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SALT LAKE CITY ... APRIL 4, 1908.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-eighth annual general Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Saturday, April 4, 1908, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

The general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Saturday,

April 4, at 7 o'clock p. m. JOSEPH F. SMITH. JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND. First Presidency.

The annual conference of the Sunday School Union will be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, April 5, at 7 o'clock JOSEPH F. SMITH, p. m. General Superintendent.

CONFERENCE THOUGHTS.

The seventy-eighth annual conferonce of the Church opened today with a large attendance. It is a general observation that these gatherings are growing from year to year, indicating the numerical growth of the Church, and showing that the interest in Church affairs is steadily increasing. Anti-"Mormon" leaders, at one time, used to say that if they could only get the antl-"Mormon" legislation they wanted, "Mormonism" would soon be a thing of the past. But actual events have proved them false prophets. The Church has withstood the assaults by mobs, the assassinations and drivings, the journey through the wilderness, and the struggle with cold ad hunger in these valleys in the earliest days. It has grown, notwithstanding all changes, like the oak in the storm. The Lord has preserved His Church, for the performance of an important mission among the children of men.

The time in which we live is one of peculiar significance. The human mind penetrates the secrets of nature and makes discoveries in the light of which they perform "miracles." Distances are being annihiliated. The products of labor are multiplied by machines that are almost human. Scientists penetrate to the furthest boundaries of the universe and to the very limits of the microscopic world that borders on the spiritual existences. There is not a corner of the world so remote that human thought does not attempt to penetrate to it. There is not a problem too intricate for human intelligence to attempt a solution. Even the mystery and origin of life is the subject of scientific research.

Knowledge is multiplying. This the Prophet Daniel predicts as a characat all times like sores that are not attended to properly.

The Latter-day Saints, therefore, have a great work to perform. Theirs is the mission to be the standardbearers of truth, a light in the world, leading to the harbor of peace-that peace which is founded upon perfect justice and full knowledge. The anient prophets speak of a time when 'the mountain of the Lord's house" shall be exalted above the hills. Then the nations shall say: "Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." When that time comes the Lord will judge among the nations; as a result there will be peace; for, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their

spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword again nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2, 2-4.) This indicates the mission of the

Church on earth. It is not ended until the nations accept the word of the Lord, and submit every subject of discord to His divine judgment. It is not ended until the world discard its implements of war and turn to the peaceful pursuits of the agriculturist that de velops the resources of the earth. It is not ended until there is peace in the home, in the community, in the state and the world, and the Lord Jesus is all in all.

ANARCHY AND ATHEISM.

Anarchism denies the authority of all government that rules by force. But in so doing, some become Atheists as well as anarchists.

Those who really believe, and do not merely profess, anarchism cannot, of course, believe that "the pow ers that be are ordained of God.' This was the teaching of the Apostle to the Gentiles and represents the general average of Christian bellef on the subject.

We do not mean, of course, to assert anything in the nature of the discarded theory of the divine right of kings. We believe that sovereignty in the last analysis, rests with the people. But that does not prevent our conclusion that government itself is a divine institution.

All human law is in the form of commandment enjoining what the chosen representatives of the people conceive to be right and prohibiting what they believe to be wrong. But what men believe to be right or wrong represents the sum total of their experience, education, and meditation, at that time. That is, the laws which men write into statute books are the laws which their experience has engraven upon their own hearts or souls. Laws at their best are the consciences of men enacted into statutes. They represent the ideals of men-the highest results of their conclusions. Laws are thus, while they emanate from men, in a certain if they find them too uncomfortable, sense, the commands of God. That and in hot weather there will be no ob-is, conscience is the voice of God, and jection to their removing their collars, law is the uttered conscience of legislators. Human law is therefore divine law, and human government is divine government. It is granted that this argument applies only to picture show to keep the congregation the highest manifestations of law, and is not intended to include occasional enactments that may be dictated by

benefit When, therefore, we hear glib talk, not against a certain statute or law, but against law itself and against government as an institution, we suspect ed. How about beer and highballs? that the author of it not only lacks all faith in his fellowmen as the children of God, and also that he lacks any real faith in God. Practical faith in human governis almost a necessary element of faith in the divine government. Religion seems to be essential to the support of government, for none appear to be able to exist without it. Anarchists preach indifferently atheism or anarchism. If they can convert

other motives than those of public

flat, with the north pole, so called, for. the center, there would be no trouble in going around the earth east or west, as long as we kept our course at right angles with all lines radiating from the center, which must bring

us around to the starting point." We can hear our readers exclaim "What nonsense!" That is it exacily. But it is less silly than the stuff the Salt Lake Tribune almost daily offers its readers, especially when in the

agony of an anti-"Mormon" paroxysm. POLITICALLY DEAD.

