

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)
Office of Fourth Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Herbert G. Whitney, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.	
One Year, in advance	\$8.00
Six Months, " "	4.00
Three Months, " "	2.00
One Month, " "	.75
One Week, " "	.25
Sunday edition, per year	2.00
Single copy, " "	.20

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

Address all business communications
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE
R. A. Craig, 41 Times BuildingCHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE
R. A. Craig, 87 Washington St.SAN FRANCISCO REPRESENTATIVE
C. S. King-Shorland & Co., 409 Examiner Bldg.

SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 5, 1900.

DON'T EXAGGERATE!

It appears pretty clear that the smallpox alarm raised in this city has been largely without reason. We do not say there has been no outbreak of the disease, but we do firmly believe that many cases which have been reported as smallpox, have been something different from that disease in many important particulars. The case of Fire Chief Devine and his family is a pointer in that direction. There was no actual necessity to move them from their quarters. No infection appears to have resulted from the eruption upon the children. The symptoms manifest, lack some of the essentials of smallpox. So in a large number of other instances.

We do not mention this to depreciate the precautions taken by the health officers in this city. The prevention of the spread of threatened disease is part of the duty enjoined upon them. That there has been a great lack of experience among the medical fraternity here in relation to smallpox, is no fault on their part. It is only when they have become too dogmatic on a matter of which they were not personally familiar, and when they attempted to force vaccination upon unwilling subjects, that they were open to censure.

The remarks made by a preacher on this subject, in which the health officers were charged with cowardice because they rescinded the order closing the public schools, we consider entirely undeserved and out of place. So with the attempt in the same discourse to make it appear that there was a conflict between a Church and the Board of Health. There has been nothing of the kind.

The dispute that has arisen in relation to this subject was not taken up by any church or religious organization. Both believers and disbelievers in the merits of vaccination, persons of various religious and political opinions, joined in the indignant protest raised against the exclusion of healthy children from the public schools. Those who denied the existence of genuine smallpox in the city and those who admitted it, united in the contest against what was believed to be an unlawful exercise of despotic authority. It was the voice of the majority of the people that was raised, against an underhanded attempt at compulsory vaccination that was not required by law.

When the health authorities advised the reopening of the schools, it was not done in any spirit of cowardice, but from a conviction that the conditions having been changed, there was no necessity for continuing to keep up the barrier which had been interposed by way of precaution. We believe that the health officers are fully justified in the course they have pursued by which the education we all desire the children shall obtain shall not be denied to them. We believe that it will be for the benefit of all concerned, if the rumor that has gone abroad concerning the sanitary condition of our city and our State, shall be speedily and effectually removed. The opening of the schools will certainly aid in the good work. All proper precautions against the spread of contagious disease, no matter what its proper name may be, should be rigorously maintained. But there is no need for public alarm, and no good can arise from creating the impression that the fair face of Utah is pitted with the scars of smallpox, and that there is infection in the pure air of these mountain valleys.

EXPELLING A STATE.

Now that the case of Utah's Representative in Congress has been disposed of, so far as it relates to his occupancy of the seat to which he was elected, some of our contemporaries east and west are indulging in speculations as to Utah's position among the States of the Union. A constitutional question was involved in the action of the House of Representatives, and that body chose to be governed by popular clamor in preference to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States. This leads some papers to imagine that Utah can be ejected from the Union, as her Representative was excluded from Congress.

These are two very different propositions, although both are, or should be, regulated by the Supreme law of the land. The House of Representatives is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members, and has the power if not the right to take summary action in relation to them. It is different altogether with the important subject of the status of a sovereign State in the Federal Union. It is exceedingly doubtful whether both Houses of Congress with the executive of the nation, have the constitutional authority to put a State out of the Federation.

We do not think for a moment, however, that this point will be tested. There is not the slightest occasion for it. Utah has done nothing to justify any such action. There is nothing in the

Enabling Act under which this State was organized that Utah has failed to comply with. The talk about her violating the "compact" entered into with the nation, is but a little of the froth that has floated on the current of popular misinformation that has flooded the country. When it is examined, it will be found that it contains not a particle of solid substance.

As to polygamy, using the term as defined by law, there is less of it in Utah than in any of the popular States of the Union. Even if the charges that have been made during the recent excitement were true, which we do not admit, the polygamous marriages alleged to have occurred since Statehood are so few, that they would cut no figure in an investigation entered into for the purpose of obtaining facts. There need be no apprehension on the part of sensible people as to the stability of the position of Utah as one of the States of the American Union.

The Washington Post of January 31, contains the following editorial on this subject, under the heading of "How Would You Do It?"

