

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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WEDNESDAY, - SEPT. 28, 1887.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-seventh Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be opened at 10 o'clock on Thursday, October 6th, 1887, in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City, and will continue until the business necessary to be transacted has been attended to. The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

On the evening of Thursday, the 6th, there will be a general meeting of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations.

On Friday evening there will be a general meeting of the Superintendents, Teachers, and all interested in the Sunday Schools.

On Saturday evening there will be a meeting of the Priesthood.

These meetings will commence at 7 o'clock in the evening.

We wish the officers of these organizations to bear these appointments in mind.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

AN EFFICIENT OFFICER.

We very much question if there ever was a more persevering and patriotic Secretary of the Navy than the present incumbent, W. C. Whitney. In addition to this, he is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the most efficient and comprehensive, albeit the office was a surprise to him when it came for the reason that his studies and qualifications had not run in that line. But he had the capacity for learning and the sequel shows that he has put it to good use.

The Secretaryship of the Navy is at this time the most important portfolio of the government. This is a time of peace everywhere; there are no contending nations; arbitrations over disputes are the rule; and this is exactly what makes the post referred to one of overweening importance. When the world is serenely at rest, as all its history shows and all logic points to, it is basking in the calm which precedes a mighty tempest. Those nations which are short-sighted and improvident will regulate their actions by present conditions, unless, as in our own case, they have recently emerged from a severe conflict and have engaged in healing rather than in preparations for making wounds. But this work of restoration should not be permitted to engross the entire time and resources of the country, as it very nearly did under the quarrel of a century of Republican rule, and which policy the people, by the force of public opinion, had concluded would be followed up by the Democrats on their return to power. The Navy Department, in fact, became an almost useless factor in our national economy, and the navy itself had dwindled down to a few rotten old hulks which threatened a spot without the piercing effect of the steel itself might have sent to the bottom. All this time more money was being expended on that branch of the government than ever before, and as a natural sequence, it became a kind of political crib in which spoils not work, jobbery not patriotism, were the objects sought and found. This was the kind of a naval office bequeathed to the Democratic administration, and realizing what kind of and how much work there was to be done even to make the place fit for the preparation of its proper business, our young and enthusiastic but nevertheless able and determined Secretary resolved that the Augean stables should have Herculean treatment—should first be made clean, then efficient. Right well is he progressing in that direction.

His first essay—the cruiser *Atlanta*—was a failure, at least her guns were, and guns and vessel are parts of the same thing; the one that was tried was more dangerous behind than in

front; when discharged it made noise enough and sent a missile hissing along the waves with such fury and power as would have made a man-of-war lying in its path a league away tremble like an aspen in a mountain gale; but the catapult was as unmanageable as the projectile and exhibited its unruly disposition by tearing up the track on which it was mounted, kicking the timbers into splinters and making things generally in its neighborhood hum and whirl. This was only a failure, however, not a discouragement. Quite the contrary. It had a most salutary effect upon the mind of Mr. Whitney and his assistants, for it pointed out where the errors were that had to be remedied, at a time when no especial pressure was upon them. The next cruiser that was launched sailed nearly a knot an hour faster than the contract demanded, and this much being gained, the armament of the craft was to be considered. Having decided to use dynamite guns, a number were cast and a grand practical test was made yesterday. The Secretary had a ship (perhaps a Republican heirloom) arranged as a target a little more than a mile away, and with the dynamite destroyer had six shots aimed at the vessel. Two of them struck and completely destroyed the craft, thus demonstrating the efficiency of the weapons at once. He now knows how to proceed. He will have more cruisers just like the other, and plenty of the guns of the pattern of that doing such deadly work yesterday, and with the vessels steaming around wheresoever they will on the bosom of the ocean and the heavy plated and armed men-of-war being constructed nearer to shore, it will be unpleasant for any sailing craft other than merchantmen or pleasure boats to attempt to penetrate the three mile limit anywhere along our coasts.

It must be said of President Cleveland that he rarely makes a mistake, never a serious one. He was pleasantly lampooned by even some of his friends for putting such green timber in his cabinet as Mr. Whitney, but the matter was paid little attention to because of the apparently utter unimportance of the position and the hopelessness of its ever being made any better. All such have changed their minds not indifferently but altogether. The President put the right man in the right place, and this man has made his department one of the most conspicuous features of the government and himself one of the most efficient officers.

A QUALIFICATION.

A few days ago we published an article in relation to the benefits to be derived by producers in dispensing with middle men. Taken apart from the ideas embodied in another article which preceded it, it might convey an idea not intended.

Under some conditions intermediary handlers of products are not only exceedingly useful, but almost indispensable. They are often the means not only of maintaining good prices in the markets contiguous to Utah, but of establishing and maintaining the reputation of the products of this Territory. This is continually being exemplified by actual experience and results. Farmers have, for instance, placed themselves in communication with dealers in Colorado and elsewhere, and so underbid the middlemen that prices have soon dropped greatly below what the latter formerly paid right here.