A gentleman writing from Battle Creek, Mich., to renew his subscription, expresses his appreciation of the Descret News in very flattering terms. He also speaks very highly of the Elders he has met. "Utah." he says, ought to be proud of her Elders. I never met a finer class of young men before in my life." The gentleman specially mentions Elder Vance of In a postscript the writer Provo. "We are going to turn down J. SAVE:

C. Burrows as Senator. He is politic-ally dead in Michigan." We do not know, of course, how general this sentiment is in Senator Burrows' state, but we would not be sur-

prised to learn some time of the political demise of the gentleman who conducted the anti-"Mormon" investigation in the Senate. A man who has no higher appreciation of the duties he owes to his constituents and the country, than to waste his time in the service of bigotry, cannot live long in the confidence of the people.

It is a common fate of those who fight against Zion, that they go down to oblivion. Joseph, the Prophet, lives in history. His name is before the world, while his traducers and slavers are almost forgotten. Many of them never were known, even. The promise of the Lord to Abraham was, that He would bless those that should bless him, and curse those that should curse This has been fulfilled in the him. descendants of Abraham-Judah and

in the case of the Church. PECULIAR SERVICES.

A clergyman in Atlantic City is said to have conceived the idea of trying to induce men to come to church, by novel methods. He argues that the absence of so many men from church is due to their

Israel. It has been literally fulfilled

natural timidity and embarrassment so many more women than men attending church services. And so he concludes that he must have a hall where men alone can be edified and instructed. He also argues that the formality

and good behavior supposed to be necessary in church are too trying ordeals for men, and so he proposes that at these special services for men the Sunday conventions be ignored. Visitors may come and go as they please; they may take off their Sunday coats

too, if they please. Religion is to be discussed, but we are told that it will be discussed only "in a practical manner," and there is to be a movinginterested. Finally, smoking will be permitted, for it is the firm conviction of the rector that what keeps a large number from the churches is the tobacco habit.

Now, if the carrying out of these ideas does not produce the desired result, various attractions might be add-And vaudeville features?

otry is permitted to assert itself, the effects are disastrous to the community. Chicago is headquarters for pork and

politics.

Prohibition is a good thing. Push it dong. A word to the wise-stick to your

flannels. Lo! the winter is passed and the chil-

dren are digging segos on the hills.

If we have thornless cacti why can't we have noiseless phonographs?

In the past Castellane had the gall. Now he is getting the wormwood.

One of the problems now before the House is how to bust the fillbuster.

In this attack on Secretary Garfield will the Grey mare prove the better horse?

In the Vanderbilt divorce case the family skeleton is being kept behind closed doors.

Cif course politics make strange bedfellows but who makes the bed is the really important thing.

Mr. Bryan considers attending two banquets on Jefferson's birthday two much of a good thing.

The San Francisco Call says that California is misunderstood. Quite as much by herself as by others.

To compel automobiles to reduce their speed to six miles an hour in public parks would be "going some."

It is easy to tell which party will win n the House. That one of course which has the heaviest Cannon on its side,

So nervous has the British public become over Germany's movements that every time the Kaiser takes a glass of beer England sees snakes.

The students of the public schools are to plant trees on Arbor day. Let them remember that as the twig is bent the tree is inclined.

If he is at all like the old Hero of Rushville of former days, James E. Watson, Republican nominee for governor of Indiana, will set the Hoosiers a great pace.

It was a sensible jury that decided that fifty-dollar hats are not part of 'necessary household expenses." They come high and people don't have to ave them.

The greatest combination now existing in restraint of trade is the aftermath of the panic. It is lingering much longer than did winter in the lap of spring.

To the orator who is wont to speak on all occasions and at all functions there is no such affront as the omission of an invitation to address a gathering assembled to do honor to the memory of a political saint.