"The San Francisco Chronicle, referring to the Roberts case, which was pending when the article was written, says:

"The 'Mormon' leaders are now conscious of the consequences of their exposure of the continuance of their polygamous practices, betray their duplicity and criminality and permit Utah's Statehood to be jeopardized. The election of a polygamist to Congress was an open violation of the fundamental principle on which Utah secured admission to Statehood, and it was the 'Mormon' mode of asking the country what it would do about it. The House of Representatives is prepared to answer, so far as Utah's Representative-elect is concerned, and there cannot be much doubt in anybody's mind what the nature of it will be."

"If the Chronicle should happen to feel inclined to let its readers and the country know how a State could be expelled from the Union by reason of misconduct of any kind, from murder to petty larceny, on the part of individual citizens, our San Francisco contemporary would acquire fame as the discoverer of that which has eluded the research of all the statesmen and jurists of the past. There is not the slightest danger that Utah will change its Constitution and statutes so as to protect polygamy. It has not been proved that any plural marriages have taken place since the 'Mormons' agreed to abandon that custom as incompatible with the requirements of the Constitution. But if, in spite of all probabilities, in defiance of decency, in violation of pledged faith, Utah should plant polygamy in her Constitution, she would still be a member of the family of States, and there would be no way, except by revolution, to get her out. All this was conceded when the bill for the admission of the Territory of Utah as a State was before Congress. It was clearly understood that, in possession of Statehood, she could repudiate her anti-polygamy promise and still retain Statehood. There is nothing in the nation's fundamental law to prevent any or all the States from plunging into that loathsome relic of barbarism."

"Statehood may be jeopardized by rebellion against the United States. At any rate, if a State should set up an army or navy of its own, and use such force against another State or against the United States, it would be the duty of the general government to suppress such rebellion, and for all practical purposes Statehood would be suspended pending the restoration of normal conditions. The national sovereignty in such a case between itself and State sovereignty would be compelled to vindicate itself. But polygamy, detestable as it is, could not be treated as a rebellion, even if directly encouraged by State laws. Practiced by individuals in violation of State laws, it is simply a domestic offense, and beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal courts. The turning-down of a polygamist congressman is a matter that cannot put 'Statehood in jeopardy.'"

KENTUCKY'S SHAME.

After a long struggle for life, ex-Senator Goebel of Kentucky has finally succumbed. His death at the hand of an assassin is the climax of a bitter political contest in which much wrong has been committed on both sides. Briefly stated the situation that led to the murder was this, that Taylor was declared lawfully elected governor, and, consequently, took possession of the office. Then Goebel was also declared elected, and in order to prevent him from taking possession, he was struck down by an assassin. He lived long enough, however, to take the oath of office and issue a proclamation, and now the lieutenant governor has qualified for governor and continue the fight.

The process by which Goebel was by the legislature declared elected, after the votes had been counted in favor of the political opponent, was one of the inventions of the dead senator. The law, framed by himself, is described as an elaborate system by which the vote of the people can be nullified at the pleasure of the party that happens to run the machinery. It puts the receiving, counting and return of votes in the exclusive control of one party, and furnishes facilities for changing the result of the count on every elective officer in the State.

As an instance of the methods employed it is stated that Taylor had a majority of 3,000 over Goebel, but in certain Republican counties the official ballots furnished the voters, gave Taylor's name purposely spelled wrong, so as to furnish an excuse for not counting them. The State returning board refused to commit this injustice and seated the Republican candidate, while the legislature, having the final authority in the matter, decided for Goebel. It is believed that Goebel framed the law with the special end in view of making himself a governor.

As to the personal character of the murdered man, but little is said. It seems he attained prominence at the time he shot and killed John Sanford under circumstances indicating a murderous disposition. That after such an occurrence he should be able to obtain a seat in the legislature of one of the oldest States in the Union, and votes for governor of that State, does not speak well for the moral sense of some Kentucky citizens. It makes the recent slogan: "No law-breakers for lawmakers," sound like ghastly irony.

All the commentators on the sanguinary tragedy regret it, and denounce the perpetrators of the crime. And it cannot be too strongly condemned. It is likely to find apt imitation in other places. The assassination of Goebel means the introduction into politics of blood and lead, as a final resort, when constitutional means appear inadequate. It is the application of lynch law to public life. It is a symptom of the growing disregard for law and or-

der, which has been going on, not only in Kentucky but all over the country, for years. It is an outcome of the disposition that hounded the Latter-day Saints from the borders of civilization years ago, and that breaks out now and then in unspeakable atrocities when mobs run mad. It is the result of the general disregard of law and authority, the decline of the virtue of obedience, and there is no remedy for it, except a return to the old, abandoned paths of honesty and justice.

The tragedy may be deplored, and Kentucky may be told to hang her head in shame, but just as long as people will support for public office men who do quarrel about it and its emoluments, as dogs about a bone, such occurrences will happen. And they are likely to become more frequent. Moral disease is catching as well as physical. Kentucky has made for herself a bad name in the sisterhood of States, but is she not but leading a procession?

