

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 4, 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene at 7 o'clock p. m. on Sunday, April 5th, 1900, in the Tabernacle.

It is particularly desired that each Stake of Zion be represented at this meeting, and that the Stake superintendents, officers and teachers attending the General Conference of the Church be present.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
KARL G. MAESER,
General Superintendency.
HORACE S. ENSIGN,
General Secretary.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Utah Historical Society will hold its annual meeting tomorrow evening (Thursday) in the L. D. S. College lecture hall. The principal features of the occasion will be addresses by Bishop O. F. Whitney and Prof. George Q. Coray. The former will discourse on the life and character of the late President Franklin D. Richards, who was one of the originators of the society and was chosen as its first president. The latter will speak on the Western Movement Sociologically Considered. These subjects will be found of great interest to a large number of our people and the hall will no doubt be crowded. Visitors to the General Conference will find this meeting attractive. They can reach the lecture hall floor by the elevator in the Templeton building, approached on the north side. The meeting will commence at 7:30 and be free to the general public.

The purposes of this society recommend it to the support of all classes of the people of Utah. It aims to collect and arrange historical data on all subjects that relate to the settlement and growth and prospects of this part of our great country. It is now almost in its infancy, but it will some day be an institution of immense value to the State and to the nation. It is already a nucleus, to which will be gathered information on various topics and relics of early times which will at no distant period be above price. It has acquired a collection of interesting articles and documents which are stored in a safe place of deposit, and one day will have buildings of its own and become a permanent institution of this important mountain State. Particulars concerning the society, membership, etc., can be obtained on application to the secretary, Jerrald R. Letcher, Esq., Salt Lake City.

RELIEF OF THE POOR.

A question is asked by a friend in the north which we think should be submitted to the local authorities of the place where he resides, so far as it relates to any individual case. But as he makes his inquiry on general principles, we will state it and answer the question in the same way. He wants to know whether good Latter-day Saints or family of Latter-day Saints, who have paid a full tithing and also given donations for Church purposes, are entitled to a full support from the tithing or fast offerings, when in such circumstances that they are unable to provide for themselves.

A large amount of the tithing is used for the relief of the poor and the suffering, although that is not the primary object for which tithing is required. The fast offerings, however, are donated for the express benefit of the indigent among the Latter-day Saints. These offerings are disbursed under the direction of the Bishops of the wards in which they are received. The presiding Bishop of the Church regulate the amount of tithing that may be disbursed for the relief of the poor, when applications are made from the ward Bishops and Stake presidencies.

Latter-day Saints who pay their tithing and are in good standing have a claim for support when they are unable to provide for themselves. A full support when they cannot do anything for their own sustenance; a partial support to make up for such deficiency as may occur when they can do a little towards self-support.

It is expected that all members of the Church will have sufficient manhood, or womanhood, to labor for their own living to the extent of their ability. Pauperism is obnoxious to every well-regulated mind. It is not to be encouraged among the Latter-day Saints. When people are unable to find employ-

ment but are capable of doing something to earn their living, the local authorities are expected to aid them to obtain work, and in any event to see that they do not suffer for the necessities of life and comfort.

It is well, however, for all persons who need assistance to obtain it in a reasonable manner, and not to enter "demands" or make "demands." On the other hand, those who have Church funds to disburse are expected to extend the help that is needed in the true spirit of charity; that is, in the love of God and of the human family. Not with harshness or grudgingly, but with kindness and rational sympathy.

The ladies of the Relief Societies do a great deal in this direction, and are powerful aids to the Bishops in looking after the wants of the needy and the afflicted. When the Relief Society and the Bishops of a ward work together in perfect harmony, it is not very likely that any of the sick or the poor will go unprovided for. It is intended that the suffering and the needy shall be nourished and comforted, and supplied with the things that are necessary.

It must be understood that individual cases and their claims and necessities, are under the supervision and direction of the Church authorities in the place where they reside. As a rule they are active in praiseworthy labors for the benefit of those who are in need, and will be found ready to respond to every proper call for assistance. They must be the judges as to the extent and nature of the relief to be extended, and no general rule can be given which will properly cover every instance in which help is required nor to what extent it can be afforded.

HILLS AND "MORMONISM."

Chicago ministers are now commenting on the recent denunciation of Presbyterianism by one of the leading preachers of that faith, Dr. Hillis, of Brooklyn. Presbyterians, as a rule, say he is mistaken in his statements, but ministers of other denominations rather rejoice at the attitude he has taken. It is always easy to endure criticism when it is directed against the weaknesses and deformities of others.

