

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints.  
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,  
(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED).Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets  
Salt Lake City, Utah.Charles W. Penrose, Editor  
Horace G. Whitney, Business ManagerSUBSCRIPTION PRICES.  
One Year, in advance, \$4.00  
Six Months, " " 2.50  
Three Months, " " 1.50  
One Month, " " .50  
One Week, " " .15  
Saturday edition, per year, 2.50  
Single Copies, 5c.Correspondence and other reading matter  
for publication should be addressed to the  
EDITOR.  
Address all business communications  
to THE DESERET NEWS,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE  
R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building,  
New York City.CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE  
Craig & Woodward, 87 Washington St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 26, 1899.

## AN EVIL TENDENCY.

A lady physician in New York has stated without reserve, and her remarks have been published in the papers of that city, that the tendency to resort to some sort of stimulants is increasing more rapidly among women than among men. She says:

"The number of women drunkards is growing. The increase is not among so-called 'society women' alone, but among all our women. It is not a class condition, or a local condition. It is a race condition. It is a result of overstimulation of certain nerve-centres in preceding generations."

Discussing the cause of this evil, the doctor disputes the idea that the saloon, and the manufacture and sale of liquor, are responsible. They are but the supply that comes to meet the demand, and the habit originates in a physiological cause. This she thus describes:

"To much luxury is producing an increase in the use of stimulants. We Americans are paying today for the luxury of our immediate ancestors by the alarming increase in the use of alcoholic and other stimulants, which means degeneration and decay. The period following the civil war was the first in which the American people were able to enjoy complete ease. In all classes of the community there was an increase of nervous excitation. Thus was founded the fearful thirst for stimulants which results in the increase of drunkards today."

Excessive luxury has been the cause of national decay in past ages. Why should not a similar effect be produced by the same cause in this age? Riches, after which the world is rushing, unless acquired with honor and used with discretion, are a delusion and a snare. The lust of wealth, the sensuality that so often follows its acquisition, produce the evil fruits that are seen today as they did those of old. And "the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children."

A steady, consistent, temperate life, with a gradual attainment of the legitimate results of industry, is one of the great and important objects that should be kept in view. The people of Utah should profit by the experiences of older communities, and by following the counsel and example of wise, temperate and inspired men and women. By avoiding the excesses which have become common among mankind, they will not only enjoy longer and more tranquil lives, but will bequeath to their posterity less of the tendencies to vice than are now prevailing, and in a few generations the pristine strength and natural living of patriarchal times will be restored, and sound minds in sound bodies will glorify the new age of humanity.

Meanwhile, would it not be just as well if the good women of the East who are so much concerned about marital affairs in Utah, which they do not understand, would spend a portion of their time in trying to correct the evils of which the New York lady physician so strongly complains, and thus exhibit a little consistency as well as Christian charity?

## SOUTH AFRICAN TACTICS.

General Gatacre is reported to have started in Cape Colony the policy for which General Weyler in Cuba became both famous and despised among men. He has issued an order for the concentration of male persons over the age of twelve years within a certain radius of the military camps. The idea is to watch them closely, in order that no rising may take place among the sympathizers with the Boers.

General Weyler's concentration measures were taken for a similar purpose in Cuba, at least ostensibly. But the effect of it was to doom to starvation and a cruel death a number of men, women and children for whom there were no provisions made within the narrow limits of confinement. Thousands of men, women and children of Cuba were supposed to be the intention of the Spanish general to deliberately starve Cuba's population to death, and thus end the rebellion. As this view of "concentration" forced itself upon the world, a loud protest arose, and the protest took form in action, and Cuba became free.

It can surely not be the intention of General Gatacre to copy, in any shape or manner, the inhuman methods of the Spanish general. To do so, would be to make friends for the Boers in all parts of the world, and to encourage the Cape Colony revolt which seems to be feared.

The present situation in South Africa is one of suspense rather than activity. General Buller's plans are probably set aside, and Lord Roberts will have to map out a new campaign. The British forces are waiting for his appearance on the scene, and their operations will be confined to efforts at holding the ground occupied, with perhaps an occasional attempt at advancing to the relief of Ladysmith and Kimberley. Can these two places continue to hold out the siege until relieved? That is the question. The latest reports are to the effect that although the artillery fire of the enemy is comparatively harmless, sickness has appeared among the garrison. And it is always the case that the mortality is abnormal, when a num-

ber of men are for a long time cooped up under unfavorable sanitary conditions.