A MILD TYPE.

The Illinois State board of health has published a paper on the subject of the smallpox epidemic that is visiting parts of the country. The paper is by Dr. William M. Welch of Philadelphia. He explains that it came from the South, in cotton, and then speaks of the remarkably mild type in which it appears. He says:

"In an experience of 29 years of hospital work, which includes a study of over 5,000 cases of smallpox, I must say I have never seen cases present uniformly so mild a type as during the present year, nor have I been able to find in the vast amount of literature published on the subject any account of a similarly mild epidemic in this or any other country. It is true that not all cases are equally mild. The vast majority of the patients would not remain in bed after the eruption appeared. They would dress up in their clothing, walk about and indulge in various pranks, tricks and games. It was a novel sight for me to see smallpox patients, negroes, unvaccinated, at about the eighth or tenth day of the eruption, engaging in a game of baseball. I have not seen more than two or three cases during the present prevalence of the disease which showed symptoms at all serious."

RUSSIA ACTIVE.

Reports from St. Petersburg indicate that the Russian government is active in pouncing the events of the world to suit Moscow's interests. The report, as quoted in the press, says: "Russia calmly awaits Great Britain's downfall. The first battle Russia lets others fight. Russian statesmen know the state of native discontent in India. They know that mutiny is all but overt, and that an overwhelming outbreak is growing daily nearer. Russia is ready for any war in Asia as elsewhere."

There may not be anything more serious in this than an effort of a St. Petersburg correspondent to furnish the world some sensational reading, but it will do no harm to watch closely the development in places where Russian and British interests touch.

India with millions of her people suffering of famine, is in a state in which a little agitation might prove the spark that kindles a great fire. Then there are rumors of hostile feeling among the Sudanese troops, and of renewed trouble in Armenia. "The first battles Russia lets others fight." There is trouble in the air. Was the peace congress only a warning—mostly unheeded—of the near approach of the greatest conflict the world ever saw?

INTOLERANCE.

The Worcester Spy thinks it would be a strange paradox to erect in an American city a Buddhist shrine. That paper seems exercised upon the subject. It says Worcester is not free from vice, but it has not reached the point where Buddhism will be tolerated within its limits. To be sure, Worcester has had theosophism within her portals of precious gems and pearls, but "such sacrilegious institutions cannot flourish in a Christian city at the end of an enlightened century, especially in a city blessed with superior educational advantages."

From all of which it is plain that in the opinion of the contemporary quoted, "Christian" enlightenment has now proceeded so far, that intolerance may be set in motion against certain religious systems, considered inconvenient to orthodox churches. Is it forgotten that intolerance is as old as sin, and that the tolerance which has found an expression in the Magna Charta of this country is the highest ideal of "Christian" enlightenment? Need it be said that intolerance is a retreat from the light of heaven toward the dark recesses of mediæval and pagan ages?

The sentiment of the Spy is worthy of notice, because it undoubtedly expresses the sentiment of a large and influential class in this country, which claims a monopoly on "morals." It is the aim of a class, that does not believe in the liberty of man to worship according to the dictates of his conscience, "how, where or what" he may, to make religious qualifications for civil privileges. Some time there will be a conflict between that class and others, for intolerance cannot be established without a battle for the right.

In the meantime Buddhism has as much right to build a shrine in Worcester, or in any other place in the Union, as has Methodism, or Presbyterianism. The right of a religious body to worship the Almighty is not yet regulated by the number of votes it can command in a political campaign. When that time comes, it will be necessary for some one to step in and save the Constitution from destruction.

The capital of Kentucky is quite an uncertain location thus far this week.

"Censored" dispatches might give to the reports from Kentucky a harmony that is not now apparent.

Coming right down to it, Aguinaldo's uprising seems to have fallen out of sight so far as he is concerned.

The British are having another trouble, albeit it is but small. Another rebellion has broken out in Borneo.

The papers refer to "armed warfare in Kentucky." Did the Blue Grass State ever try any other kind of warfare?

A solemn reminder of the cost of war is given in the arrival home of the

bodies of Utah heroes who fell in the Philippines.

Washington goossips are wondering what government will do with Dewey. Doubtless the admiral would appreciate being left alone by the goossips.

Advice to keep cool is lost on the people of Buenos Ayres. There were 219 cases of sunstroke there on Sunday, over sixty per cent being fatal.

The independence of Cuba seems to be drawing fairly closer. The newspapers are beginning to discuss the holding of a constitutional convention.

We know how many people there are in Cuba now, the census showing 1,572,840. That is a more accurate knowledge than Spain allowed to escape from the island.

A peaceful morning in Kentucky seems to be a fairly certain sign of a warlike afternoon. That has been the daily trend of events at Frankfort for some time past.