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

George Harvey of Harper's Weekly. The chief, if not indeed the sole, aim of the politician is to win the favor of the majority. To achieve this purpose he does not scruple; in the language of his craft, he "keeps his ear to the ground" and the magnitude of his success is measured by the shrewdness with which he divines popular tendencies sufficiently in advance of their general manifestation to appear to be the leader of a movement to establish newly discovered principles rather than as a skillful conjecturer of evanescent popular whims. It follows necessarily that the journal animated by any other than a like motive, that is, the desire to profit from pandering to mobilized selfprofit from pandering to mobilized self-lishness, is so hateful to the aspiring politician that in his view of it must be discredited. Hence the frequency and virulence of assaults upon newspapers which for one reason or another dis-sent from views expressed by politi-cians, sometimes no doubt in sincerity, but always in home of carrying cubils but always in hope of carrying public favor. The reasoning of such a jour-nal is seldom combated; a mere ques-tioning of its motives is deemed and generally is found to be vastly more ef-ficacious.



DESERET EVENING NEWS SATURDAY APRIL 4 1908

teristic of the last days." Illiteracy is now the exception in all the civilized world. Children fifteen years of age know more about history, geography mathematics, hygiene, etc., than their grandparents, as a rule, learned in a life time. It would be considered crime in our age to bleed a man to death, as was done in the case of George Washington, though he had the best medical attendance obtainable.

Wealth is also increasing. The humblest citizen today can enjoy luxuries that only rich men formerly could think of purchasing. Food and clothing of superior quality are within the reach of all. And with the increase of wealth national influence has increased. Mer at the head of nations today need to be very humble, indeed, lest pride deadens their intelligence and they become brutes, like Nebuchadnezzar.

But with all these advantages, out time shows many signs of decay Crimes are also multiplying, Knowledge alone does not enable man to conquer sin. Intelligence alone does not furnish moral strength. Crimes of violence are increasing. Dishonesty in private and public affairs is frequent. The standards of public morality are being lowered. The divorce (vil is spreading.

Lawlessness is one of the characteristics of our time. Not only do men and women transgress the laws of God and man, but they defend their transgression by denying the authority that forbids it. The Apostle Paul prophesies that the "man of sin' or "the lawless one" will appear in the last days, when the conditions are rife for such an incarnation, and it is impossible to look at the signs of the times without being reminded of that remarkable predic tion. The world is very much agitated. The fires are burning and roaring below. How can a terrible explosion be prevented?

Infidelity is rampant. It lifts its head even in the pulpits. With many it has become an axiom that the Bible and scientific truth are opposed to each other. They have succeeded in creating an impression that humanity cannot progress except upon the ruins of religion. They hold that we shall gee clearly on earth only when we put out the lights of heaven. Higher criticism is but a form of this rejection of the Word or God.

Peculiar errors flourish. The ancient philosophies of the East have been revived and are recommended as substitutes for the teachings of Jesus, though they ought to be judged by the fruits they have produced. Here and there a voice is heard clamoring for recognition as the "C'mist," or "Ellijah," and thousands follow. Men must believe something, and when they reject truth they take naturally to superstition. There is discontent in the ranks of

the people of either one, a belief in the other is almost inevitable. The connection between Atheigm and anarchy has often been noticed. The history of the French revolution contains perhaps the most striking ex-

amples of this connection. Anarchy does not stand for opposition to bad rulers. Every good citizen opposes these. Anarchy oppose kings today, not because they are bad, but because they are kings. Bad rulers nowadays can be brought to acount. It is not true that we must ither laud and be slavish to bad rulers, or we must slay them. The fact s that rulers in this day, and especially in this country, are accountable to the people. The people constitute the power behind the throne in limitd monarchies, and still more emphatically in republics,

Violent anarchism would dethrone rulers, not reform them. It would dethrone God, and not tolerate faith in Him. It would deny altogether that the voice of the people is the voice of God, or that human law is divine law as it is reflected from the consciences of men.

Practical faith in God is the cure for revolutionary anarchy; and faith it. God is best cultivated by exercising faith in our feilow-man.

SAYS THE EARTH IS FLAT.

We gather from a contribution to the New York Sun that there are people still living who, in spite of all evidence, refuse to believe that the carth is a globe rolling around the sun, and who tenaciously hold on to the old pancake theory. The contributor to the paper mentioned says that to him the strange part of it is "that in this age of the world every thinking man does not believe his God-given senses and facts that have been demonstrated again and again, that prove beyond any possible doubt that the earth cannot be a globe, and therefore cannot rotate.