Not long ago the London Times thought that unless Ladysmith were relieved within a month, an effort must be made by the soldiers to cut their way out. There are valuable military stores at this place, and these would then either have to be destroyed or be abandoned.

Henry M. Stanley sharply criticizes the campaign. He says in a recently published letter:

"Fancy 10,000 English soldiers, willing to be led anywhere, remaining penned up in that hollow of Ladysmith by a force of say even 20,000 raw Boer militia! Fancy a general settled down there for weeks, and not providing against a contingency so obviously as that which has happened! It is all of a piece with that grand strategic genius which chose a hollow for the South African Aldershot, with not even an intrenchment until it was too late."

There is now a quite general demand for an active and aggressive campaign. Under the existing circumstances, it is possible that unusual methods, even such as were condemned when used by the Spanish "butcher," may escape the censorship of public opinion, but it is quite certain that whatever the British generals now do in this war, must insure success. If not, the indignation of the people will burst forth. The generals cannot afford to make any more blunders. The task before Roberts and Kitchener is doubly difficult.

## A THIRD HAND.

The necessity of a third hand in the human economy is keenly felt by busy people. It is being discussed, sometimes humorously and at others seriously, in public journals. In these rushing times and this fast age, the need of ubiquity is greater than that of another hand. Yet there is no doubt that many people are frequently placed in situations in which the third member could be made generally useful. But we might as well wish to be able to be in two or three places at the same time, as to hunger for an additional arm to the human body.

Our only reason for referring to this matter is, that the intense desire for a third hand, according to the theories of some evolutionists, if perpetuated for a few generations, ought to develop it, gradually, so that in a few centuries the third hand would be a common among the human family. The necessity existing, the desire being exercised, "natural selection" being a creative force, what would there be to hinder the result under the conditions we have specified?

Here is an opportunity for some of our modern scientists who repudiate God as the Creator and Ruler of the universe, to bring forth their strong reasons on this subject, and start something which will bring about a demonstration of the correctness of their notions. The sprouting of a third hand would be a striking triumph for those deep thinkers and wonderful reasoners.

## A GOOD APPOINTMENT.

There seems to be much satisfaction both in this country and in Cuba, as a result of the appointment of Major General Leonard Wood as military governor over that island, to succeed General John R. Brooke. His reception at Havana augurs well for the future of our relations with the Cubans. They have learnt that the new governor is one who deeply respects the rights of the people, and they see in his appointment a guarantee that the United States has none but honorable motives in her dealings with the liberated island.

Gen. Wood's career is one "stranger than fiction." Two years ago he was known as an army surgeon, in but a limited circle of friends. At the outbreak of the war he undertook the organization of rough riders, of which he was colonel and Roosevelt lieutenant. The bravery of himself and his men under fire was noted with great enthusiasm.

After the war Gen. Wood had thrust upon him the task of harmonizing the different interests in the province which he helped to conquer, and like Daniel in Babylon, he seemed to have a spirit of sound judgment far in advance of other military authorities in similar positions. He solved without hesitation questions of sanitation, police service, finances, and municipal government, to the satisfaction of the people, as well as to those to whom he was responsible for his administration. The Cubans had found an American friend who fully understood them and their needs, and the government had found a man equal to the emergency.

It is fortunate that he has been placed in charge of the entire island during the period of reconstruction that must come now. Had the choice been left to the Cubans themselves, they would have selected General Wood. His policy is well defined. To a reporter he said: "I will give to the people of Cuba just as good a government for their own welfare as I can." In carrying out this program he undoubtedly will do more than pacify the element that may yet feel some discontent. He will direct Cuban politics in the right channels, and build further on the foundation already laid for that friendship with this country, which must lead to a perfect harmony and good feeling, even if a formal union of interests is not affected.

## BATTLE WITH TRUSTS.

The recent slump in the stock market, during which "industrialists" were largely affected, is taken to indicate that the reaction in the "trust craze" has come. The portion of the President's message to Congress, in which he speaks of trusts and monopolistic combinations, is believed to have done more towards the solution of the trust problem than the famous trust conference of orators. The history of the trust craze is quite interesting. During the first month of the year capital was seeking investment, and somebody found an opportunity of directing its ambition. It looked plausible to many that a combination, such as the Standard Oil company, for instance, would be good for a sure fortune. The promoter found a ready field to work in. Trusts were formed on paper; stock was is-

sued and sold; the capitalization went largely into the pockets of the promoters. But the public finally had its eyes opened, and wild speculation received a check.

