DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-second Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will commence at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, October 4th, 1891, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

A cordial invitation is extended to all the officers and members of the Church to be present at the meetings.

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

DE WITT TALMAGE AGAIN.

THE people of Utah are somewhat acquainted with the vagaries of De Witt Talmage, the Brooklyn preacher, who has paid two visits to Utah. After his first visit he returned home and advocated heroic treatment of "Mormonism." That is, he suggested that "the leaders of the Church be gathered into the Tabernacle and United States artillery be turned upon them to thunder into them the seventh commandment." He also wrote a book in which he gave a description of the women of Salt Lake City, portraying them in vigorous style as ugly, crabbed, sour and decrepit specimens of feminine humanity, and supposing that in doing so he was picturing "Mormon" women, oblivious of the fact that the population here is mixed.

On this occasion he has changed his manner of dealing with the "Mormon" question and the "Mormon" people. At his "Friday evening talk" immediately after his return to the East, he gave his "experience in Mormondom" in the chapel of the new Tabernacle in Brooklyn, a lengthy report of which appears in the *Eagle*. He said:

"We had no sooner been switched off at the railroad station than the chiefs of the Mormon Church called on us, as well as a delegation of those who are, in distinction from the others, named Gentiles. There are no more beautiful courtesies in America than those extended by the disciples of Joseph Smith. That night lecture was in a Mormon temple, a galleried, commodious and cheerful building. Some two hundred young men and women, with hymn books under their arms, ascended an elevation back of the platform, and with strong and accordant voices sang a hymn, the sentiments of which no Christian man could refuse. The Mayor of the city, who was also a Mormon bishop, presided and made a prayer, then the choir sang again, after that and at about 8:30 o'clock at night I began my lecture. A more genial audience I never confronted. This was the more remarkable as some one had found in print what I had said many years ago about polygamy and scattered it that day all through the city."

There are several statements here that are as amusing as they are inaccurate. We will pass by the call of "the chiefs of the Mormon Church," and come to the "Mormon temple." This is a singular name for the Salt Lake Theatre, in which Mr. Talmage delivered his lecture. But the statement that the Mayor of the city is a "Mormon" Bishop and that he opened the ceremonies by prayer, will be news to that gentleman and to the "Liberal" party of which he is a member. Bishop Scott will be a new title for him which we trust he will wear with becoming modesty. We hope also that he will appreciate the accuracy of the pious lecturer, and take it as an indication of his reliability in other matters.

It was not what Mr. Talmage had said about polygamy that was "scattered all through the city" but the DESERET NEWS simply quoted his language about the ladies of this city, verbatim, from his book, and the proposition he made as to the artillery method of arguing with "Mormonism."

The lecturer informed his Brooklyn audience that "Mormonism has changed." It appears that he has changed also. He now thinks that

"When Mormonism shall also admit its antagonism toward the Constitution of the United States, it will be treated as any other form of religion and Utah from being a Territory will become a State and its star will beam in the constellation of our national banner. * * * Then the long war on that religion which was begun when President James Buchanan sent an army under General Johnson to command obedience in the valley of Utah and the domineering legislation which has been continued under all the succeeding Presidents against the offenses of that religion will cease, and the multitudes of Gentiles in Utah, in many of their cities now far outnumbering the Mormons, will have the advantage of living in a State regularly constituted instead of dwelling under the disadvantage of a Territory. When that day comes, Mormonism must be treated as any other religion is treated. * * * Freedom to worship God in any way they wish was purchased for the people at too dear a price ever to be surrendered. Our way to drive out false religion is to preach the true religion."

If all this is dependent upon the acknowledgment that "Mormonism" has any "antagonism" toward the Constitution of the United States, we are afraid that it will take a long time to fulfil his rosy predictions. But he probably did not mean exactly what he said on that point, and we are willing to let it go in view of the liberality of his sentiments concerning religious liberty, which every true American will endorse and which exhibit a greater change of heart in the Brooklyn pulpiteer than he perceives in "Mormonism."

That is a far better way than the thunder of artillery even with "a false religion." We are willing to compare our creed with his at any time. But no matter how false one religion may appear to the devotees of another, cannon and ball, gunpowder and bloodshed are not the weapons of true Christianity to bring against it, nor are they compatible with the sentiments of some people in the nineteenth century.

The lecturer, after dealing with "Mormonism" passed on to Mohammedanism and said:

"The harbor of Joppa on the Mediterranean sea is kept in the same dangerous condition as it was hundreds of years ago. Why? Because Mohammedanism does not want vessels to land there. When, on December 1, 1889, we entered that harbor we floated in among the rocks which have wrecked and drowned more people than any rocks in any harbor of the round world. Mohammedanism would rather have the boats wrecked than to have them safely landed."