Another consequence of this desultory manner of doing business is that some producers have shipped out products that were simply trash, hardly fit for consumption, and thus the name of Utah articles has been depreciated to such an extent that the trade in places has almost been spoiled.

On the other hand, it has been to the interest of intermediate home handlers to maintain their own reputation by sound shipments, and in that way to preserve the good name of the Territory.

This would also be so with the producers if they were consolidated by compact organization, so as to be in a position to do their own business through agencies of their own appointment or selection, as in the case of the wool growers, who are, by this method, in direct business contact with eastern purchasers. Until the farmers are organized on a similar basis to the granger associations in some parts of the east, middlemen will be more or less beneficial to them. They should be dispensed with as soon as practicable, but this can only be accomplished profitably by a consolidation of interests.

THE LIMIT OF AUTHORITY.

The question often arises as to what extent those who are elected or appointed to public positions are servants to the people, and how far they shall be permitted to go before their acts become encroachments to be resisted. We all comprehend that resistance to duly constituted authority is a dangerous condition of things in any community, meaning as it does one of these several things or some of the elements of all—riot, anarchy, a reign of terror, insurrection, rebellion, revolution, treason. But, on the other hand, to say that because certain people hold commissions empowering them to do certain things they are not subject to immediate restraint under certain circumstances, is to say that without warning or volition our system can be changed from its popular and representative character to a despotism, an oligarchy, a condition of thralldom never contemplated by the founders of our government and which they themselves set aside by taking the law into their own hands, uprooting every vestige of temporary absolutism.

Between these two extreme points there is a safe middle ground which it is greatly to our interest to ascertain, then maintain. In arriving at a conclusion, the natural rights and innate wrong of man must be duly considered. The former leads him to contemplate himself as what he really is—the paragon of animals, born on the same terms and in the same manner as his fellows, with equal faculties, similar tastes, like dispositions and a common destiny, so that naturally he is prone to bow to nothing and nobody of mortal clay. This is his natural bent; but pursued unrestrained to its logical conclusion, what would we have instead of the measure of peace and liberty now prevailing? As each individual grew to manhood or womanhood, this unfettered state would produce classifications based upon physical power, courage and propensities, a condition in which the intellectual part would simply be a guide to the physical in making this terraced state of society fixed and immovable. The lowest class would be ruled by the next highest, they by the next and so on to the top, where absolute and autocratic aristocracy would find a complete exemplification. Yet, this would be exact and unrestrained democracy, popular rule, the sway of the people in their individual capacity! The weak and helpless would be the slaves of the great and powerful, and their offspring would inherit and wear the garb of perpetual mentalty unless physically and spiritedly capable of fighting their way further along.

It is plain to the most casual thinker that there can be neither order, safety nor justice without hampering human nature. The manner in which such hampering is accomplished is various in different countries. Some people can endure more than others and be just as spirited and liberty-loving; but all must concede some portion of their natural rights and their established individuality in order that conditions conducive to the welfare of the whole may be obtained. This giving up of sacred possessions must, like every other legal transaction, have a consideration of an equally valuable character to offset it, which in this instance is protection and the general weal. In gaining these, the citizen loses nothing, because his return is equal or superior to his advancement. It only needs that those who are the trustees of the valuables receive them in the proper spirit and control them with due regard for the objects in view. In doing this, they need not be overbearing to accomplish regard for their authority, nor brutal to maintain respect for their position, neither should they be timid or halting. If a policeman, a marshal or any executive officer of a court will only bear in mind at all times and places that he is dealing with those who indirectly employ him and pay his salary, he will then have placed himself upon a correct and sound basis for the performance of good and satisfactory work; but when he permits his symbol of authority to become a badge of superiority, and takes advantage of his position to do things which neither the law as properly construed nor the best instincts of our race can tolerate, the time for the assertion of our inherited and indefeasible rights has arrived. This assertion need not be by fists and feet nor by force and arms, but through the channel which the offender has departed from, by the means which he has unjustifiably set aside to make himself lordly for the time being—the established tribunals. Sometimes these fail, through want of facilities, requirements, ability or virtue; but when this is the case there is still no justification in adding a wrong to the one already committed. All things in connection with good government are attained by self-denial, patient effort, unflinching patriotism and earnest ability.

ALL ARE AMERICANS.

THERE was recently held in Chicago a convention of German Catholics which seems to have been an important gathering, and to have represented the sentiments of many thousands of people in the United States, natives of

German Catholic regions in Europe, and their descendants and sympathizers. While no one will question the legal right of the German Catholics to meet in convention, the propriety of some of the doings of that which was lately held in Chicago is being widely criticized.