But while the combinations that existed largely on paper thus are coming to a natural end, the really powerful organizations are continuing their struggle against both State and Federal laws, and perhaps with success. Neither panics nor oratory can successfully bar their progress. Of the methods employed the sugar trust is giving a remarkable example.

The general government can prevent a trust from shipping goods from one State to another, and every State can prevent a trust from doing business within its limits. What, then, can the trust do? The tobacco combination points the way. It has made a scale of prices according to which its customers cannot make any direct purchases. But at the same time it tells them that there is a good man in New York, through whom they can obtain the regular rates. This good man is, of course not an agent of the trust, but for some reason or other he is willing to act as the agent of the purchaser. As he happens to live in New York, the trust can sell to him without engaging in interstate commerce, and when he has bought the goods from the trust, it no longer belongs to the combination. It belongs to the firms the purchasing agent represents, and he is merely shipping their own property.

How can a business be captured by State or Federal law, when it has as many avenues of escape as has Aguirre himself? The trust question is not easy of solution.

## STILL ON THE CENTURY.

The Chicago Times-Herald continues its gyrations in mathematic calculations to prove that the approaching Jan. 1, marks the beginning of a new century. The new argument advanced is that this is the 12th month of the 1900th year after the birth of our Saviour, although it is written 1899. In the Times-Herald's own words:

"If the doubling of thousands will get firm hold of the idea that the birth of Christ, from which the centuries count, is merely a meridian line, so to speak, between 'B. C.' and 'A. D.' they will have left doubt and confusion 1899 years 11 months and 21 days behind, although this is the 22nd day of the 12th month of the 1900th year. Mark the transition from cardinal to ordinal numbers."

The reasoning proceeds on the basis that in designating a period of time the ordinal number is one ahead of the cardinal, and though this is generally correct, the application of the argument is faulty, for the present date is not, as alleged, 1899 years, 11 months and 25 days, but 1898 complete years, 11 months and 25 days. The days belong to the 12th month, and the months are so many of the 1899th year. That is what causes the apparent change from ordinal to cardinal. The complete year 1898 is not affected, but it remains the 1898th year of the era, as well as the year 1898.

If this is not so, an entire change in our reckoning must take place. If the Chicago paper's contention is true, it follows that when we write "1st" for any month, we mean to denote the first month of the following year, and in the same way the day "1" of the month is the second day. The present year must thus be the 1900th of the era, and it must have expired unnoticed on December 1, which by a simple computation will be found to have been the 2nd day of the new century. And having arrived at this absurdity, the discussion ought to be permitted to expire as quietly as the old century.

## RETURNED WITH TREASURES.

Not all of the returning heroes are without money. It is asserted in the New York Times that two companies of Montana volunteers who came back from Manila on the transport Zealandia, brought with them \$150,000 in gold and Mexican silver. This is the story:

"This treasure was first discovered by two men at Calocan. They were the first to enter the town, which was very rich. The two men had entered a large mansion, but found the place deserted. They then went into the garden, and in a corner saw traces that the soil had recently been dug up. They probed the soil with their bayonets and soon struck something hard. Digging down, they uncovered a large chest, which contained thousands of dollars in gold coin. The men who found the chest, and the gold, could not carry it. They then uncovered a large chest filled with Mexican dollars. The men of the two companies were lined up and marched through the garden, and as each man passed he scooped up a double handful of silver and filled his pockets. On the voyage over on the Zealandia the men were the favorite passengers, chips being worth \$5 and no limit. Some of the men had as much as \$5,000 each in gold and silver, and with the purses there was deposited \$150,000, for which no receipts were given, the pursers simply keeping a memorandum of each man's sack."

## A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE.

Of course it is painful to see how many influential papers take an entirely opposite view on the questions involved in the Roberts case in Congress from those expressed by the Salt Lake organ of the anti-Mormon crusade. But the truth should be told when it is necessary to combat error, and therefore, while sorry to harrow up the feelings of our contemporary, we clip the following from the New York Sun:

"Mr. George H. Hepworth, writing to the New York Herald from Washington in regard to the Roberts case, yesterday: 'It is, I think, beyond question that Mr. Roberts will not remain in his seat, even if he is permitted for the sake of precedent to take it.'"

