359-4; For Business Office, 359-2.

LIGHT AGAINST DARKNESS.

For a week or more the Salt Lake press, with the exception of the Deseret News, has been voiding hot air and inflaming the public mind over a matter which the writers either did not fully understand or were desirous of presenting in a lurid light, so as to arouse prejudice against an institution which has been of immense public benefit.

The publication of the Deseret News of Friday evening of the petition of the Utah Light and Railway company, for the passage of an ordinance extending its franchises on certain specified terms, puts the subject in fair and proper shape before the people of Salt Lake City. It will be seen by those who read the application, that instead of the alleged attempt of the company to "get something for nothing," to make a "grab" to reach out for a "graft," to establish a "perpetual monopoly," to "raise the price for lighting," and to "hold up the city," and thus "bar competition perpetually," causing "a cyclone of wrath and a torrent of indignation," the company has simply responded to a request from the city to convey to the municipality property valued at \$200,000 and asserted to be worth to the city at least \$100,000, which the city was not able to pay for then, in money, but appeared willing to grant in return privileges which the company considered would be an equivalent.

We wish our readers to fully understand this indisputable fact, so that they may know, without doubt, that the city was the first mover in the present negotiations, and that the Light and Railway Company has not been either "impudently" or otherwise making a "demand" in the nature of a "graft," or attempting a "holdup," as most wickedly charged repeatedly during the past week.

In offering to accept an extension of its franchise in lieu of money for the property desired by the city, it has not sought to arrange for a "raise of prices" for lighting but on the contrary agrees to a reduction of such prices, as may be seen in the text of the application. The public should know that the company has been charging, right along, less prices than the franchise it already has, names as a minimum. For ordinary house lighting the franchise authorizes a charge of \$1.50 per month. The company has been charging only \$1 a month. For arc lights the company has been charging 25 per cent less than the amounts authorized by the franchise, and now proposes to modify the future prices for that service to a considerable reduction, and further intimates that if the city council, in passing the proposed new ordinance, thinks it right and fair to reduce the price named as a minimum in the present franchise, the company will not offer objection.

The company, instead of asking "something for nothing," agrees in addition to giving the city the property mentioned, to continue furnishing lights for the municipality, without charge, to the value of \$9,200 a year, as it has been doing for a number of years. The company does not ask for "a perpetual monopoly." It asks for no more powers than it has exercised hitherto. It has been the pioneer in establishing utilities for the public benefit. It has expended vast sums of money without receiving any financial return, worth mentioning. Its earnings have been invested in such improvements as have been made necessary through experience in the wants of the citizens, and in the manner of obtaining and utilizing power to generate and manipulate electrical forces, and in carrying out demands made by the city.

Its desire now for an extension of its franchise is for the purpose of strengthening the confidence of the bondholders, and of obtaining funds to still further improve its properties for the general benefit, so that there may be no failures of power and of light from damage to its water facilities. It should not be forgotten that the lines of the company extend to very distant points. That they have been extended at a vast outlay. That light and car service are furnished to places very remote from the business part of town, where the population is sparse and insufficient to pay expenses for furnish-

ing them. The cost of a plant for a small area and in a business circle would be insignificant in comparison to that of a system like the one now in operation.

It is easy to arouse popular prejudices by misrepresenting facts and berating a corporation, but it is none the less shameful work. For a city of the population of Salt Lake we have as good a service, both of light and car traffic, as could reasonably be expected, particularly when we consider the vast distances that have to be covered and traversed for the accommodation of the public. The Utah Light & Railway Co. has surmounted numerous and gigantic obstacles, without receiving remuneration or encouragement, but has been inveigled against by persons and papers that ought to have aided it, as a home corporation of immense benefit to the people and furnishing employment for many hands, often at a loss to itself.

