

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 13, 1901.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE.

The anniversary of the birth of the  
Prophet Joseph Smith will occur on the  
23rd inst. He was born December 23,  
1805. We suggest to the Bishops, every-  
where, that it would be highly appro-  
priate to hold special services in com-  
memoration of that important event,  
on Sunday, December 22, 1901. The au-  
thorities of the several Stakes and  
Wards will please make arrangements  
accordingly.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND.

## CONCERNING CLEMENSON.

We have received several reports  
from Elders in the East and some  
newspaper clippings, in regard to the  
misrepresentations which are being  
made by M. E. Clemenson of Logan,  
Caché county, Utah, who has been en-  
gaged in similar work to that under-  
taken by a notorious anti-"Mormon"  
worker of unsavory fame, formerly in  
Mendon, Caché county, and later in  
Salt Lake City, but now in the East.  
There is nothing particularly new in  
what these persons tell to their hear-  
ers at religious meetings specially ar-  
ranged for them, but their purpose is  
to arouse the prejudices of the public  
against our missionaries, to influence  
the constituents of members of Con-  
gress to urge them in favor of anti-  
"Mormon" legislation, and to take up  
cash collections.

In some instances the Elders who  
have listened to Mr. Clemenson have  
asked the privilege of replying on the  
spot to his untruthful statements, but  
this has been denied them. Of course  
the chief burden of his harangues is  
the polygamy question, and his object  
is to make the people who listen to  
him believe that plural marriages are  
still being solemnized in Utah, notwith-  
standing the official denials made by  
the authorities of the Church, the ab-  
sence of any charges of the kind in the  
courts, and the general understanding  
throughout this region that there have  
been no such marriages since Utah be-  
came a State. Stories to the contrary  
have been promptly met, but this  
makes no difference to scandal-mong-  
ers, or to persons who are making  
money by the promulgation of slanders  
against the "Mormons" in religious cir-  
cles at a distance.

We should not, perhaps, have entered  
into particulars concerning the tour of  
Mr. Clemenson on this business, but for  
a statement which he made in a meet-  
ing in the auditorium of the West-  
minister Presbyterian church at Min-  
neapolis, and which we understand he  
has since repeated elsewhere. The  
Elders who listened to his remarks say  
that, "He made the emphatic state-  
ment that he held in his possession let-  
ters wherein Editor C. W. Pen-  
rose conceded three cases of plural  
marriage, solemnized since the  
issuance of the manifesto of 1890."  
He did not produce any such  
letter, but told a number of unsuppor-  
ted stories intended to corroborate his  
assertions.

The editor of this paper never to his  
knowledge met Mr. Clemenson, but  
once, and that was in the street in Lo-  
gan, when he was accosted by that  
person, who volunteered some preten-  
ded information reflecting upon our la-  
mented deceased President William  
McKinley, and stating that he had  
proofs in his possession of the com-  
plicity of the President in the polygamy  
question, and that the latter had know-  
ingly appointed polygamists to federal  
offices in this State. He also entered  
into conversation in regard to alleged  
cases of plural marriage of compara-  
tively recent date, which this writer  
dissented from emphatically.

A short time after this street con-  
versation we received a letter from M.  
E. Clemenson, in which the following  
paragraphs occurred:

"I have thought a good deal about  
what you said to me when I met you on  
the street recently, relative to the con-  
sistency of polygamous marriage in Utah  
since the 'Woodruff Manifesto' was  
issued, September 26, 1890.

"Since I saw you I have had a talk  
with a member of the 'Mormon' Church  
who said you are mistaken when you  
affirm that there has been no poly-  
gamous marriages during the time speci-  
fied, September 26, 1890."

"He named three persons in whose  
cases he said the proof is absolute in  
his county."

"Coming so soon after our conver-  
sation with you on the subject, I decided  
to write you because I may be laboring  
under a mistake. I am of opinion that  
you placed the limit of the cessation  
of polygamous marriage at the time  
of the issuance of the 'Woodruff Mani-  
festo.' Am I mistaken in this? It has  
occurred to me in view of what I have  
written above that you may have said  
since Mr. Snow has held the Presi-  
dency, or words to that effect."