Dr. Gunaulus takes occasion to point out that what today is stamped as heresy may at some future time be orthodoxy. Paul, he said, was a "heretic." Abraham was a "heretic." Moses was a "heretic," until his "heresy" became orthodoxy. Then it went on until Isaiah, another "heretic," arose and declared against iniquity and the blood of animals upon the altar, as well as appointed feasts. Jesus was a "heretic," and was crucified as such.

Dr. Gunaulus but repeats a truth written across the pages of the world's history. The human race is ever willing to build monuments upon the tombs of slain Prophets. Martin Luther, Calvin, Knox, Wesley, Penn, Roger Williams, were all at one time "heretics," against whom orthodox fought with all available means. Their doctrines were once gained everywhere. But they endured, and that which was true in them became a power for good in the world.

May we not ask the "Christian" world to apply this truth to the teachings of Joseph, the Prophet? It was high time, when he arose, that orthodoxy, old and decrepit, should again be penetrated by the living germs of truth, in order that a new ark might rear its majestic crown towards heaven and offer a resting place and shade for the weary pilgrim. "Mormonism" is such. The very attitude of its adversaries proves this. It is a good sign that it meets with the fate of all truths when first proclaimed to the world, scientific discoveries sometimes not excepted.

When the obscure friar, Luther, one day nailed his theses to the door of the Cathedral, no one, not even himself, could foresee that a force had been set in motion that would for centuries dominate a great part of the world, bringing with it religious and political liberty, though not until the world had experienced an era of wars and bloodshed. It would have been equally impossible for human wisdom to forecast what would follow as a sequence to the simple act of Joseph, the boy, when, on that memorable day, he went out into the woods to pray and to meditate. Not much more than half a century has passed since then, but it is evident now that a force was set in motion that cannot be stayed by human agencies.

"Mormonism" means progress. It means that faith through which worlds are created and maintained. It is truth, universal and indestructible. Let "orthodoxy" blunder along among the mists of past theology, and brand truth as "heresy." The time for its universal recognition can not even be materially delayed thereby.

HUMANITY IN WAR.

One of the most beautiful traits of human character has come to light during the war in South Africa. The two contending peoples, though fighting as fiercely as tigers on the battlefield, have on various occasions sent one another expressions of sympathy and regret on account of the losses sustained. Lately, the death of Joubert called forth a letter of condolence from Lord Roberts to President Kruger, and now the queen has sent a tender message to the widow of General Joubert—a great tribute to the memory of one who, in the defense of his country, inflicted heavy blows on Great Britain.

Such exhibitions of humane feelings in the midst of a mortal combat speak volumes for the progress of the world in this age. Fancy the ancient Roman generals and emperors sending messages of sympathy to the barbarians that were quashed by their legions! Or the contending warriors in the thirty-years' war in Germany. The world has been moving since those wars, and even since the gigantic struggle that ended in the annihilation of Napoleon's domination. The Russian commander at Plevna set a good example when he met his conquered antagonist, Osman Pasha, with every mark of respect. The American commanders in the Spanish affair rose to the very height of civility on several occasions, and the prominent figures in the African war are not behind the spirit of the times in this respect.

Such incidents promise well for the

future. They prove that wars are no longer waged in civilized countries for sport, or pleasure. "Do not cheer! The poor devils are dying," is notwithstanding the roughness of the expression, an evidence that the onward march toward a universal brotherhood of man can no longer be checked by rattling swords or the roar of cannon.

ABOUT "IT."

It appears that an instructor at Vassar has had the courage of attempting to introduce an innovation in the English language of no small consequence. In a work on logic she uses the pronoun "it" whenever she refers to a person, in the singular, just as that word is used to refer to a child, when there is no purpose to call attention to sex. The argument for this innovation is this, that "it" can stand for a small child of either sex, it ought to be employed for a grown up child as well, when it is convenient to use a pronoun that does not denote sex. There should be no age limit to the use of the word "it" as applied to persons.

To commence with it would appear rather strange to hear "it" used that way. It would sound as anomalous as does the assertion that in some languages words denoting "woman" are of neuter gender, and consequently called "it." But one gets accustomed to it.

It was Kipling, we believe, who endeavored to add to the language the word "human" as a noun, denoting "a human being," the same as the Latin "homo" or German "Mensch." If that suggestion is adopted "it" would be the natural pronoun, but "it" as a substitute for the idea of "person" may not have much chance of success. The English is a wonderfully wealthy language, enriched from nearly every source on earth. But there are still a few ideas for which it has no convenient and adequate expression. One of the most conspicuous of these is the relationship between children of the same family, for which there is no other term than "brothers and sisters," though cognate languages do not lack the one word needed to express this relationship. But the language is growing, and the defects will be remedied in due time.

COST OF THE WAR.

