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Saturday, . . . April 1, 1893.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-third 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 Tuesday morning, April 4th, 1893.

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

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

TO ESSAY THE POLE.

Of the three expeditions which are to set out this summer to explore the polar regions and if possible reach the pole itself, that of Lieutenant Peary is the best known to American readers because it will be based upon the theory which suggested and the discoveries which attended his recent journey. It may not be generally understood that there are few coast lines on the earth's surface which are still undefined, and that the one of these which Peary proposes to establish is the line of Greenland from Cape Washington, in 83 degrees 30 minutes to Cape Bismarck 78 degrees north latitude, a stretch which has defied the examination of voyagers from the fact that the whole east coast of Greenland is clothed in perennial ice and swept by unceasing northeast gales. Last year Lieutenant Peary made an attempt to fill the gap, but he was unable to survey the line with accuracy. He now proposes to renew the attempt. His plans, according to a statement prepared by himself for the press, are as follows: He will start early this summer with ten men for a point on the north coast of Inglefield bay, in about 77 degrees 30 seconds. There he will make his camp and base of operations. Some time this fall he will send out a party to establish a cache of provisions at a point as near as convenient to Independence Bay. In March, 1894, he will lead his force across the island to the cache, and at Independence Bay they will divide, one party going south along the coast to Cape Bismarck; the other which he will lead in person, moving north to the highest point reached by Lockwood of the Greeley expedition. It both expeditions accomplish their purpose the map of the Greenland coast will be complete and in the summer of 1895 the party may be

expected home. His attempt to reach the pole is understood to depend on the success which shall attend the march above referred to, and on the favorable condition of the weather.

The least known of these expeditions is that which is being organized by Frederick Jackson to sail from Liverpool in June. Like Peary, he will endeavor to reach the pole or its proximity by overland journey; but he thinks his American competitor has already gone as far north as is possible on Greenland. His own plan is to sail at once for Franz Josef land, which lies to the north of Nova Zembla and to the east of Spitzbergen. Its southernmost point touches the 80th parallel of north latitude, but how far it extends northward no one knows. It was discovered in August in 1873, and explored for some distance into the interior. Peterman's land and Oscar land lie to the north, in latitude 83 and beyond, and measure the limit of exploration in this part of the Arctic regions. Jackson thinks that Peterman's land extends as far north as latitude 85, at least. This would be within 300 miles of the pole, a distance which he proposes to cover in boats if he find an open sea, or on sledges if he find land or ice. His party will consist of ten or twelve, and be provisioned for three years.

Of the Nansen expedition, the most interesting and daring of them all, the world has heard much but is ever keen to learn more. The intrepid Scandinavian proposes to start on his five years' voyage or drift early in the coming summer. He is to sail along the coast of Siberia until he reaches a point off the mouth of the Lena river, near where the Jeannette was lost. Hailing northward he will then seek to attain the highest possible point in open water to the west of the new Siberian islands. Beyond that point he will trust himself to the ice and the current which runs, as he believes, across the pole. His vessel, the Fram (Forward), which has been built after his own plans, has been described in these columns. His belief is that, owing to her peculiar construction, she will be lifted up as the ice closes in, and thus escape crushing. Her engine is of 180 horse power, with a daily consumption of 1 1/2 tons of coal. The vessel is nearly ready, his stores and provisions are being prepared and his crew, of twelve men, are already selected. The latter are testing their endurance by sleeping in Norwegian snow-drifts, and a depot of supplies is being prepared far up in the Siberian coast. It is here that sometime next July Nansen will take on board his dogs and sledges; for his expedition is to be well equipped for journeying over land or over the ice, should it become necessary to leave his ship. Nansen has incidentally contributed to the equipment of the other expeditions. His researches, and those of the specialists who have been employed in his interests, have resulted in several new methods of preparing food so as to obtain the most nutriment in the least bulk, and all future explorers will profit by this work. Petroleum will be used for heating, and the cooking will be done with alcohol. There will be an electric motor, to be driven by a windmill or by a treadmill. Neither spirits (except the alcohol or

fuel) nor tobacco will be carried among the stores. It is supposed that the current will take the Fram from the Siberian coast to Greenland, and the party goes prepared to be gone six years, though it hopes to be floated across the pole and into the open water off Greenland within three years. Those who are most familiar with Arctic voyages look upon this bold scheme without approval, but it seems well to recognize the fact that Dr. Nansen has adopted his plan with forethought and after a deliberate study of all the conditions.

A VILE PUBLICATION.

It seemed for a time as though that peculiar disposition in man that prompts him to say that thus and so is so upon insufficient information or none at all, was not quite as active as it used to be. That singular phase of the mania to which this community more than any other has been subjected is apparently not worn out yet, however. It used to be the rule rather than the exception for people who wrote, as well as for those who thought they could write, on passing through Utah and staying perhaps part of one day and all of one night in this city to make haste to write a book, a pamphlet, a newspaper sketch or a magazine article enlightening the public as to the entire local situation. As suggested, the industry still has its votaries and perhaps will continue to have for some time to come; the domain of fiction is a very ample, far-reaching and fruitful one.

An anti-Mormon publication in the form of a novel by a fellow who was here a short time ago and became sufficiently acquainted with men and places to give his work the semblance of probability, has lately been issued and is being somewhat extensively circulated. It is nearly as vile as the vilest thing of the kind that ever appeared. It gives the Mormons credit for nothing and tries to make it appear that they have no virtues, no conscience and no regard for anybody or anything not in and of themselves. It is a cowardly calumny from beginning to end; where it seeks to be sarcastic or humorous it amounts to drivel and where it would be glowing it is bombastic. It is simply a tissue of those very unreasonable and altogether threadbare slanders and falsehoods which ran their full course and did complete service before this author came into the field. It exhibits no good quality as to him or itself, showing him as it does to be a ruthless wretch who murders reputation with a fiendish smile and who probably would not stop at murder of another kind if it were not dangerous. When a person is confined to the sometimes narrow limit of actual fact for a recital, he cannot always be exact because some things must be explained by extraneous methods in order to be comprehended by the reader; but when he has the unlimited area of fancy to operate in and can produce nothing more in the similitude of actuality and reason than the individual spoken of has, he amounts simply to a bungling corruptor of public morals if indeed he have any morals of his own.