If Salt Lake City needs the property belonging to the Utah Light and Railway company, which has been designated, should not the company, after its struggles of years to maintain its financial standing and to benefit the community, receive something in return by way of fair compensation? The fact in this case and the terms on which the company is willing to accede to the proposition of the city, to turn over to it the valuable properties which are needed for the completion of its water plans, should now be understood by the public, and we are sure that when the entire proposition is fairly weighed and clearly comprehended, there will be no "cyclone of wrath," or "torrent of indignation," unless it may be against the shameful misrepresentations of the truth which have been made in flaming form and deceptive characters to deceive and agitate the unsophisticated. Let justice be done and malice be defeated!

ELDER NUTTALL'S DEMISE.

The demise of Elder L. John Nuttall, who departed this life suddenly on Thursday night, came as a sad surprise to his many friends and the public generally. Although of an apparently strong and rugged physique, there was a weakness in his constitution which showed itself at intervals when he was afflicted severely with jaundice. From the latest attack of that disease, however, he seemed to have fully recovered, and therefore his unexpected departure came as a severe shock. The "News" has already given a brief account of the life and labors of our departed friend and brother, who was one of the best known and most active members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In addition to his missionary labors, he traveled extensively throughout the states of Zion, and was specially engaged in Sunday School and Religion Class work, and in the organization of the corporations which were formed under the civil law for the wards and their properties, the National Relief societies, etc. His kind and genial disposition and his readiness to perform every duty required of him commended him to the Latter-day Saints wherever he went, and his valuable services were recognized by the Church authorities. He was greatly loved by all who knew him, and he will be remembered as a man of sterling integrity, who was fervent in spirit, exemplary in conduct and worthy the confidence and esteem of all. He will meet a host of friends where he has gone, and we feel assured that he will gain that crown in the celestial world, which is promised to the just and the true who are found worthy to enter into the Eternal Presence to abide there forever.

"ELIAS" HAS COME!

We have been favored with an inspection of the long-looked-for special edition of Hon. O. F. Whitney's epic poem "Elias." A few copies of the Edition de Luxe have reached this city, the entire issue having been shipped from New York on the 18th inst. and will arrive in this city in a few days. Of the merits of this great literary production we need say but little, as it has been fully reviewed in these columns, and has received the highest eulogiums from the critics here and elsewhere.

The theme chosen by the author is one of the grandest of which the human mind could conceive. It reaches back to the pre-existent state of man in the spiritual spheres, and coming down through the ages of his mortal career, it depicts the work of human redemption through the crucifixion of the Savior and the publication of His Gospel, traces the decline of the primitive faith and the overspreading of spiritual darkness on the earth, and vividly portrays the glorious restoration of the Church with its doctrines, ordinances, gifts, powers and authority through Joseph the Seer. The ancient history of the American continent is unfolded, and the great truths of former and of latter days as revealed from heaven, are summarized in masterly style. The mission of Elias, the Angel of restoration, is beautifully presented and the style of the entire poem is rich and lofty and musical. It is in the best vein of a writer who has gained fame and honor as an exceptionally talented poet.

The Edition de Luxe is one of the very finest books issued by the famous Knickerbocker Press of New York. The printing and binding is pronounced by experts to be of the very highest class. It is altogether elegant and pleasing. The illustrations are from drawings by H. L. A. Cullmer, Lee Greene Richards and J. S. Sears, and are in the very latest style, fitting for a work of this character. The subscribers for this beautiful volume, we believe, will be entirely satisfied with its appearance as well as its contents. We learn that while the full edition has been subscribed for, there are a few extra copies yet unbound which may be obtained by persons who desire to secure them. The committee of publication, however, have determined to issue an Author's Jubilee Edition, in commemoration of the fiftieth year of his age, which occurs next July. It will be

limited to one hundred and fifty copies, bound in three-fourths morocco, with gilt and deckle edge, the type and illustrations to be the same as in the Edition de Luxe, but to cost only ten dollars a copy. This edition will be ready for distribution within the next sixty days.

We take pleasure in making those announcements, and feel a pride in the work of our esteemed friend and brother, Bishop Whitney, and in the diligence exhibited by the committee who have taken upon themselves the task of presenting it to the world in such beautiful form. Utah is to be congratulated on the production of such a poem by one of her native sons, and in the distinction of having given to the world the first epic poem ever published in America.

UTAH AND ILLITERACY.