In reply to this communication the  
following letter was written and sent,  
dated August 19, 1901:

Rev. E. Clemenson,

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your  
letter dated 16th inst. In reply I have  
to say that you were somewhat mis-  
taken as to the remarks I made in con-  
versation with you on the street in

Logan. I told you that it was a posi-  
tive fact that polygamous marriages  
had entirely ceased, and to my per-  
sonal knowledge President Snow had  
declared himself emphatically opposed  
to permitting them to be solemnized.  
I explained that there is only one man  
in the Church who holds the keys of au-  
thority to permit a plural marriage.  
I mentioned the manifesto of President  
Woodruff, perhaps, in the course of our  
conversation, but did not give any  
date as to when such marriages entire-  
ly ceased. I do not believe there have  
been any plural marriages solemnized  
in Utah since the manifesto was man-  
ifested was endorsed by the Church.  
Of course I cannot prove a negative. I  
doubt very much the truth of the state-  
ment which you say was made to you,  
because I have traced up several re-  
ports of that kind and proved them to  
be incorrect. However, to use Senator  
Edmonds' expression, there may have  
been "sporadic cases" of which I know  
nothing, and which were not known or  
consented to by the President of the  
Church. I repeat what I said to you  
on the street: I am certain that such  
marriages are not now performed in  
Utah or elsewhere. The relations of  
men who contracted such marriages  
years ago to their plural wives is an-  
other and different thing.

Sincerely yours,  
C. W. PENROSE.

It will be evident to the impartial  
reader that Mr. Clemenson did not pro-  
duce this reply for obvious reasons.  
It would have contradicted his "em-  
phatic statement" and deprived him of  
the counterfeit capital he tried to make  
out of it. Other statements coming  
from the same source are about as re-  
liable as the assertion in regard to this  
correspondence. It will be found by  
people who attend these anti-"Mormon"  
and misleading assemblies, that these  
impudent lectures on this much worn  
subject, have chiefly in view the in-  
evitable "main issue" seen at the  
close of the services, which is the tak-  
ing up of a collection. The class to  
which Mr. Clemenson belongs invariably  
want money. They cannot travel to  
malign the "Mormons" without  
money. They cannot work in Wash-  
ington without money. They cannot  
carry on the work they pretend to want  
to do in Utah without money. Stop  
supplying them with cash and they will  
stop their nefarious work in quick  
order.

We have published the foregoing cor-  
respondence, principally for the benefit  
of our brethren laboring in the States  
where those anti-"Mormon" lectures  
are being delivered. We have given  
a full and verbatim copy of the only  
communication we have ever addressed  
to Mr. Clemenson. It contains all that  
we need to say upon the subject on  
which it treats. Unauthenticated  
stories of tales told by suppositious  
persons may be treated with that con-  
tempt which anonymous slanders al-  
ways deserve. And decent people ev-  
erywhere should treat the tale-bearers  
who go up and down among the people  
with the silent disgust which high minded  
ladies and gentlemen feel for that  
kind of creatures.

## ANOTHER KANSAS WONDER.

According to the Kansas City World,  
an imitator of Pere Hyacinth has arisen  
in that city, in the person of Father  
Anthony Politeo, a priest in the  
Roman church. The Rev. gentleman  
has, it is said, taken to himself a wife.  
The step does not seem to have been  
taken for the purpose of inaugurating  
a reformatory movement in the church.  
Father Politeo merely longed for free-  
dom from his vows of celibacy, and  
broke the chains. He thought of keep-  
ing his marriage a secret at the outset,  
the World says, but now he has changed  
his plans and announced his intention  
of giving lectures, while his wife has  
some ambition for the stage.

The occurrence must be regarded as  
an unusual one, very few Catholic  
priests ever disregarding their vows.  
An occasional exception to the rule  
does, of course, notwithstanding a tendency  
among the clergy of that church to de-  
part from time-honored traditions.  
Pere Hyacinth, though for a time he  
succeeded in keeping himself before the  
public, soon found his inability to ex-  
ert any far-reaching influence. Luther  
was successful, but he built his work  
upon a far different foundation, and he  
had a special mission to perform for the  
age in which he lived, and for ages to  
come.

