DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - November 23, 1898

The Deseret Evening News is published daily, Sunday excepted, at corner of South Temple and Richards streets, Salt Lake City. Regular edition at 6 o'clock.

The Deseret Semi-Weekly News is published on Tuesday and Friday, each week.

The Deseret Weekly in magazine form is published every Saturday.

Daily 12 months	$7.50
Daily 6 months	3.75
Daily 3 months	1.85
Daily 1 month	65
Daily by the week	15
Saturday edition 12 months	1.50
Saturday edition 6 months	75
Semi-Weekly 12 months	1.50
Semi-Weekly 6 months	75
Weekly 12 months	2.00

Payment for subscriptions always in advance.

Subscribers changing their place of residence should always advise us of their present address.

City subscribers will kindly notify J. T. Dunlap, superintendent of our delivery, of the delivery of their papers.

All communications should be addressed to Deseret News Company.

Telephone 104.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

A convention of the Sunday schools of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Monday and Tuesday, November 28th and 29th, 1898. The Convention will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. Monday, the 28th, and three sessions will be held each day, at 9:30 a.m., 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock p.m. Each Sunday school in the Church is invited to send at least two delegates and as many more as can attend the sessions of the convention. The names of these delegates should be forwarded at once to the general secretary, room 46, Templeton building, Salt Lake City, and tickets of admission to reserved seats and orders for lodging will be thereupon issued. Arrangements have been made with the railroads to carry delegates residing at distant points at the rate of one fare for a round trip. Delegates from outlying districts who may not be able to secure accommodations, will be provided for by the entertainment committee. In addition to the delegates, the Saints generally are invited to attend all the meetings of the Convention and assist in making the occasion a success and one that will advance the Sunday school cause.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
GEORGE GODDARD,
KARL G. MAESER,
General Superintendency.

GEORGE D. PYPER,
General Secretary.

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.

Thanksgiving day in the history of the American nation often has marked the culmination of great events, but never more so than this year. As pointed out in the President's proclamation, "few years in our history have afforded such cause for thanksgiving as this. We have been blessed by abundant harvests, our trade and commerce have been wonderfully increased, our public credit has been improved and strengthened, all sections of our common country have been brought together and knitted into closer bonds of national purpose and unity."

In addition to this the war clouds have been dispersed, and in the bright light of peace, the American people stand forth in glory among the nations of the earth as the foremost champions of the cause of humanity and the dispensers of justice. It is impossible to review the events of the year without profound gratitude to the supreme Ruler of nations for the manifestations of His power in the achievements of American patriots and heroes.

It is eminently proper to have a day set apart on which especially to remember and acknowledge the goodness and mercy of God. The significance of such a day should not be allowed to become lost. It would be a good deal better to go back to the old-fashioned notions of "thanksgiving" than to miss yet the day into one of apes and vanities.

To a great many of our readers the contemplation of God's dealings with His people in the past is a source of joy and spiritual strength. As in ancient times the devoted worshiper of the ahur of Jehovah, so now the Saints see in the wonderful works of the Almighty during past tribulations a pledge of future victories and final triumph over all enemy, as the faithful Saint in every age will find in past experiences encouragement and strength. If they, figuratively speaking, have seen the waves of the sea fall back by Divine force, the hard rock give water, and sweet waters gather during the night, if they have seen the wonderful curse of Balaam turn into a blessing and the armies fall before the invading hosts of heaven, they cannot but look into the future with perfect tranquility and peace, as long as they remain faithful to their God. They know for themselves that "happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, his God, which made Heaven and earth, the sea and all that therein is: which keepeth truth forever." They know that "the Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations." Psalm 146.

KINDNESS IN JAIL.

The Chicago Times-Herald has an interesting and instructive account of the plan upon which the Cook county jail is managed by Jailer John L. Whitman. The principle which he seeks to carry out in practice is this, that kindness is more potent than physical force, and it is claimed that he has had the remarkable success in proving the correctness of the theory. This proper treatment of offenders against the laws is a subject of vast importance, and any light thrown upon it should be welcome. It is not improbable that public opinion some time will recognize the fact that some old methods produce different results to those intended by all proper legislation, and then a demand will be made for a thorough study of the whole subject and the employment of trained managers of penal institutions, just as proper training is demanded for other public institutions.

Mr. Whitman, when he took charge of the Cook county jail stated his views thus:

"Society has discovered that prisons do not be the beginning of wisdom, this Social and humane jailer, that its course is increase the evil it is intended to check, and now further demands that one who knows the ways of those who have come under the ban of the law should give evidence to the justice of our work. Its lack of knowledge is leading them as well as by lack of feeling, we may further increase the burden which society has to carry in caring for the criminal class."