Kanosh, Feb. 21, 1905. "Editor Deseret News—One of our neighbors, an excellent man, is constantly troubled with that self-inviting Mormophobia which frequently breaks out upon street corners in brawling controversy, aiming to exploit the real or imaginary shortcomings of the people of Utah.

"A few days since our friend, cornered two of our unsophisticated citizens, with the bold assertion that from an educational standpoint as compared with other states of the Union, Utah stood thirty-fifth in illiteracy. "We admire the gentleman's zeal, and admit his claim to missionary privileges, in seeking to convert us from the error of our ways.

"And if you could give the facts upon the subject in controversy in cold type, it would be very satisfactory, just to lift our friend to the happy level of the majority, and leave him in the light of peace. Respectfully, "GEORGE CRANE."

Utah, according to the latest statistics published, is third among the states of the Union, in literary standing. Only two other states have a greater percentage of its inhabitants able to read and write. Those are Nebraska and Kansas. Washington has about the same percentage as Utah. Counting all, above 10 years of age, 310 per cent only are illiterate. This is a showing of which the people of Utah are justly proud.

The following additional figures may be of some interest: The census of 1900 shows that the total number of persons in the United States ten years and over unable to read or write was 6,180,000, of whom 2,590,000 were whites. In some of the states the white illiterates form a large portion of the population. For instance, Illinois has 53,037; Indiana, 63,809; New York, 47,350; and Pennsylvania, 87,372. Kentucky has 162,324 native white illiterates and 5,444 foreign born, besides 88,137 negroes unable to read or write.

Although education is compulsory in this country, and the schools are excellent, many children are not taking advantage of the facilities offered. The national population of school age in 1900 was 21,530,774. The school enrollment was 15,155,715, and the average daily attendance but 10,359,407. More than ten millions of persons of school age failed to go to school. In this respect, too, Utah is far ahead of most of the States.

SEEING VISIONS.

The American public is at present very much occupied with occult phenomena, or matters pertaining to the spiritual world. The feverish activity in the service of Mammon presents a striking contrast to this eager search for that which seems to lie beyond the reach of the physical senses.

About a month ago a New York preacher, Rev. R. H. Newton, made the assertion that the spirits of the dead are in continual communication with the living. He made every possible allowance for fraud and tricks, but he asserted that many men of science admitted their belief in communication with the world beyond. He was challenged by Prof. Quackenbos, who pronounced the views of Mr. Newton as rubbish. Dr. Newton, however, replied with an enumeration of many cases of "demonstrations" that had been witnessed by himself and others.

As a contribution to the general debate of such subjects, the case is told of a 15-year-old boy, Rudolph Gunderman, who claims to have visions and talk with dead persons. According to the San Francisco Chronicle of Feb. 17, this boy had a remarkable presentiment of the murder of President McKinley. Three nights before McKinley was assassinated he had a vision of this country wrapped in deepest gloom. "I saw the whole United States in black," he said, "and I told my father that it predicted a terrible tragedy." The boy is said to have had "visions" ever since he was three years old, and his father has come to regard him as in possession of some supernatural gift.

According to the item in the Chronicle, the boy a few nights ago saw the United States covered with darkness, and he interpreted that as meaning a revolution. This is the talk of the neighbors, we are told. Undoubtedly the world is gradually swinging away from the cold indifference to, and unreasonable rejection of, things spiritual. It is all the more necessary that it should have the infallible guidance of direct revelation from God, so as not to mistake the fanciful fabrications of a superstitious mind for spiritual facts, or cunningly devised errors for established truths.

When you are in Russia do as the Romanoffs do. In the World's Fair commission investigation the plot thickens. Maxim Gorky is to be let out on bail. Nothing romantic or novel about that. The Hyde dinner is achieving as great a notoriety as the Seely dinner did. It looks as though the czar's government had the internal situation "well in hand," doesn't it? If District Attorney Jerome is right,

the New York police force is the most corrupt in the world.

Madame Zouhoni is said to be the real hero of Port Arthur. Kind of the Jesse Brown of Luckow.