This statement of an official of the exchange, published in one of the magazines, shows the enormous cost of the conflict now being waged in South Africa:

"Taking the estimate of £20,000,000 as well within the limits of probability, we find that for a period of nine months this war will cost us at the rate of over 152 a minute or \$9,120 an hour, night and day. Thus, for the purposes of our South African war alone we are spending at the rate of considerably over a million and a half pounds sterling every week, in addition to our normal expenditure of over \$47,000,000 a year in maintaining our army and fleet, and a further £25,000,000 a year in discharge of liabilities for wars in the past. We thus find ourselves in the strange position of spending on war alone the stupendous sum of £152,000,000 a year, or something like \$40,000,000 more than our total national revenue for the year."

The cost to the Boers is, of course, also enormous, but it can hardly be calculated even approximately. The Boer soldiers are not paid for their services, as are soldiers of other countries. Their maintenance is therefore to the state merely a question of the cost of living expenses. But indirectly the war falls heavier on them than on the British. Their country's industries must necessarily be dormant in the absence of the men in the field. And they are less capable of carrying the enormous burden than are their antagonists.

Under the circumstances it is rather peculiar to hear President Kruger solemnly declare that the war may go on practically indefinitely, for his people are prepared to defend themselves to the last man. It has been supposed that the capture of Cronje and the death of Joubert would make the march to Pretoria easier, but as yet there is no evidence of this. It is only to be hoped that for the sake of humanity some resting place in the warlike proceedings can be found, from which negotiations for peace may be successfully commenced. To an impartial on-looker it appears as if a people fighting for existence as the Boers have done, have a right to independence, just as the Greeks had when by the humane policy of Great Britain they were established in their own country. It is also evident that the honor of Britain is safe, after the brilliant successes of Lord Roberts. Nothing would be lost by an attempt to solve peacefully the questions that have caused the war.

Great Britain is an immensely wealthy nation, but can she afford to spend on military operations \$152,000,000 a year for perhaps several years? And also thousands of her young men? The cost of the war is a matter of no little concern.

Vice-presidential candidates may be a little scarce, but there is no dearth of entries in the presidential race this year.

Bad marksmanship is sometimes a good thing. At least the Prince of Wales must think so, after his experience in Brussels today.

Stormy weather seems close at hand, so that even the man with rheumatic tendencies wishes it would hurry up and get through to the next sunshine.

The Nicaragua-Costa Rica war does not seem to materialize, it is likely that both states realize that nothing would be left from a conflict for either to jubilate over.

The testimony in the Idaho riots investigation at Washington is piling up a big lot of evidence in justification of the course taken by Idaho State officials at the time of the troubles in April, 1899.

A masked mob of 150 men blew up two bridges and burned two toll-houses in Indiana during last night. Indiana will now take note that all the "regulators" do not live in the Southern States.

The new American possessions in the Pacific are not likely to be represented by exhibits at the Paris exposition, owing

ing to fears of communicating bubonic plague. Better no showing from the islands than the plague with it at such a time.

The excessive use of ardent spirits by the people is said to be alarming the Mexican government. Certainly Mexican progress will be promoted greatly by a reform to more sober conditions than those described in the dispatches as commonly existing.

The individual who thinks the streets of a city the size of Salt Lake can be kept in fair condition without considerable care and expense, ought to practice a while at trying to keep his face clean without soap and washing. It is a good idea to be reasonable all round.

London is irritated and confused now. The public there evidently have not overcome the idea that a war in South Africa ought to have as unbroken a line of victories as when waged against the semi-barbarous people of India or the upper Nile.

The Russian minister in Washington says his country and Japan are not going to war. He probably states the real position, which a diplomat does not always do; for war on the part of Russia in the near future is likely to be directed against territory in Asia farther west than Japanese possessions.

For the first time in thirty-nine years, Queen Victoria has landed in Ireland. It may be that the infrequency of the British sovereign's visits to the Emerald Isle may be regarded now as a mistake, for which amends may be made with the result of inaugurating an era of better feeling in the United Kingdom.

The ambition of Mrs. Dewey to become an admiral's bride evidently did not interfere with her ambition to be the wife of a President. Well, she has as much right to look forward to that exalted station as the wife of any other American citizen. The question now is the ability and opportunity to attain the coveted position.

Webster Davis makes some strong statements regarding South African matters, and coming from a man of his attainments and standing ought to receive the attention of the British public as to whether, in the language of Winston Churchill, there are not some "great wrongs in Britain's South African policy heretofore."

DEATH OF GEN. JOUBERT.