In accordance with this platform Mr. Whitman was to abolish the so-called "mulberry row," which has been the Mecca of the morbid, murderer-worshiping, flower-giving women of historical type. Only real murderers—that is, men who commit murder with malice aforethought, or while robbing or committing a felony, are not kept apart. The prisoners are classified according to age, sex and color and crimes of feeders.

When a prisoner is committed to the care of Mr. Whitman, he is given to understand that the government is not a machine, but that he needs to help him on his feet again, if possible. The prisoner knows that good behavior will be rewarded, in some cases their sentences may be modified, and if they desire to had lesser fines after serving jail, they may count on the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Whitman. It is a rule of the institution that no stand must make a blow. In extreme cases he may call on the jailer, and it is asserted that a half-crazed prisoner, intent on murdering his guard, will quiet down as the slender, firm, yet kind jailer comes up and says, "Let less, boys!" and by firmness, fearlessness and kindness reduce the mental excitement which force failed to subdue.

The jail hospital shows how kindness has developed the self-respect of the prisoners. The account says:

"Under Dr. Earl Brockhoff care attended prisoners are sufficiently treated, surgically and therapeutically, in the operating room and hospital. In the latter there were several sick men, sitting up in bed, reading, or talking with every-where citizens, and reading. A young man stood over a reading, watching the page. 'A nurse, of course,' was one's instant idea about the lad. Jailer Whitman introduced him, and he acknowledgments $1 up heartfully when he was asked how he liked nursing. 'Trained nurse, eh?' 'Yes, but he's a trusty—we may make a nurse out of him before he goes.'

"Another trusty is one of Chris Meyer's newsboys. You would take him for a guard if he was uniformed and did not have a deep scar on one of his cheeks. He takes much interest in work about the prison."

Another interesting department is the school for boys. This is in charge of Miss Annie Flood. We again quote from the Times-Herald:

"A regular stampede occurs among the thirty boys as soon as Miss Flood appears in the schoolroom at 8:30 each morning. All make for her desk, swarm around her and inquire about her. A sign pile of the day's issue of the morning papers is laid down by the teacher upon the desk. These are later given out as rewards for good behavior in the lessons in 'Reading, spelling, grammar,' 'Domestic,' etc., or taken, in thinking defined, and the need of acting according to the dictates urged. Often the usual grade studies are had, until the 'wrong-book' exercise is resumed.

"The papers are given out, until great clamor and cursing for them is a thing of the past. The boys take them to their cells and read. Short-sighted mortalists may stand aghast that our so-called sensational Sunday and daily journals, with their reports of bad men, should be so carelessly put into the hands of the young. Yes, but under Miss Flood's direction no evil results come. The lads are given the papers for the purpose of scissoring clippings for a school-room exercise. They come back to school next day, clippings in hand, and if their selections are good they are revised by having their text stored by the class and then passed into the scrap-book. Really, the book would do justice to the average collector of a literary taste. Its contents of clippings are ever selected. Stories of nature, national life, chronicles of the events that go to make history, and other portions of the period are much favored by the lads."

Religious services are conducted by the chaplain, who generally gives his audience sermons upon some practical topics. The effect of this course is seen has helped many a struggling soul to regain a footing on the firm ground of honesty and virtue, and many a time people stop him in the street with a friendly: "Hello, Father, you remember me—don't you? I shall never forget your kindness to me in the jail."

It is generally admitted that we are first from a more practical than that which is generated in a kind heart, "that," it is said, "is love." The reason why it is not more generally applied in governing is this that it requires more intellect than possessed by the average man, or woman, to govern wisely and to take power that is crude upon them with brutal force. We are developing, however, and may some time learn how to rule each one in his own sphere, on the principle by which Omnipotence governs the universe.

OPPOSED TO SECRET SOCIETIES.

Mr. Wm. J. Phillips, secretary of the National Christian Association, in a communication addressed to the editor of the "Press" to publish "as a matter of news and for comment" concerning the association, Mr. Phillips says in part:

"The National Christian Association is the only of an incorporated association which was organized in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., in 1893, by representatives of various religious denominations. It is based on the Bible, and the only ground of membership was that one that gets resolved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, believes, understands that Satan is the god of this world and the god of Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible, and that Christ and Satan are antagonistic forces."