The celibacy of the Roman clergy is  
by the faithful regarded as one of their  
great merits and distinctive character-  
istics as representatives of the kingdom  
that is not of this world. A reformer  
that commences by disregarding this  
popular impression is sure "to break  
the pitcher at the threshold," as an an-  
cient saying puts it. Nor is this im-  
pression far from logically correct. If  
the popular idea of the marriage union  
—its significance and temporary dura-  
tion—are admitted to be true. The  
wonder is the Protestant clergy too,  
have not returned to the practice of the  
"mother-church, since they see in  
the marriage union merely a temporary  
arrangement for the propagation of the  
species. Everything considered, is not  
the Roman position in regard to this  
respect, more logical than that of their Pro-  
testant opponents?

## ROCKHILL'S REPORT.

The report of Commissioner Rock-  
hill to the Secretary of State on his  
work in connection with the negotia-  
tions for the settlement of the Chinese  
trouble, shows the attitude of the  
United States during the conferences  
that were held. This attitude was one  
of moderation in the demands upon  
China, after justice had been meted  
out for the murderous violation of the  
rules of international intercourse.

Through the efforts of the United  
States representatives, the long list of  
culprits recommended for death was  
considerably abbreviated, and the in-  
demnity was fixed at a sum not ex-  
ceeding China's ability to pay. This  
was insisted upon with a view to pre-  
serve the integrity of China. The re-  
port sums up the results of the long  
negotiations by stating that adequate  
reparation was secured for wrongs  
done our citizens; also guarantees for  
their future protection, and for impar-  
tial trade with all parts of the Chinese  
empire.

These results, no doubt, were aimed  
at. But is it to be hoped that they  
were accomplished? Recent reports  
from China do not furnish a very op-  
timistic answer to that question.

A correspondent of a German paper,  
who has been in the far east and be-

come familiar with the conditions  
there, declares that Germany has not  
gained anything by the Chinese cam-  
paign. The scattered Boxers, he says,  
are again gathering. The bands are  
small and avoid contact with the  
foreigners, but when the time is ripe,  
there will be a repetition of the out-  
rages of last year. Europeans in China  
expect this, and already ask what the  
outcome will be. This correspondent  
asserts that Germany has lost, instead  
of gained, prestige in China. He says,

"The Chinese know that a German  
was commander-in-chief of the allies,  
and that a large proportion of these  
were German; but, alas! They also  
know that with this powerful machi-  
nery was accomplished practically nothing  
in a purely military way. Probably  
the Chinese do not suspect that  
political reasons have hampered our  
freedom of action. If they do so sus-  
pect, they see in our moderation only  
fear—fear of other powers. So looking  
up the matter from any side, it is plain  
that we have lost much in the eyes of  
China."

In France similar views are ex-  
pressed. A Pekin correspondent of the  
Journal des Debats says iron has been  
discovered in some distant provinces.  
Next will come reports of the discovery  
of copper, antimony, silver, etc. But  
"will China ever open, or will it not?"  
Old China, that writer says, after hav-  
ing been reduced to shameful impos-  
sibility, is on her feet again. She has  
a few more ruins, and the dust of cen-  
turies will fall on them; but China will  
stand.

The efforts to preserve the integrity  
of China must also be regarded as  
failures. Russia, while joining with  
the powers in the negotiations that  
were conducted with that end in view,  
invaded Manchuria and is still holding  
that province, with no intention to re-  
turn it.

Everything considered, China and the  
rest of the world are at present in  
very much the same relative position  
as they were before the Boxer out-  
break. Foreigners are more likely than  
ever. Once more the world has been  
furnished an illustration of the well  
known fact, that no trouble is settled  
until it is settled right.

## MATHEMATICS AT WEST POINT.

In his message to Congress the Presi-  
dent referred to West Point and its  
system of education in these terms:

"At West Point the education should  
be of the kind most apt to turn out  
men who are good in actual field ser-  
vice; too much stress should not be  
laid on mathematics, nor should pro-  
ficiency therein be held to establish the  
right of entry to a corps d'elite. The  
practical American officer of the first  
kind need not be a good mathematician;  
but he must be able to master  
himself, to control others, and to show  
boldness and fertility of resource in  
every emergency."