"So far as principle is concerned, however, it makes all the difference in the world whether the Congressman-elect from Utah is kept out of the House of Representatives or is turned out after having been admitted. It will surely be exercised to the injury of the minority party in Congress, whenever any great political exigency seems to demand the exclusion of a particular person chosen to Congress. The admission of a polygamist, even if he has forty wives, is a matter of small consequence compared to the establishment of a precedent denying the right of a Congressional constituency to be represented by any one whom the people see fit to elect, provided he possesses the three qualifications required by the Federal Constitution,—until he shall be expelled from the House, if he has been guilty of any misconduct, by the requisite two-thirds vote."

"It is an interesting fact that Mr. Roberts participated in the organization of the Fifty-sixth Congress, so far as to vote for the Democratic candidate for Speaker. The Revised Statutes of the United States provide that before the first meeting of each Congress the clerk of the next preceding House of Representatives shall make a roll of the Representatives-elect and place thereon the names of those persons, and of such persons only, who were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States respectively, or the laws of the United States. Alexander McDowell, the clerk of the House, prepared a roll of the new House in accordance with this provision of law, and upon that roll appeared the name of Brigham H. Roberts of Utah. The vote for speaker was taken before the roll of the Representatives-elect were sworn in. After Mr. Henderson's election, the oath of office was administered to him by Mr. Harmer, of Pennsylvania, the Representative longest in continuous service, and the Speaker then proceeded to administer the oath to the members and delegates-elect, who presented themselves in front of the Speaker's desk, as their names were called by States and Territories."

"The swearing in of the Speaker and Representatives is regulated by this provision of the Revised Statutes, the substance of which was originally enacted in 1789."

"At the first session of Congress after every general election of Representatives the oath of office is administered by a member of the House of Representatives to the Speaker; and by the Speaker to all the members and delegates present, and to the clerk, previous to entering on any other business; and to the members and delegates who afterward appear, previous to their taking their seats."

"Strictly speaking, the requirement that the Speaker shall be sworn in by a member of the House cannot be complied with; for a member-elect does not become a member until he has taken the oath of office. A reasonable interpretation of the provision which we have quoted demands that it shall be construed to permit the oath to be administered to the Speaker by any one whose credentials show him to have been lawfully elected a Representative. Under this construction, Mr. Roberts could have administered the oath to Speaker Henderson just as lawfully and just as properly as Mr. Harmer. And it is also to be noted that it was only the mere incident of alphabetical arrangement that enabled a large majority of the Representatives-elect to qualify as members before the name of Mr. Roberts was called, and objection was made to his taking the oath. If his name had happened to be the first in the delegation from the State first on the roll, there would have been no objection to his presenting to object to his admission, with the single exception of the Speaker himself."

"The Republican party has often truly boasted that it is a party of courage. We are glad to observe that it is not acting courageously in this matter of Roberts. Nothing can be more ridiculous than to charge one with sympathy with polygamy because he insists that the rights of a Representative-elect shall not be flagrantly disregarded in a plain violation of the provisions of the Constitution. It would be just as sensible to accuse a person of indifference to the rights of the people because he orders a trial and a lawful execution in cases of felonious homicide to the wicked methods of lynch law."

In order to keep pace with Utah, California was obliged to introduce an earthquake.

Today's dispatches indicate that there is to be another Dreyfus affair, but this time in British army circles. General Butler seems to have hurt the feelings of the "intelligence" department by calling attention to the inaccuracies of its "intelligence."

The Nation, published in Logan, Cache County, treated its patrons to a large issue on Christmas day, consisting of twenty-four pages. This mark of up-to-date journalism is to be commended and will no doubt be appreciated by the Cache valley public.

There is every indication that in due time there will be more new claimants for pensions than there were actual participants in the war with Spain. The number of claimants now amounts to 25,000. It all depends upon the ability of the pension attorneys, and the patience of Uncle Sam.

An ordinary mortal can hardly imagine the feelings with which crowned heads, at the heads of navies and armies, can bow in adoration of the Child, at whose advent angels sang of peace on earth. Have the Christmas trees in the palaces no higher significance than to amuse children?

The Logan Journal is a live country paper, devoted to the interests of the city where it is published and of northern Utah generally. Its extra Christmas number shows much enterprise, and commends the paper to the business public and its readers everywhere.