To the question, "What is the shape of the earth?" he replies: "It is a level, stationary plane; all standing water is level, horizontal, straight which has been proved many times, therafore, it is imposible for it to be glube.

The fact that the each has been circumnavigated, our philosopher exthe workers of the world. It breaks out plains as follows: "The earth being established, Everywhere, where big Sun,

The Master predicted that when He had been "lifted up" He would "draw all men unto Him." Some modern professed disciples act as if by dragging the Master's religion down to the level of the world, they hoped to save men. They are wrong. Religion must be "lifted up" before it can attract human souls to the Savior.

A CATHOLIC VIEW.

Archbishop Ireland has recently sent a letter to the clergy and laity of his diocese, in which he expresses the views of the Catholic church on the marriage covenant. According to that letter a Christian marriage is a sacrament-an act "permeated to its inmost

core with divine activity, wrapped up into the region of divine life, under the control of new laws befitting its supernal character." To the Christian, the Archbishop says, the marriage contract can never be a mere natural engagement between man and woman, ruled by laws adopted by their own freedom; nor is it a mere social or civil contract, made binding only through civil enactments, lasting only so long as those enactments order it to last. The Roman Prelate quoted goes on to say that the marriage contract is indissoluble. "Human laws cannot dissolve it. The church, in its spiritual

supremacy, cannot dissolve it." He then goes on to point out some of the evils of divorce. "The cessation of the contract," he says, "the remarriage to another of husband or of wife, renders fatherless or motherless the children of the first marriage, dis-

sipates in their souls the sanctity of the home. Divorce breaks up the home, which God had intended as the sanctuary of love and safety for husband and for wife, for son and for daughter. It undermines civil society, which in

its vital construction is an organized aggregation of families, finding in the stability of the family its own stability; in the purity and integrity of the family, its own purity and integrity." In reading these earnest, almost solemn, expressions of views on one of

the most important institutions in existence, we cannot but ask what would happen, if an anti-Catholic crusade should ever be pushed to the extreme bitterness of a demand for an abandonment of the doctrine of the indissolubility of the marriage contract. And

that eventuality is not unthinkable, though it is not probable. It is not inconceivable that bigotry in some country should construe that doctrine as incompatible with state sovereignty, and therefore urge. the disfranchisement of every faithful Catholic, What would happen? There would be a clash between church and state under which the material interests of the people would suffer, until

THE KAISER AND MR. HILL.

Pittsburg Gazette-Times. With regard to the rejection by the German kaiser of Mr. Hill for the German kalser of Mr. Hill for the American ambassadorship at Berlin, a jaundiced contemporary remarks that 'perhaps the kalser does not relish receiving to ambassadorial grade one so recently gauged by his chief as just filling the Swiss mission." It may be so; and, if so, it is returning evil for good, for the President of the United States only a few years ago received to the ambassadorial grade from the hands of the kalser one Baron Von to the ambassadorial grade from the hands of the kalser one Baron Von Speck Von Sternburg who may or may not have been gauged by his imperial chief as just filling the Bombay con-sul generalship, from which he was promoted., However, our contempor-ary's mean insinuation is disposed of by the circumstance that it was as well known in Berlin in November last as at the present time that Mr. Hill had been minister to Switzer-land. And Switzerland may be a small country, but it is no mean one.

JUST FOR FUN.

Puffery.

Henry J. Bryan, one of the wittlest of English playwrights of a score of years ago, remarked on one occasion: 'A play is like a cigar. If it's good, excrybody wants a box. If it's bad, all the puffing in the world won't make it go."-Detroit News.

The Force of Habit.

Scene: London restaurant. Hungry Customer-And-er-waiter, two eggs, Jease. Boil them four minutes. Waiter-Yes, sir; he ready in half a econd, sir.-Tatler.

The Secret of His Success.

"To what do you attribute your success as a monarch?" After a moment's thought the Euro-pean ruler replied: "Largely to bad marksmanship."--Washington Star.

Graftology.

Oh, cheer up! Life isn't going to lose its interest! There's probably still a whole lot of graft that we don't even suspect.-Indianapolia News.

Necessities.

Knicker, Do you favor a school of journalism in the universities? Bocker. There should be three; one on how to run papers; one on how to keep out of them, and one on how to get into them.-New York Sun.

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