

I testify to you, my brethren and sisters, that this Gospel is the Gospel of all others on the earth, the only one that is worthy the attention of mortals, as fast as it can be brought to their consideration. And as we have been blessed to learn these principles and to know them, and to know of the things of the future, and to know of some things of the past, we have reason to rejoice above all other people, and we have reason to deny ourselves of all unrighteousness just as fast as we can, and to learn the way of life and to hearken to the counsels of those that are called of God and to walk in His ways, and to receive continually the word of the Lord and His direction in all our affairs. I rejoice greatly in the work of the Lord, and I pray that His blessings may abound unto the people, that He may incline our hearts to keep His laws, to walk in His ways, for the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. The testimonies of the Lord are sure, and they even make wise the simple.

Now a word about the Priesthood and its restoration: Think of it! This same Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery Apostles by Peter, James and John, His servants, Joseph and Oliver having received this apostleship, confirmed it upon twelve brethren of the Church, and those brethren have conferred it upon us who are in the stand today; thus some of us received this holy apostleship but the fourth in succession from Jesus Christ. And the fact is that the Priesthood has come down to us as the Lord promised when He said He would be with His Apostles always "even unto the end of the world." And He says to us concerning Peter, James and John: "Whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be Apostles, and especial witnesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry, and of the same things which I reveal unto them; unto whom I have committed the keys of My kingdom, and a dispensation of the Gospel for the last days and for the last times; and for the dispensation of the fullness of times in the which I will gather together in one all things both which are in heaven and which are on earth." These are the men that have received this Priesthood—these that sit around me this morning. It was received from those resurrected men that have come to labor with us. This is the Priesthood by which we officiate, and it is not something that has come down through the ages and been lost. This is the Priesthood that was taken away into the wilderness anciently, and has been restored in these latter-days in its purity, in its simplicity and its power. And those who give themselves to it fully and faithfully in all humility, receiving the instructions and counsels of those holding that Priesthood, should be worthy of all acceptance, and we ought to realize it and avail ourselves of the benefit of it, and be found in no case speaking against each other, or the Lord's anointed.

May the Lord give us His Spirit, intensify it in us, in our hearts, and train us in the principles of righteousness, and truth, and help and inspire us in every good word and work, and then He will do better for us than we know how to ask or even to think. Amen.

#### OUR SAN FRANCISCO LETTER

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 1st, 1897.—"In Gay New York," with its pretty chorus girls who are at present monopolizing the attention of the local chappies; the Theodore Durrant murder case, and the Choynski-Jeffries fight on Tuesday night, have furnished fruitful topics for the gossips the past week.

Durrant's chances of escaping the gallows seem to grow slimmer every day as one after another the technical legal props are pulled from under him. Every point of law in which he has appealed to the state supreme court has been returned with an adverse decision and now it is doubtful if he can ever again secure a footing upon which to perfect another appeal.

The so-called boxing exhibition and physical culture entertainment, but more commonly known as a prize fight, in which Messrs. Choynski and Jeffries participated by pounding and bruising one another in true brute fashion, came off as scheduled and was probably one of the best attended performances of this kind held in San Francisco for some months. Old and young alike took an interest in the outcome of the contest, perhaps owing more to Choynski's popularity than to anything else. Judging from the many thousands of dollars that passed into the pool boxes the popularity of both men is pretty well established. The battle lasted for twenty rounds and was decided a draw, which decision seems to have given general satisfaction to all parties concerned. It was a contest of science over brute strength and as neither had any decided advantage, the referee could not do otherwise than decide it as he did.