"The association has an extensive plan of campaign in Mr. Wm. Phillips' letter. Chapter 1 of the constitution reads: 'The object of this association shall be that we, the undersigned, Christ Carpenter, Esq., one of the Counsels of Chicago, Ill., hereby agree to unite in every thousand dollars, but the organization would be glad to have it. Its headquarters is called at every thousand dollars, but the organization needs available funds and I do those it is dependent on the public."

The Chronicle Cyclopedia, we believe is the official organ of the association referred to, and if the spirit of intolerance at times manifested in that publication reflects the views and sentiments of the members, reform is a literal duty to be guided. The Cyclopedia, for instance, habitually condemns the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a "secret society" displaying political intrigues upon this subject. If the information regarding our organization is equally reliable, its efforts must be barren of results. In an association of Christian, charity and tolerance should prevail.

THE POLITICAL HOG.

The political hog is a foreign growth indigenous to America and not imported from the parliament field. Of course some are milder, weaker, less disinterested and among a category field their brothers, but they all belong to the same family, are the same genus, so to speak. In the earlier phase, and until more practiced chances the hog is apt to assume to a would-be-art of fidgets, one who through some unexplained and perhaps undeserved accident has been belonged with consciousness because thereof and all at once takes it in his head that he is a born leader, and that he is called upon to make the price of sweeping, honoring amalgamation of generalship and efficiency stand in line of business. The change here is about the most objectionable thing of an objectionable class, but as previously suggested, we have him at all times and in all places.

The man affiliate to his greatest perfection in the most populous and wealthy centers. Take the presidential fowls, he grows to a size commensurate to the volume and extent of his habitat. In New York city he has attained to his greatest proportions, although Chicago and even San Francisco have produced a very fair specimen of the species. The fact that this city has produced have not been so conspicuous, not only because of the more limited field but because, in most instances, of the lack of general capacity for properly playing the part. Among those who have served their turn a high up in the political temple are Hon. William M. Tweed and John Kelly, of New York, and the present Richard Croker, of the same place, all men of conspicuous ability. Of the latter it is said by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger that no man has exercised a more executive of permanent influence on the politics of the country since Alexander H. Stephens. "I do not say, and I say it fearlessly, that the field of American politics has produced no greater leader and in New York the public voice has assigned to him the highest place in the political government of that city. No man either living in a table of political grandeur as rich in illustrious names. The position he has attained depended solely on his personal qualities, circumstances had little to do with it. He rose step by step from the obscurity of a mechanic's life to the highest eminence attainable in his peculiar field of politics. I think that his great physical prowess and his indomitable bravery had much to do with his rapid rise in life. Mr. Croker could not hesitate to engage the most muscular pugilist in battle, and I do not believe that the spectacle of fifty bruisers lounging in the hands of so many intimated political hostlers would make him bat an eye. He has the strength of a lion, and the courage of a lion, too."

Mr. Croker passed through this city some years ago, and unobtrusively and unceremoniously did he make his way that he was off again before more than a dozen or so knew that he had come.

THE WAR INVESTIGATION.

It was decently hoped when the Hyndman soldiers returned from Santiago and stacked their arms in lots of surrender that the serious duration incurable from a great conflict would be sufficient to dull and tone down to an early date, the fierce dit and bitter, they seemed to begin at that time. Men who called to the service of their country, in intelligent and conscious, as were all of that patient band which stormed the heights of eastern Cuba, expect to be subjected to hardships, of which fighting the enemy is among the least. They expect that in the natural course of events they may be called upon to risk life in service and suffering to officer if it should prove to be a fatal infliction from otherwise. They expect bad food and worse water, sometimes none at all of either, to be taken as drink, when obtained at times under circumstances of the most exciting character. They expect to have no time to spare in the direction, in which a movement can be made in the found manner, by contract methodizing the contending foil in the trenches, the fun of sleep and the comfortable privations incidental to an early morning in front of a hostile march. Expecting these things and being prepared for them, they murmur not when the reality is upon them, when much worse than it was practice for them to imagine. They are contented to do this as a Sir Sanderson, an inmate of Cuba for country and friends, a Sir Sanderson, of a position which finds no chief exception to the rule, in words, "if they are behind their arms against the enemy, finally prepared against the hardships, and fully determined to do their whole duty, let the issue fall where and the consequences be what they may."