The brave firemen seem to be in a streak of bad luck. The Sunday fires in St. Louis and Chicago added several more to the list of firemen hurt while fighting flames.

There seems to be a more serious effort in Kentucky in the line of scrambling for offices than in vindicting the law by hunting down the assassin of a high State official.

It was very kind of Gen. Buller, Gen. Ots, Gen. Joubert, and other military leaders who have fighting propositions on their hands to defer them while the public were interested in the progress of a "peaceful dispute" in Kentucky.

The tendency of negotiations and legislation in this country, so far as they affect Central America, point strongly to an expansion of Uncle Sam's influence in that direction before very long. Note the direction of the straws.

Coming so soon after Gen. Buller's Spion Kop experience, the announcement by Gov. Taylor, of Kentucky, that there will be "no turning back," causes some wonderment as to whether there will be a coincidence of actions as well as of words.

It is beginning to leak out from St. Petersburg that Russia is taking steps to profit by England's handful of difficulties in South Africa. In this event it will not be to Russia's interest to allow the war in the Transvaal to end very soon. There is more storm in the air.

The guess that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty had been modified before the favorable report on the Nicaragua canal bill has proved accurate. A new treaty was signed today, by which England waives any objection to absolute control of the canal by the United States.

This morning's dispatches stated that Gen. Buller was on his way to relieve Ladysmith. This afternoon it was announced on official authority from London that he was not on such a journey, and that no immediate movements of importance were contemplated. Under the circumstances it would appear that the British public is justified in refusing to believe war office announcements.

KENTUCKY'S TRAGEDY.

Chicago Times-Herald.

While the tragedy of yesterday was the local Kentucky climax of a reckless career that rode roughshod over the rights of the people and was checked by knavery and political rascality, the shooting was utterly without justification and merits no severe condemnation on the part of the people, regardless of party. No matter how great the provocation, the man who attempts to punish political rascality with the rifle or shotgun commits a greater crime than political perfidy or treachery.

Omaha World-Herald.

In the legislature, because of his consistent record as a practical anti-monopolist, Senator Goebel had won the bitter enmity of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad company, a corporation whose officers devote as much concern to politics as to legitimate railroad business. When Senator Goebel was nominated for governor it became apparent that the Louisville & Nashville road was determined he should not occupy the gubernatorial chair. During the ensuing campaign Senator Goebel was the target for all manner of abuse, and to the strong power of Kentucky's great political corporation was added the strength of a body of men who had been deceived by misrepresentations concerning the Democratic nominee and who were led by the most skillful aggregation of political hypocrites that ever learned to shed crocodile tears.

San Francisco Chronicle.

William Goebel, who was shot, was not a good citizen. With no pretense of having carefully followed the details of the personal politics of Kentucky for the past few years we still feel justified in saying that he was good for about all that is bad in modern political methods. He has, however, been a forceful man and has manipulated his machine that he secured the Democratic nomination for governor in spite of the protests of the better element of his party. The canvass was conducted with the utmost virulence on both sides, and the election was so turbulent that the militia was called out in some cases to preserve the peace, and was held in readiness for service in many parts of the State. Charges and counter-charges of intimidation and fraudulent voting were made on all sides and the count was watched by armed men and complicated by all sorts of legal proceedings. When the returns were certified to the State board of election commissioners they showed a majority for the Republican candidate, Taylor, and the Democratic board gave him his certificate. He was in due time inaugurated and is now in possession of the office.

San Francisco Call.

As our political contests are not infrequently bitter, and are conducted with words calculated to excite the worst passions of the partisans on either side, there is always more or less danger of fights resulting from them. It is to the credit of our people, therefore, that, notwithstanding their promptness to fight, there has been very little violence used in the settlement of political controversies. Now and then there occurs an affray over some municipal office, but anything like assassination has been rare. It is true that Garfield was shot by a man animated largely by political motives, and politics also had much to do with prompting the assassination of Carter Harrison, but in each of those cases the criminal was hardly above the grade of a lunatic. Possibly the assassin of Goebel may prove to be a creature of a similar kind. Even in that case, however, his punishment should be swift and sure. Assassination as a political weapon is one

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crime which under our system of government cannot be palliated upon any ground whatever.

Kansas City Star.

The shooting of William Goebel, the Democratic contestant for the governorship of Kentucky, was the legitimate sequence of the dangerous political excitement which has been raging for some weeks at Frankfort. It is in keeping with the hot-headed character of a people who are much too free to resort to the use of deadly weapons in settling their differences. It follows close upon the terrible Colon-Scott tragedy, in which three lives were destroyed. There are few partisans in the United States so bitter as to be unmoved by regret over an affair which will cast reproach upon the State of Kentucky and which will tend to emphasize to the evil prevalent in that State of carrying firearms and using them on the slightest provocation.

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