We do not believe that either Mohammedanism or its advocates can be fairly charged with any such sentiments. The lecturer desires above all things to air his wonderful travels and flaunt an appearance of bravery before his followers in Brooklyn. And he is not particular whether it is the east or the west, "Mormonism" or Mohammedanism which he misrepresents, so that he can make it a topic for sensational discourse and startling announcements. If Mohammedans did not want vessels to land in certain places they could very easily prevent them. And perhaps if they had known that so important a personage as De Witt Talmage wanted to put in at Joppa without "floating in among the rocks," they would have expended the vast amounts necessary to remove those obstructions so that he might have no excuse for saying that they would rather have him wrecked than land safely.

But Mr. Talmage predicts a wonderful change. It is to be brought about by modern inventions. He says, "The children of darkness are terrified with the sound of a steam whistle." By this he leaves the inference that he means both "Mormons" and Mohammedans, and railroads and telegraphs he thinks will be the means of reforming them. Fear seems still to be a part of his gospel policy after all. Force also. He says:

"The Bible, which is now a flat page, will be put on phonographic cylinder, and where the eye refuses to read the ear will be compelled to listen. Hail, then, all these modern inventions and appliances. False religions cannot bear the sight or the sound of them."

First terrify them with the sound of the steam whistle, then grind out and thunder into them the Bible by monster phonograph and compel them to hear it, whether they will or no. Funny, isn't it, for a Christian preacher? But then it is only Talmagesian oratory and doesn't mean anything but sound to tickle the itching ears of the fashionable Brooklynites.

He tells of what the railroads have done for Salt Lake and Ogden by way of reforming those cities. And this, he connects with the notion that "false religions"—one of which he considers "Mormonism to be," cannot bear the sight or the sound" of railroads, telegraphs, the phonograph, etc. Well, some one should inform the superficial lecturer that the "Mormons" helped to build the first railroad across the continent; that they have built a number of other railroads in Utah; that they built the first telegraph line here; that they introduced the first phonograph in this city; that they patronize the telephone, the electric light and all other modern improvements; and therefore his argument amounts to nothing or rather flies back in his teeth, when he calls "Mormonism" a "false religion."

But it is useless to follow him further. Mr. Talmage is a florid and fervid orator, somewhat spasmodic in manner and sensational in matter. He draws large crowds as a circus will do. But he is very superficial in his investigations and reckless in his statements, often utterly unreliable as to facts and entirely unsafe in his deductions. But we are pleased to see that he is somewhat changed in his views as to the treatment of what he considers false religions, and hope that he will continue to improve so that he may one day make some approach to the character of a Christian.

THE GREAT BEAR AND THE BRITISH LION.

THE present phase of the eastern question is strikingly interesting to those who take pleasure in noting the attitude of the great nations of Europe toward each other. Russia continues to pursue the policy of encroachment in the direction of British interests recently crowned by a violation on the part of the Czar of the treaty of 1878, prohibiting the passage of ships of war through the Dardanelles. Lord Salisbury gave Russia to understand that if Turkey surrendered her control of the important straits, England would promptly act to prevent the usurpation of the prerogative by the Czar. This, for the time being, checked Muscovite operations at that point. Russia is not yet ready to begin war, not having yet completed her negotiations for a loan with French and German bankers combined.

The temporary check resulting from the resolute attitude of the British government only relates to Russian operations at one point. Russia now, taking the dispatches as correct, makes demonstrations in other quarters, equally vital to the weal of England. An understanding is said to have been reached with Greece under which, in certain eventualities, the fleet of that country would be placed at the disposal of the Czar in the Archipelago. Color is given to the report by the fact that the royal families of the two countries are related and the two peoples are united by a common religion. Besides, Greece considers herself the rightful proprietor of the Island of Cyprus, now in possession of Great Britain.

It is also stated that a "commercial treaty" has been formed between Russia and Persia of so close a nature "that a foreign ambassadorship of the two countries is to be combined in one representative. If this alliance be placed with the recent military demonstration on the Afghan frontier it assumes conspicuous importance. Herat, in Afghanistan, has been called the "gate to India;" hence Great Britain must protect it against invasion by Russia at all hazards. It can be readily reached from the Persian border. It will be seen from this how menacing to England a Russo-Persian treaty would be to England.

The points embodied in the newest phases of Russian policy practically almost surround Turkey, which is necessarily the great obstacle in the way of the Muscovite advance. Greece lies on the south of European Turkey, Persia on the east and Russia on the north of Turkey in Asia. Present operations represent a diplomatic game of chess. The manipulator who happens to get beaten at this phase of the contest is liable to resort to methods more serious.