Sightseers and visitors at the Chutes last Sunday, and some attended for no other purpose, witnessed one of the greatest frauds that was ever offered to a curious public. Exhibition marriages at county fairs and such places are not uncommon occurrences, and the principals are generally excusable for the publicity attached thereto, as it often means a start in life for some of them; but when a couple become so mercenary as to enter a lion's cage with the wild beasts as witnesses, to have the wedding knot tied, and openly exhibit themselves to the curious gaze of a pack of hungry curiosity seekers for a few paltry dollars, it is time some one stepped in and put a stop to the foolish and outrageous action. This event had been advertised as a drawing card and great preparations had been made for the thrilling scene. The principals, two old broken down variety performers who had long since lost their personal dignity and self-respect, had been rehearsed time and again, and the minister had been secured to tie the knot; but at the last minute the worthy gentleman decided he did not care for the notoriety accompanying the task and therefore failed to put in an appearance. To prevent a disappointment for the crowd a marriage by contract was finally arranged and a prize-fighter selected to read the ceremony, which was carried out. The secretary for the society for the suppression of vice attempted to stop the proceedings but was hooted and hissed at and finally withdrew. The whole thing was a farce and a humbug, but it has been said the American public likes fakes and humbugs and in this respect it was accommodated.

Speaking of freaks and dime museum fakes, one was recalled to mind in the death of a woman in this city a few days ago who was sought after in life as a candidate for the fat woman honors, but to all offers to appear in public she turned a deaf ear. Her name was Teresa Serdoz; and realizing that her enormous weight was a curse, she kept very much indoors. During the last ten years she has been steadily taking on flesh until at the age of 43, when she died, she weighed 550 pounds. It was necessary to make a special coffin in which to bury her remains and it required the combined

strength of ten men to act as pall bearers.

There has been a great deal of uneasiness among the cigar dealers since the nickel-in-slot machines were tabooed, as the new order suppressing this gambling device has marked a decided decrease in the business receipts. When the order was issued the cigar dealers agreed to stand by one another and refuse to obey the order to remove the machines from their counters. It was their intention to allow a couple of arrests to follow so that a test case could be made. Sure enough this followed and now the cigar dealers are collecting subscriptions toward a fund to fight the cases in the courts. About \$3,000 has already been collected and a bitter fight is promised before the matter is finally settled.

Such a thing as a soldier sleeping on the march and a horseback rider sleeping in the saddle while the steed was going at a rapid pace have been established beyond a doubt; but it remained for a University California football player to perform a feat equally as hard if not harder and much more improbable, though it is vouched for by the entire eleven. While playing at Reno, Nevada, on Thanksgiving day, Nat Gulgeron of the U. C. second eleven received a jar on the head, from the effects of which he went into a trance and he did not awake until five hours after the game had been won. What makes the case so remarkable is the fact that while under the influence of this spell he played all through the game and made some very brilliant plays at critical moments during its progress. Five hours after the game was over and he had taken a bath and dressed himself, he came to and astonished his comrades by inquiring what was the score. He didn't even know how much he had contributed toward the victory they had won.

It is rumored about in steamship circles that a new steamship line will be in operation between Asiatic ports and this city before 1898 is very far advanced. Some sort of an agreement has been entered into between the Japanese Steamship company and the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental Steamship companies whereby the former company has agreed to make the city the eastern terminus for their boats. This will mean considerable to the trade of San Francisco.

The following Salt Lakers are registered at the hotels: W. P. Noble and the Misses Noble and S. H. Barnes at the Grand, B. Lichtenstein at the Baldwin.

#### BUFFALO'S BIG SHOW.

Buffalo, N. Y., December 7, 1897.—Great preparations are being made here for the Pan-American exposition, which is to be held on an island in the Niagara river in 1899. General offices have been opened in Buffalo by the management of the exposition, and I am told that bureaus will soon be established in New York, Washington and Chicago. Bills have been prepared asking Congress for an appropriation for \$1,000,000 for the special exhibit of the United States government. These bills will be introduced early in the present session and the New York delegation will urge their passage. The bureau of American republics and the various South American countries have taken up the matter, and the prospect is that the exposition will be a great international affair, participated in by all parts of this hemisphere.

As far as I can learn, the exhibition