DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Managing Editor. Issued 12, 1894.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-fifth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock, on Friday morning, April 5th, 1895.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Special Conference Appointments.

Sunday, 7th—Sunday School Union, Tabernacle, 7 p.m.

THE DAY'S SENSATIONS.

The record given in the dispatches of March 12 ought to be suggestive even to the sensation-loving people in this nation. There were graphic accounts of the massacre in New Orleans, the firing on an American mail steamer by a Spanish war vessel, the murderous fight in a Catholic church in Omaha, and the slaughter of prisoners in the custody of officers in Colorado, to say nothing of a long list of sanguinary occurrences of a minor character in comparison with these. Of course all these will be a subject of comment for few hours at the most, but there is behind them a dark shadow. It may not be that the insolent Mondard acted as he did partially through a national contempt for the United States, which is looked upon by very many in Europe as unable to protect its residents from local lawlessness, much less to defend them effectively abroad; but it must be conceded that the other occurrences referred to would justify the Spanish captain in having such a view of the case. The marshals, the sheriffs, the police, in too many sections of this vast country are becoming a bye and a by-word because of their inefficiency in preserving all classes of citizens from that violence which could be prevented by a competent administration of law. It will require but a short time more before civic and other combinations will follow the example of the citizens of freight transportation in New Orleans and, declaring that lawlessness has ceased to be a virtue, take the administration of the law into their own hands. Then there will be sensational matter enough to satisfy the strongest appetite, though its cost to the nation may be appalling in its vastness.

WIT MAKES THE SPARKS FLY.

No regular newspaper reader can be altogether ignorant concerning the wordy duel lately fought between the brilliant French author, Paul Bourget, and the witty American, Mark Twain; the *coup de grace* from each combatant appears to be connected to be in the former's jocular remark that he supposes "the can never get entirely dull to an American, because whenever he can't strike up any other way to put in his time, he can always get away with a few years trying to find who his grandfather was;" to which Twain, with some humor but much brutality, retorts that he reckons "a Frenchman's got his little standby for a dull time too, because when all other interests fail, he can turn in and see if he can't find out who his father was."

Max O'Rell, the witty French writer, lecturer and raconteur, has now entered the lists, with lance in rest and sharpened quill, to defend the motives of his countrymen and to measure weapons of sarcasm with the droll Yankee. The March number of the *North American Review* contains his challenge, or rather his defense, it bristles with irony, and is trenchant, if not weighty. We pass by the wit and anecdote that bobble all through it, and quote a passage of two that deserve really serious consideration. In one place he says:

"What would Francis Joseph do?" he (Mark Twain) exclaims again. "Mind! Mr. Bourget, we cannot do good to others unless we do good to ourselves." Now, since I did give Twain the proportion of illegitimate children in Louisiana once at time per year in Paris, twelve per year in New York, fifteen per year in Chicago, and more than that in San Francisco (Oh, I don't like to mention these things, but if Mark Twain wants them, here they are) and the French have an excuse for believe that does not exist in America, where marrying and not marrying are made so easy that really it cannot be worth anybody's while to do without it."

A little!

"What could Francis Joseph learn in America?" exclaims Mark Twain. "Francis can teach America all the higher branches of life, and there is more artistic finish and refinement in a single day of French washerwomen than in many seasons by hatchery of American washerwomen. She can teach him, not perhaps how to work, but how to rest, how to play, how to be happy. . . . In France a man who was middle-aged or old might be considered one but none considered young marrying. A man who had retired on his fortune or on his wife's money was nothing. It would be refined effrontery for any young society. Many a Frenchman has blown the brains out because his daughter allowed a bankrupt."

Now, I could fill a book on America with confessions of this sort, including a few chapters on towns and localities, on New York *demi-monde* contrasted with the respectable female of the Latin race, on the gambling hells of Denver and the dens of San Francisco, and what not! But I will not do it, Mark.

We give these for what they are worth—and surely they are not without value. Perhaps Max O'Rell deals largely in that form of humor continually resorted to people but not less generally assumed by professional humorists. Perhaps, further, he deals in this instance not in positiveness at all, but with cold, bare truth. It seems to us the American champion, whoever he shall be, has earnest and robust work on hand. An insolent or a humiliated (as the case may be) author awaits impatiently his performance.

SAN JUAN PETROLEUM.

The editor of the NEWS has received, and will hand over to the Chamber of Commerce, a small bottle of the crude petroleum which, as has previously been mentioned in these columns, is found oozing up along a certain stretch of the San Juan river valley in southeastern Utah. Just how much of an oil region that section of country may contain, or what the probable capacity of the springs that have been discovered may be, we are not in a position to state. One fact, however, is indisputable; that is, that the stuff is the real petroleum, and all that has so far been seen has been found without special exploration, exploitation or expense. That development will materially improve the prospects in this particular line may therefore be reasonably anticipated. Meantime, there are comparatively few of our readers who have ever seen illuminating oil in its native and unrefined state; all such, if they have no other interest in the matter long enough, can be gratified by calling at the Chamber of Commerce and examining the specimen referred to.

JUSTICE FIRST.

The business men of New Orleans are much concerned about the labor troubles which yesterday, March 11, at that place culminated in the massacre of colored workingmen whose only offense was that they quietly took up the work abandoned by the others. Such violations of law naturally tend to create distrust, and business will, as a consequence, drift away to places where more favorable conditions exist. Seeing this danger the leading men of New Orleans promptly held a meeting to discuss ways and means for the protection of the city's commerce. The lawless element was warned to desist from the nefarious work, and not attempt to prevent any man from performing honorable labor. So far the sentiments expressed by the leading business men of the city are beyond criticism; but in the address issued to the people, they further say: "We are willing to meet them (the strikers) amicably if they will return to peaceful methods and accept work according to all men equal rights. If not, they must stand aside and let others work who will."