If the Czar contemplates warlike eventualities he will anxiously await the approaching political struggle in Great Britain. Should the result be a victory for the Liberal party and the selection of Gladstone for the premiership, Russia would have a comparatively open field. The "Grand Old man" as he has been called, has announced that, in the event of his becoming the head of the government, he would evacuate Egypt. Such a step looks like sheer foolishness under existing circumstances. It would, in consequence of the attitude of Russia, necessitate the closing of the Suez canal, or leaving British India exposed to great danger? The closing of the famous artificial waterway would have a disastrous effect upon British commerce, while to leave it open and practically unprotected would be akin to madness. What Great Britain needs now, and what will evidently be necessary for some time, is a government with a "spirited foreign policy," of the Beaconsfield stamp. Salisbury belongs to the school of statesmen who believe in political promptitude and resolution in connection with foreign relations. Gladstone is noted for a lack of determination in situations out of which war is liable to grow. He is just the man that the Czar would delight to see made premier of England. We are of opinion that such an event would be but little short of a calamity for Great Britain.

England is the lion in the way of the attainment of Russian aims and ambitions. There is a tradition to the effect that when the great bear of the north should put his paw on the British lion, the time for the development of what Dr. Cummings, of London, calls the "coming struggle" in Europe would be close at hand. Whether there be anything in the anticipation or not, the attitude of the two national emblematical animals is getting into accord with the thought. The student of the eastern question will be greatly aided in his observations by an occasional reference to the atlas.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS STILL MUDDLED.

NEWS from beyond the Atlantic, though not of a particularly belligerent character, continues to be interesting. Between the Ameer of Afghanistan and the Czar of Russia a reciprocity commercial scheme, it is said, has been agreed on. This is significant, inasmuch as it conveys the idea that Russia is pushing her industrial as well as her geographical sovereignty. It also shows that England will have to work hard to maintain her control of Oriental markets. One report has it that the Czar has obtained his trade concessions by bribes and purchase, but another says that the Russian manufacture is superior to English, hence the popularity of the former.

Then there is the report that reciprocity arrangements are in progress between Russia and Persia. The history of the past gives color to these reports as being partly truthful. Observers who are conversant with the condition of industry in Russia, know that close attention has been paid for some time to arts and manufacture. Only last winter a corps of Russian experts traveled in the United States to study our system of growing and manufacturing cotton. It was then said that Russia would in a short time supply the cotton markets of Europe.

Ribot, French Minister of Foreign affairs, speaking at Bayonne on the 27th inst., said that France "henceforth is the mistress of her own destinies," and that a sovereign farsighted in pacific designs has publicly announced the deep sympathies existing between France and Russia. This utterance was received with cries of "long live the Czar" and "long live Russia."

A dispatch of the 24th inst. from Cairo, in Egypt, states that the very existence of the Turkish Empire is threatened, owing to a rebellion in Arabia. And what is more startling still, it is said, that this rebellion is fomented by England, and the rebels supplied with English arms and ammunition. This part of the story is improbable. It would not help England in any way to enter into a plot of this kind. It seems probable, however, that southwest Arabia is in revolt. What is even worse than rebellion, for Turkey, is the fact, that the rebels have proclaimed a new Caliph and have announced the deposition of Sultan Abdul Hamid as Commander of the Faithful.

In India much anxiety is felt regarding Russia's movements in the North. It is reported that some English officers have been taken prisoners by Russian troops.

On the 27th inst., at Palermo, in Italy, a steamer was launched. Signor Crispi, the Italian Minister, made a speech responding to the toast "King Humbert and Queen Victoria." He commended the coupling of the names of the rulers, and dilated upon the ties uniting the two countries since England and Sicily awoke to freedom under Norman kings.

The next legal period for holding a general election in England is April, 1893, but the Liberals are confident that an election will come at farthest next year, and they are confident of success. Thus it will be seen that the political horizon in Europe and even in Asia, continues to become more and more unsettled every day.

A POLITICAL BLUNDER.

MR. BLAINE'S letter to Col. Conger as published recently, could not have been intended for the public. It is not the habit of Mr. Blaine to expose his personal convictions in a manner calculated to antagonize men who might otherwise be his friends and zealous political supporters. This is precisely what he has done in the letter referred to.

His statement that the election of Mr. McKinley means a policy of protection as distinguished from the free trade principles of Mr. Campbell, his Democratic opponent, will not be disputed by anybody. It is a truth over which there is not the slightest controversy. But with the question of honest or corrupt money, the case is altogether different. The policy which Mr. Blaine here refers to, as corruption of the currency is one which nearly every Republican west of the Missouri river and south of the Mason and Dixon line is contending for and will in all probability hold fast to in the campaign of 1892. They will not receive in the best of feeling this insinuation that they wish to corrupt the national treasury.

It was not necessary for Mr. Blaine to make this remark, and we are disposed to think that he did not intend it for the public and that Col. Conger has made a great mistake in giving it to the press. Western Republicans are perfectly aware of Mr. Blaine's personal views on the silver question, but so long as he was disposed to keep them in the back ground, his friends out here were willing to pass them by.