And this has given many papers an  
opportunity to make adverse comments  
upon that system. It is the result of  
the experience and the best thought of  
the best men of the army. It has pro-  
duced America's greatest soldiers, such  
men as Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and  
Hancock, Lee and Jackson. And if  
trees are to be known by their fruits,  
then West Point's fruit has justified it  
in every way. Mathematics is the basis  
of military science and always will be.  
The West Point course can no doubt  
be improved in many ways, but it can-  
not be cutting down the mathematical  
part in the least degree. Perhaps the  
best way to start the improvement  
would be to raise very materially the  
standard of admission. Or else to  
lengthen the course very considerably.  
The former is preferable.

## DOOMED IN ADVANCE.

The question of Sunday saloons has  
been prominent in New York since the  
last municipal election. The Zion's  
Herald, a Methodist publication, has  
therefore tried to ascertain the attitude  
of the pulpit and religious press of the  
country on that topic. As a result it  
finds that every Methodist newspaper,  
every Episcopalian, every Congrega-  
tionalist but one, every Baptist but  
one, every other Protestant organ, and  
every Catholic journal are against il-  
legal selling on Sundays.

As for the pulpit, the Herald claims  
that among the Protestant clergymen  
favoring some form of Sunday liquor  
traffic, it finds Bishop Potter and  
Doane and perhaps a half-dozen other  
Episcopalians, two Jewish rabbis, the  
Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst alone  
among Presbyterians, the Rev. Dr.  
Minot J. Savage alone among Unitar-  
ians, no Congregationalist, no Baptist,  
and no Roman Catholic, while it as-  
serts that "we speak with authority  
in saying that the Methodist ministry  
as a unit will for ever oppose it." The  
conclusion is that the proposition to  
keep the saloons open on Sunday is  
doomed in advance.

It will be a cold day for Argentina  
when Chili gets after her.

With the white metal so low silver  
weddings should be cheap.

There seems to be some shuffling in  
dealing with the anarchist question.

The senior Massachusetts senator  
would visit anarchism with a floor  
froze.

If those brigands were not so stony  
hearted men they would release Miss  
Stone forthwith.

Get your sleighs ready for the snow  
is coming. And an abundance of snow  
without sleighs is like salt without  
savor.

"Do we go up? No. We do not go  
up," is the primer way of describing  
the condition of the local mining stock  
market.

Senator Wellington and Senator Mc-  
Laurin being without any party  
might join issues and flock by them-  
selves.

The Utah team is a lap behind in the  
great six-day bicycle race. If the boys  
come out ahead they will be in the lap  
of luxury.

No nation was ever forewarned by  
simply being forewarned. The warn-  
ing must be accompanied by vast  
treasury appropriations.

Yesterday President Roosevelt pushed  
the button that opened the convention  
of the Society of Woodmen of the  
World at Spokane. It was not a stren-

uous effort for the President is a man  
of push.

No one can doubt the sincerity of Mr.  
Carnegie's offer to establish a great na-  
tional university at Washington. He  
offers to put up the bonds for it.

The embassies at Constantinople are  
preparing an identical note to submit  
to the Porte. It will contain something  
besides New Year congratulations.

When that train at Point of Rocks,  
Wyo., ran into a band of sheep and  
killed several hundreds the only com-  
ment of the survivors was "Bah."

Philadelphia boasts of a girl who in  
all her life has never giggled or  
laughed. There is nothing strange in  
all this considering that living in Phil-  
adelphia is no laughing matter.

The report of Mr. Rockhill, special  
commissioner to China, on the course of  
the United States during the troubles  
in the Celestial Kingdom, shows that  
it was marked in a pre-eminent degree  
by a spirit of justice and mercy. The  
rights of American citizens were insist-  
ed upon with dignity and firmness, and  
so were the rights of China. The gov-  
ernment at Washington was as solicit-  
ous for the maintenance of China's in-  
tegrity as for the welfare of interna-  
tional comity and commerce. American  
diplomacy in China maintained its very  
best traditions.

A large delegation of Russian agri-  
culturalists has arrived in London to  
study the English markets and to see  
wherein Russia can supply their food  
wants. The announcement is a seem-  
ingly small matter, but this mission  
may be fraught with most momentous  
consequences. It can only mean that  
Russia is thinking seriously of entering  
the food markets of the world as a  
competitor. With an intelligent de-  
velopment of her great resources she  
will have it within her power to com-  
mand supplies against most nations.  
And this entrance into the world's mar-  
kets cannot fail to have a most marked  
influence on Russia herself. She has  
been, practically, an isolated nation.  
If she becomes a world-trader she will  
have to be a commercial nation, which  
means progress, enlightenment, and  
greater liberty for her people.

## THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Baltimore Sun.

Announcement comes from Copen-  
hagen that the negotiations, whose exis-  
tence had been denied and then reaf-  
firmed, looking to the purchase of Den-  
mark's insular possessions in the Ameri-  
can tropics, have practically concluded,  
and that the United States will acquire  
possession after the customary legisla-  
tive formalities have been passed  
through. The people of Denmark, it  
seems, always have been willing to  
sell provided they receive the price they  
thought the islands worth. This, to an  
extent, is of a fictitious nature, since  
their value is to be determined only by  
the use to which the United States will  
put them. As it has been repeatedly  
said in administrative circles that this  
country is not a colonizing nation, and  
would place no value on a group of is-  
lands to be used for that purpose, it  
seems clear that their only utility is in  
forming a part of the defenses for the  
proposed isthmian canal and a coaling  
base for the navy in time of peace, but  
particularly in time of war.

New York Mail and Express.

The acquisition of these islands is a  
logical consequence of the annexation  
of Porto Rico, the protectorate over  
Cuba and the conclusion of the Nica-  
ragua canal convention. Whether Den-  
mark wishes to sell the islands to us or  
not, she cannot, as she understands per-  
fectly well, sell them to anyone else,  
nor can she retain them without steady  
loss to her exchequer. The utmost that  
she can do is to keep them warm for  
us. We have had no occasion to press  
the negotiations, therefore. The only  
matter that suffers through the long  
postponement is the question of estab-  
lishing a first-class naval station and  
base at San Juan, Porto Rico.

New York Evening Post.

At no time, however, has any valid  
reason been given why the United  
States should seek to complete the bar-  
gain. The islands have long been a  
drain upon their mother country, and  
a constant source of outlay, which Den-  
mark has been unable to afford. For  
this reason only has the sale been  
agreed to, as the royal family and  
many of Denmark's leading men have  
opposed it on sentimental grounds.  
Why the United States should covet a  
few rocky, unproductive islands when  
it has its hands full with an extensive  
Malayan archipelago, upon which it is  
squandering money by the hundred mil-  
lions, can hardly be explained  
by sound business reasons. Only as an  
excuse for more troops, more guns,  
and more war-ships does there seem to  
be any ground, if this be one, for the  
purchase of Denmark's bad investment.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Congress refused before, regarding it  
then unwise to go into the colony busi-  
ness. Now that we have been acquir-  
ing island dependencies in different  
parts of the world, the objections to  
buying another job lot of islands will  
probably not be strong. Ratification of  
any canal treaty will no doubt be  
accompanied by ratification of the  
Danish West Indies purchase, for the  
chief argument in favor of the acqui-  
sition of the islands is their strategic  
importance in relation to the isthmian  
canal, whether Nicaragua or Panama.

COLUMBIA'S WAR.

Hartford Courant.

The chronic political disturbances  
down there are a serious annoyance  
and nuisance now. What will they be  
when our Nicaragua canal is completed  
and in use by the world's commerce?  
The care and protection of that great  
waterway will fall entirely upon the  
United States. We have refused to share  
the responsibility with the other com-  
mercial nations, or with any one of  
them. It does not require any special  
prophetic vision to foresee that the  
problem of bringing about permanently  
stable and tranquil political conditions  
on the isthmus is going to force itself  
upon some future American President,  
secretary of state and Congress with  
an urgency admitting neither of in-  
action nor of any too prolonged de-  
literation. When events are once in  
the saddle, they are hard riders, will  
stand no nonsense, and pick their own  
road. The Spanish war has given us  
one lesson on that head. It won't be  
the last.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The government of Colombia is simi-  
lar in some respects to that of the  
United States; but since 1830 the sov-  
ereignty of its nine states has been  
abolished, and they have been turned  
into departments, corresponding closely  
to our territories, each with a governor  
appointed by the president of the re-  
public. The departments retain the  
management of their own finances, and  
each elects three members of the Col-  
ombian Senate. Each department also  
forms a constituency, and returns to  
the house of representatives one mem-  
ber of each 50,000 inhabitants. Thus  
the departments resemble our states in  
everything except name and in the  
right to choose their own governors.

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