Such men are skilled to every emergency, patriotic, brave, and people indignant which a mighty nation and a grateful people can extend. The dead should have a Christian burial with all the honors of war and consciousness of grace which can be provided. The wounded should be cared for in comfortable and humanitarian hospitals where adequate surgical and nursing and food are always supplied and good ventilation with proper sanitary regulations invariably secured. When all this is attended to it remains to note enough. But how hard it is when such conditions are paid no attention to until public pressure wrought such in the exposure made through the press compels them! Even when the proper procedure is brought, it is not done alone with the so-called good and intelligent a reason that thousands of a small want or notice before the sad reaches them, and that, too, in a land overflowing with every needed thing and teeming with capable hands and willing hearts only waiting to be organized, in a situation so outrageous, showing a system or lack of it so appalling, that it is difficult to believe that it has occurred either the state of the American man. But it has, and is a state of things that the editor did not count on when he turned his back upon home and friends and set his face resolutely to the front.

The developments which have been made by reason of the proceedings of the war investigating commission are of a nature to excite the strongest condemnation. Some of the practices uncovered by the witnesses were cruel if not barbarous in their wantonness and others utterly inhuman. That these were not exceptional is of course, but that they were common is undeniable. It was as plain as the universal light of day, long before the declaration of war, that the United States would have to subjugate Spain by military force. Even when the Maine was destroyed, an event which all recognized as the beginning of the conflict, there was ample time within which to have brought the commissariat of the army up to a condition of practical perfection and provided hospital accommodations and stores in plenty, so that when our first blow fell upon the enemy on his own soil all would have been in readiness. Instead of this nothing was done till the storm of war was sounded and actual hostilities had begun. When Shafter telegraphed to Washington for additional hospital ships and assistance, it caused a gloom like a pall to fall upon the land, not because dead and wounded in great numbers were not counted on, but the disclosure of the terrible fact that the army was not properly provided for before acting foot upon the foreign shore was more than they had ever thought was possible.

The war was short but terrible. Our men forced the pass and brought the enemy to his knees almost before their people at home could realize it. In spite of their bad treatment, the soldiers of the United States in all ways and at all times did their whole duty and fully, fairly and squarely upheld their country's honor. Drover, better men were not at Thermopylae, not at Balaklava, nor anywhere else in ancient, medieval or modern times. They did their duty regardless of the shocking condition of affairs, looking, as they had a right to, for better things when the work was all over. But they found worse things. They were subjected to such treatment that by comparison the breaking of the leaden hailstorms around Santiago was a mere pastime. Starvation, neglect, incompetent supervision and many other evils constituting a ghastly train were the portion of many of them. It is mostly over now, but was awful while it lasted. And in contemplation of it all we are not permitted to have the mitigating thought that it was the fortune of war, under the circumstances, such a state of things could exist, or be permitted to occur again. Shortcomings and favoritism in appointments of military may be tolerated for once, because there is no escape from it after the fighting has begun and the country is in a whirlpool of agitation and burning preparation for the struggle, but neither such excuses can be allowed by circumstances and conditions conceived by the foreknowledge derived from experience. Besides, this is America and we are all Americans, in whose each transactions we are bound by the war investigation. We are entitled to know and will not be tolerated when it is possible to prevent them.

A Boston journal, the Charleston News and Courier, comments on the recent massacres in the South as follows:

"The time is no longer demand for their victims and the lynchers are forced to cease their crimes, and no longer permitted to establish the guilt of those whom they kill. They are not murderers, but cowards.

"In this is no regard to the question of guilt or innocence. They killed on plea of Provoke against which no offense is proved, or even charged. They were hired on killing white men who had committed no offense worthy of death, and were ready to kill colored, their own neighbors, on the slightest cause. They were hotly restrained from killing a wealthy innocent negro because he felt in their way when they were making chicken, and planned to kill another "because he stole our stock." They no longer rode in the night and wear masks when engaged in their bloody work. They are in the full light of day in troops."

Turbaned Indonesian grows more and more aggressive. Unless the murderers are brought to justice, they will not stop at slaughtering colored victims. A general state of anarchy is likely to be the result.

A New York outlet is reported in the Scientific American Supplement as saying that Americans are too weak-lose of their eyes in expecting them to the electric-light eaves, and if a return is not had a sightless race may be developed." "What should be used," he says, "are fluorescent tubes, which cost no more than the present electric lights and which give a steady light. In fact, I would not be surprised to see fluorescent tubes in general use throughout New York city within a short time." It is said that arrangements are being made to light an entire block in New York by fluorescent tubes.

The "News" does not often have a holiday, but Thanksgiving day is an occasion which it does not care to lose. All days with it are days of thanksgiving and praise, but nevertheless the occasion of official recognition of the exercise and blessings of divine Providence, will be especially observed. In consequence of this, the paper will greet its friends on Friday afternoon.

The city's peace essential scene to have had the effect of adding a wonderful impulse to the man-of-war building industry.

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