His side of the question may be right. But to be right is one thing and to make a majority of voters believe it, is another. It certainly takes a mighty brain, a perfect statesman, and in the present condition of public affairs, it requires constant caution to make a perfect politician.

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

The mayor of Buffalo is a member of 68 German societies.

Worms have completely destroyed the foliage on trees around Kalamazoo, Mich.

Defiance, Iowa, has a man 5 feet 8 inches in height, who weighs but 65 pounds.

Three fourths of the entire area of Africa is now owned or claimed by European powers.

An institute for the study and treatment of infectious diseases has been opened recently in Berlin.

Jean Ingelow is now 68 years of age. She is gray-haired and benignant. She gives what she calls "copyright dinners" to the poor at regular intervals.

Water has been discovered in the Sahara desert at a depth of 120 feet below the surface. This is the first time that water has been found at so slight a distance.

An English syndicate has invested $3,000,000 in the Dakota tin mines. This is urged as a powerful argument in favor of McKinley's sagacity as a protectionist.

The wealth of London, England has increased during the last decade nearly $100,000,000. This is shown by the income tax returns, a report of which has just been issued.

Blackpool, Lancashire will have an Eiffel tower. The foundation has already been laid. It will be 1000 feet high, and will rise from a building covering 5000 square yards.

In the abandoned farms in Birmingham, Conn. foxes, coons, rabbits and woodchucks are multiplying so fast that the few inhabited farms in the vicinity are devastated by them.

There is telephonic communication between London and Paris. Messages are transmitted either way at the rate of five words for two cents. There is also telephonic connection between London and Marseilles.

Arthur Stanley Wilson, of Tranby Croft fame and of baccarat notoriety, is about to marry the daughter of Lady Primer. The young woman has not much money but her genealogy goes back to William of Normandy.

Reports from Cairo state that the Arabs are in rebellion against the Turkish government. Furthermore it is said, that they are being supplied with rifles and ammunition by England. In the whole southeast corner of the Arabian peninsula it is said that the authority of the Sultan has been entirely thrown off.

It appears that the government's rain-making process is a patent affair, the owner being an aged Confederate officer, General Daniel Ruggles. General Ruggles' application is dated Austin, Tex., on February 22, 1879, and his papers were filed in the patent office on June 7, 1880. The patent is entitled, "Method of precipitating rainfalls."

Percival Chubb, an English Socialist, who has been lecturing in this country for the past two years, was married to Miss Louise Walston, of Decatur, Ill., on the 24th inst. The marriage was a civil one, but extracts on love were read from Thomas A. Kempis, Ralph Waldo Emerson and others, to give solemnity to the ceremony.

The developments in the Hopkins-Searles will case now in progress at Salem are startling. The deeds transferring the property to Searles were all drawn in Europe during the wedding tour, and witnessed by the American consul. When the codicil disinheriting the family was read it caused a sensation. It was drawn just before the will now being contested was made.

In the early part of October an Ecumenical Council of the Methodist Church will be held in Washington, D. C. Delegates from every country where that sect has obtained a foothold will be present. The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, the well known London Methodist divine, will attend as an English delegate. After the Council adjourns he will make a lecture tour of the United States.

At Aden, in Arabia, rain has fallen only twice in 29 years. It is one of the hottest places in the world. It is a British possession, and strongly fortified. The Connaught Rangers, an English regiment, once got orders to proceed to Aden. The soldiers were jubilant on the route out, because in Ireland Eden is pronounced Aden, but when they got there they found their Eden to be a sheol of the most material kind.

LACOUX, a well known artist of Buda Pesth, was in process of getting married when a woman and eight children entered the church, followed by a noisy crowd. The woman attacked Lacoux, and the children attacked the half-made bride, tearing her wedding garments into shreds. The woman and children turned out to be the family, by common law, of Lacoux. He had lived with the woman fourteen years but no ceremony had been performed. The police cleared the church, the bride was covered with borrowed garments, and the marriage ceremony was completed. The cast-off woman and her children have no redress whatever, nor did they seem to get any sympathy from the officials either political or ecclesiastical.

The regular meeting of the First Quorum of Elders will be held in the Fourteenth Ward assembly rooms this evening, at 7:30 o'clock.

A Conscientious Editor.

We advertise at present for a firm whose preparations have proven to be all they claim in our own family. We refer to Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. We stand up for this medicine because we have tested it. This is not an advertisement for the medicine, it is simply our testimony regarding it after a fair trial.—*Honesdale (Pa.) Observer.* For sale by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept. d&w

SPENCER & LYNCH offer as a special premium $25 to the person guessing the winning number of the $1000 Piano to be given away Oct. 9th.

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