There must soon be a change in the condition of Transvaal war affairs or Britain's occupation will be gone, to say nothing of her former glory. The way the mother country is beginning to flood South Africa with soldiers, however, leaves room for the forming of but one conclusion as to the outcome of the fight.

If good treatment of the Congressional standstill investigation committee will bring sovereignty, then we may count upon soon adding two more stars to the magnificent array already on the flag. New Mexico and Arizona are taking good care of Senators Shoup and Clark. Gen. Ainsworth and Land Commissioner Hermann, who form that committee.

If Emperor William, of Germany, shall confine himself to the pastime of playing humorous pranks upon the members of his court and ministry, the peace of Europe (and incidentally of the world) will be measurably safe. The Kaiser is recognized as a warrior who is "spooling for a fight," and no doubt many European statesmen would very much like to see his Christmas diversion continued indefinitely.

Beet-sugar makers have protested against the introduction of cane sugar free of duty, and tobacco-growers have raised a protest in behalf of their product. The present policy of the government seems to be to admit everything from Puerto Rico free of duty, but not to give to Cuba the same commercial privileges. The problems involved are closely watched both by the traders of the country and the politicians. The latter may make capital out of it in the next campaign.

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## CURRENCY REFORM.

Philadelphia Ledger.

We shall probably be compelled to wait until after McKinley has been re-elected before we can hope to attain a comprehensive measure of currency reform, and it would be unwise to oppose the first steps merely because they do not lead us all the way to the goal, but we should not delude ourselves with the idea that the currency question can be settled by any such simple measures as have been proposed in the report of Comptroller Dawes, which presumably reflects the policy of the administration, or even by the bill recommended by the caucus committee of the House, which is good enough in its way, but not so fully constructive as is desirable.

Atlanta Constitution.

It is amusing to read in the report accompanying the measure that "when the standard shall be permanently established, all doubt of its stability" will be "removed." It is amusing, because the fact that the gold standard does not give stability to the unit of value is today demonstrated in every market of the country. If the unit of value is not a fixed quantity with respect to its value—the purchasing power of the dollar—the currency is not a standard. At present a national bank must have a capital of \$50,000, and numerous small towns in the West and South are thus deprived of banking privileges.

Cleveland Leader.

The currency bill prepared by Republican congressmen provides that national banks can be organized with a paid in capital of \$25,000. This is a wise provision. At present a national bank must have a capital of \$50,000, and numerous small towns in the West and South are thus deprived of banking privileges.

Detroit Free Press.

Some of these proposed changes will meet with almost universal approval and others will tend to keep alive issues that were foremost in the campaign of three years ago. The establishment of a gold standard will be combated with arguments on either side that are familiar to the country at large, possible difference being given to the fact that the people of the nation have declared against a dual standard with one measure of value twice as great as the other. There is no disinterested citizen conversant with the facts of experience who will not approve the breaking of the endless chain. It has been the chief cause of governmental weakness in the times of financial distress and is utterly incompatible with the requirements of a safe monetary system.

Indianapolis Sentinel.

There is in fact no elasticity about a currency such as is proposed beyond the fact that within the limits of national bank organization the currency may be contracted or expanded by the banks. The dangerous character of our currency is also to be increased by a legal requirement that a gold reserve of at least \$100,000,000 shall be maintained. The reformers do not seem to realize that a reserve is of no value except to meet demands in case of pressure, and when you fix a minimum the reserve within that limit is not available. A permanently fixed reserve is of no use except for show.

Cincinnati Enquirer.

The present sporadic agitation of the question of finance in administration circles is not a matter of principle. It may well be suspected that it is for the purpose of embarrassing the Democrats in the construction of a platform of principles for next year. It might be better if the Democrats were to allow themselves to become prematurely excited. The Republicans should be permitted to do all the worrying for a while. They are laying out a thorny road for themselves.

Boston Herald.

The framers of the bill meant well, but unfortunately they were not sufficiently grounded in sound monetary principles to give full effect to their good intentions. The outcome is a dubious mixture, which, if adopted, would cause an impairment of the currency by letting down the bars for a dangerous inflation of paper money, an impairment that would far outweigh any benefit obtainable from an open declaration for the gold standard. The paper money inflation would be a practical injury, while the declaration for gold would, under present conditions, count only a sentimental advantage.

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