Sacramento Bee.
General Joubert is dead. But the principles for which he fought will live forever.Chicago Record.
So far as his career has been followed by the outer world, it shows him to have been a clean man of high purpose and true patriotism. Although rich, he has escaped the smirch of corruption, and even his enemies have freely recognized his sincerity. With Joubert and Cronje taken away, Kruger remains alone of the triumvirate of the Boer leaders. Apparently the military leadership must now revert to some of the younger and less-known commanders who have been brought up in the severe school of which Joubert was the teacher.San Francisco Chronicle.
In all of the wars of the Transvaal, Joubert has been the commander of its forces. He was the hero of Majuba Hill, when with a mere handful of men he defeated the flower of the British army under Sir George Colley and established the right of the republic to its independence. One of the touching incidents of that historic event was the death of the defeated British commander in the arms of Joubert, the victorious Boer. Joubert was twice a candidate for the presidency of the republic in opposition to Kruger, but was each time defeated. He served one term as vice president. His rivalry for the presidency is said to have created a coolness between him and Kruger, but, if so, it never brought about an open rupture.Denver Post.
It is unfortunate indeed that he has not lived. Measured by the lives of the greatest men of the century, Joubert was not old. He was only 63. He might still have carved out a career that would have made his name endure while the world lasts. Whether the Boer or the Briton wins ultimately in South Africa, the result will equally be a confederation of states. With British success it will be modeled after Canada; the Boer victory, there will be a United States of South Africa. In either event Joubert might have looked forward to an honorable and distinguished career. It was well within his grasp, but possibly that in the greater field he would have outdistanced his political foe and personal friend, Kruger, for Kruger is essentially a Transvaaler, while Joubert's nationality is South Africa.San Francisco Call.
The Boer general, who will rank with the world's great captains, was charged by the British correspondents with cowardice and it was published that his countrymen were about to put him to death. But the grim old fighter stayed on the field, in service, at his duty, planning the defenses of his country to the last possible hour and only reached his pillow in time to lay off his war harness and put on immortality.Boston Herald.
In Gen. Joubert's death the Boers have lost their best commander, or, at any rate, the general who held the foremost place on their side in the estimation of the military world. From a personal point of view, it is much such a loss as the Jacobite cause sustained when Viscount Dundee was killed at Killcrunkle, and the Southerners suffered when Stonewall Jackson was fatally wounded at Chancellorsville. With Cronje a captive and Joubert dead, President Kruger may well feel like an oak whose sturdiest branches have been lopped under Sir George Colley and his army. Recruited from a martial race, the Boer army, doubtless, has many gallant commanders, but none of them can fill the place which Gen. Joubert held in the confidence of the burghers and soldiers whom he had so often led to victory.St. Paul Pioneer Press.
The examples afforded during our Civil War of the rapid development of military genius in unexpected quarters were so numerous and striking, that it would be rash to speak of the loss sustained by the Boers in the death of Gen. Joubert as being irreparable. There may yet arise in their ranks some Afrikaner Grant or Thomas who shall outline the dead hero, and put up an even more valiant and skilful opposition to the British advance. Nevertheless, the departure of a leader so able and so trusted, so long identified with their history, and so familiar with their resources, must have for the time being a profoundly depressing effect, which to that extent after the capture of Cronje.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Keith's Home-Builder for April gives a number of illustrations and descriptions of moderate cost homes, which are well worth examining by anybody who is in the market. This publication is edited by Walter J. Keith, Minneapolis.

The feature of the current number of Harper's Weekly is the account of Lieut. Com. Gilmore's eight months' captivity in the hands of the Filipinos. The story is reported in Gilmore's own words, by Louis Hunk, Gordon H. Grant, the special artist in the field for Harper's Weekly, contributes a striking lot of South African sketches. There are numerous other features of interest.—New York.

The special features of Collier's Weekly, for March 31st, are: "New Currency Law—Its Operation and Effect," by Hon. Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the treasury; "Through the Hemp Country With General Kobbé," by Frederick Palmer, "From Africa," a poem, by Edward S. Martin, and "Private Clothes," a story, by W. W. Jacobs. The Easter number of the Magazine will comprise 36 pages, with cover in color and will appear on the 14th of April.—New York.

Among the short stories in the current number of Harper's Magazine are: "The Pursuit of the Piano," by William Dean Howells; "Captain John Adams, Missing, an Incident of the Boer War," by Dr. C. W. Doyle, author of "The Taming of the Jungle," "The Store," by Stephen Crane; "Padre Ignazio," by Owen Wister; and "They Bore a Hand," by Frederic Remington. Among the more important special articles are the second of Captain Mahan's papers on "The Problem of Asia," "A Successful Colonial Experiment," by Pauline Rignow; and a paper on "Lord Pauncefoot of Preston," by Chalmers Roberts. There is also a fourth installment of Mrs. Ward's "Eleanor."

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