This is a rather remarkable offer after the disgraceful occurrences referred to, and cannot serve to create a favorable impression abroad as to the extent to which law and justice are held in New Orleans. The leaders of the murderous mob at that place are not entitled to the "amicable" settlement conditionally promised them, whatever their deluded followers may be; they have placed themselves in the position of outlaws and as such soiled their hands in the blood of their fellowmen; they deserve to be delivered up to the law, and the efforts of business men and others interested in maintaining the reputation of the city should be directed first of all to ascertain who the guilty parties are and locate upon their punishment. The time for an "amicable" agreement has passed when the majority of the law has been insulted to the extent of the commission of unheard-of crimes.

The riot in the same place a few years ago, on which occasion "respectable" citizens, as they were called, constituted themselves a howling mob and killed deliberately a number of prisoners, is a precedent upon which the enraged laborers may have relied and deemed themselves justified in slaying the negroes; and if this new outrage is permitted to go unpunished, on some flimsy pretext or other, it is literally certain that at the next opportunity offered more blood will flow in the streets of New Orleans. The first outrage led to unpleasant correspondence with Italy and the second may involve a miniature dispute with England, but this is not the worst feature of such affairs. The reputation of the state in which lawlessness can flourish unprebuked is at stake, and that cannot fail to inflict disfigurement on the whole Republic, to some extent. Let, therefore, the murderers be punished to the full extent of their crimes, and when the law is vindicated, the time has come for an honorable adjustment of the differences between employers and laborers.

MUCH TOO ELASTIC.

When lawmakers whenever the inclination has that it is their privilege to be lawbreakers upon certain occasions without having to render an account therefor, we may to rid of the absurd practice of enlarging the legislative day which is the common result of Congress and of various state legislatures. It is true that the last Congress did not prolong the session beyond the statutory time, and deserves credit for declaring its law in that regard; but it followed a precedent quite as ridiculous as the other, if not as dangerous of legal assertions, by fixed a session on Sunday, yesterday, the twelfth ultimo, the Congressional Record says it was Monday "session of Congress was a part of Saturday's session. With reference to this ludicrous feature of the case the story goes that late Sunday night, in the House, Broderick of Kansas strolled over to the seat of Riley of Texas and asked: "Do you suppose the 53rd Congress, by calling this Saturday, will be able to feel the Lord?" "I don't know," replied Riley, doubtfully, "perhaps it will. It has fooled everybody else."

But there isn't any "fooling" after all, except to the parties who followed the deceitful formality of appearing on the record as to work on Sunday while they had everything in full blast. When Congress does business on Sunday there should be no hypocritical concealment of memory by setting the clock of a Saturday session. Let a Sunday session be known as such. As it is, counting the time of Congress beyond the designated hour for its close, very many persons have witnessed the drive of the long week of the organized drive being used to turn back the clock in the legislative hall, as if that clipped the progress of time for the convenience of the lawmakers. State legislatures have followed the same method; the late Idaho session was thus prolonged two days, and one Utah legislature went still farther than that. All of which is as unlawful as it is foolish and unnecessary.

When the statute provides that a legislative body shall cease to exist at a given hour on a day named, the law is intended for just what it says. The turning back of a couple of clocks, or of all the clocks and watches in the country, will not infer the designated time one moment, and when it arrives the legislature ceases; it is dead legally, and its members are no longer legislators so far as their authorization for that term is concerned. By the sufferance of the people, irregularities which were violations of the law strictly construed have been permitted to go unchallenged. The growing sentiment of the people, however, is for applying the law as strictly to legislators and other public officials as to the humblest person in the land. From this standpoint, if from no other, the prompt adjournment of the late Congress at the legal hour received the commendation of the public. It is to be hoped that future Congresses and state and territorial legislatures will have the good sense to follow that example; then there will be less of the obfuscating in the early part of sessions which causes an excessive rush of business during the closing hours.

THE FOLLOWING is from *Bradstreet's* of March 9:

One of the first acts of the [Utah Constitutional] convention was the adoption of a rather peculiar and unnecessary resolution which declares the adoption by the convention of the Constitution of the United States. The terms of this resolution would seem to indicate that the delegates have not clearly realized the fact that from the beginning of the existence of the Territory it has been irring, and must for the future continue to live, without the shadow of any violation of its own under the same Constitution.

The following is from the enabling act under which the Convention is operating:

Sec. 3. That the delegates to the Convention thus elected shall meet at the seat of government of said Territory on the first Monday in March, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, and, after organization, shall declare on behalf of the people of said proposed state that they adopt the Constitution of the United States, whereupon the said Convention shall be, and is hereby, authorized to form a constitution and state government for said proposed state.

From the reading of these two extracts it will be pretty clear, we think, that the Convention knows what it is doing a great deal better than the editor of *Bradstreet's* knows what he is talking about.

WHEN THE American commissioners have finished their inquiry into the Samoan measure and the Christian powers have protested against the atrocities in that region, they might perhaps find something to do in the state of Louisiana. A document bearing the signature of the Turkish sultan and probably against the measure of engines in New Orleans is, however, not among the probabilities of the near future, because his Mahommedan majesty is not a great practical joker.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE committee on natural gas display is proceeding in earnest, and will find out just how much heart the business men have in celebrating so important an event as the bringing of natural gas into the city.

It is proposed to use football as the chief interest of the game. A suggestion is made to have a rule that when a player is down not more than five others shall jump on top of him.

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