Massachusetts is urged to adopt the laurel as its flower. Nothing could be more fitting for the Bay state.

There are thirty thousand dry goods stores in the United States. But no one knows how many saloons there are.

The czar has elected to continue the war. When it is over he will not be among the elect but will be found in the "also ran" class.

When Niagara goes dry, as some predict it will, the historically sentimentally inclined can utilize the cliff for exclaiming, "Here once stood Troy."

And now the Japanese diet has ordered an investigation into alleged corruption in connection with contracts for the construction of barracks. Japan is bound to be abreast of the times in all things.

Dr. Angell of the University of Michigan would prolong men's lives, while Dr. Oeler would chloroform all men who have reached the age of sixty years. Which shows that fools rush in where Angels fear to tread.

Senator Lord of Storey county has introduced in the Nevada legislature a measure that practically makes every citizen of the state a member of the militia, placing him at the command of the governor. "Good Lord deliver us!" is the cry of the people of Nevada.

"The Smoot case may afford an excuse for a pleasant trip to the resorts of Salt Lake in the summer even if it serves no more useful purpose. Congress gets more particular to be sure that it is right every day, even if it does necessitate a junket or so," says the Boston Transcript. A poor excuse is better than none, even when a junket is involved.

President Hadley of Yale believes in the strenuous life if any one does. He says: "I think we should not lessen our athletics, but increase our intellectual study. The more baseball a boy plays the more geometry he should study; the faster he can run the faster he should read. We need a combination of forces." To students this would be athletics with a vengeance.

"While the Bible has declared in a general way that God is a spirit, the most important thing about the spirit, as a matter of human history, is that it has always insisted upon having a body," says Rev. Gerold Stanley Lee, in the New York Outlook of Feb. 4. He adds: "It also seems to be a matter of history that the final test of the vitality and reality of a good spirit is that it can get a body." The "Mormons," when expressing their belief in almost identical terms are denounced as materialists and even infidels, by the hypocritical Pharisees who assume the right of sitting in judgment upon their fellowmen.

THE WORLD'S OPINION.

Who needs the world's opinion, And worldly judgment goes? 'Tis based on little knowledge, And deals with outward shows; Infallible it fain would be, And limits human destiny.

On everything progressive, The world's opinion frowns, And it pursues its victims With persecutor's frowns; And seldom is it true and just Before their forms are turned to dust.

The true and good have ever Been forced to battle hard At each advancing footstep, Precocious by their crowd; The welcome plaudits of "Well done!" Comes only when the battle's won.

Whoever adds to knowledge, Or widens human thought, Must brave the world's opinion As something to be fought; Must beat its opposition down Till victory secures the crown.

Who needs the world's opinion, And not his sense of right, Will grovel long in darkness, By shutting out the light; Ignoring true humanity, His soul a stunted thing will be.

Why heed the world's opinion? It cannot change a fact, Nor set aside a principle, Nor modify an act. It is as empty, foul or fair, As bubbles drifting into air.

No man of progress falters, But seeks the light within Which comes from fields immortal Where is no blight of sin; Such never from their course will fly, Though all the world cry, "Curse thy!"

Man kind lack moral courage, And fear to try the new, In sin prefer to grovel, Thus leaving paths narrow; And hence the better new they spurn, Till sin's false fruits to ashes turn.

Men have no faith in progress, They cannot understand Why institutions hoary Should fall by its command; They shut their eyes and will not see The light of truth that maketh free.

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COMING! APRIL 4, in the SALT LAKE TABERNACLE, the Conried Metropolitan Opera COMPANY, Of New York City, will give a grand OPERATIC CONCERT. NORDICA, DIPPEL, HOMER, JOURNET, ALTEN, DE MACCHI will be heard in arias and in STABAT MATER. The GREAT CONRIED METROPOLITAN CHORUS will sing and the ORCHESTRA OF SIXTY SOLOISTS will give selections. BUY SEATS AT ONCE at the music store of Carstensen & Anson company, 74 Main street. Capacity limited to 4,318. CONFERENCE RATES WILL BE IN EFFECT on all railroads. Weber Piano Used.

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