Resolutions were adopted calling upon Catholic workmen to entrust the solution of the labor problem to the Catholic church, and others antagonizing the Knights of Labor, were introduced but tabled, apparently for the reason that the time had not come for such utterances to be made by the body represented by the convention. In some of its proceedings the latter manifested a marked anti-Irish feeling, calculated to increase the existing sentiments of animosity between Germans and Irishmen. The convention showed great jealousy in regard to keeping alive the German language, making that object, and the teaching of the "true religion," the ground on which to base a resolution in support of parish (or church) schools. So far was the sentiment in favor of the German language carried that the convention was on the point of rejecting a report for the reason that it was written in English, and a proposition was made, though not acted upon, to amend the constitution of the organization in such a manner as to prohibit the acceptance of all communications not written in German.

As a matter of education it is well enough to teach the German language to the rising generation. But national, denominational and sectional strifes ought to be buried among those who intend or expect to become American citizens. The strength, prosperity and endurance of this country depend upon the homogeneity of its inhabitants. In the language of the New York *Christian Union* in reference to this convention, "Wherever we come from, we are all Americans here."

THE SEVENTY-TON METEORITE.

FALLING meteorites have been quite numerous of late. One of the most recent among these eccentric visitors descended and struck the earth near Macadams Junction, New Brunswick, on Wednesday, September 14th. It had a terrorizing effect upon some parties who were in the vicinity at the time. The following interesting details were embodied in a dispatch dated September 18th, from Fredericton, N. B.:

"Nothing has created such excitement throughout the province as the fall of the meteor Wednesday evening at Macadams Junction. The junction is sixty miles south of here, and a party of gentlemen who went Thursday to investigate the story of its fall returned last evening, and gave additional information. Directly to the north of Macadams, about half a mile away, is Mount Prospect, upon the foot of which, upon some land belonging to the Brunswick road used for storing wood fuel, fell the aerolite. Five hundred feet away from the spot are situated the five dwellings of a railroad yardmaster, his two assistants and two farmers, Peter Dugan and Pierre Lamont. These two men were at home on Wednesday night, the farmer having called on his neighbor to talk about some live stock, when a sight occurred that temporarily deprived them of their senses. Lamont had just looked at his watch and reported it was 7:55 o'clock, when both were startled by a peculiar bright light that lit up the entire place. It rapidly grew denser and made the landscape for miles around as plain as day. The men glanced up and hanging what seemed immediately above their heads was a bright ball of fire, moving from the west. It was advancing rapidly, and soon a sharp, hissing sound was heard, rapidly deepening into a roar like a moving train, which in a few seconds became deafening. The mass was rapidly revolving, giving off thousands of sparks, like molten iron, and the heat was intense. In sheer fright both men fell to the ground, while, with a crash that jarred the dishes from the table indoors, the mass struck the earth immediately in front of them. The heat was blistering, and set fire to and destroyed in a few moments the unoccupied hut of a wood-chopper that stood twenty feet away. The building had only been deserted a few days, and had anyone been in it he could never have escaped. It buried itself nearly out of sight, but kept a glowing red for some hours, and is still smoking hot, and looks like a piece of brown sandstone, and must weigh at least seventy tons. A piece broken off to-day, hurriedly polished and tested with acids, shows its metallic nature. So hot was it that a pile of rocks some twenty feet away were partially fused. The spot is being visited by thousands, who are trying to get a souvenir, but it is too hot. The railroad company, acting under instructions from Ottawa, has placed a guard over it to preserve it for scientific purposes. It is a nearly pear-shaped, the largest end being buried out of sight."

WILL THERE BE AN UPRISING?

HERE is a question that is agitating the public mind: Is the country in danger from an anarchist uprising.

This uneasy feeling is of itself an

evidence that the nation is not entirely safe from such an appalling ordeal. The popular anxiety to have the condemned Chicago men executed is but a manifestation of the sense of danger. It is imagined that an appeal to the fears of the lawless element will act as a deterrent. This may prove to be a mistaken estimate of their character. Doubtless it would at least fail to apply to many of them. This is indicated by the attitude of A. R. Parsons, who spurns the idea of any tender to him of clemency to save him from the gallows short of absolute freedom. He would prefer to die rather than accept of a compromise in the shape of a commutation of sentence. Men of his stamp—more or less numerous among his class—do not value their lives sufficiently to deter them from putting their theories into operation when opportunity presents. That the execution of the Anarchists will paralyze the Anarchist fraternity at large is exceedingly doubtful; that it would be more likely to stimulate them to diabolic activity is much more probable.

There appears to be no small degree of apprehension that the execution of the seven condemned men will cause a tumultuous uprising in Chicago. Many influential people of that city are said to be looking toward the event with dread. That the feeling of insecurity is shared to some extent by the powers that be is more than probable. It is noticeable in this connection that at the time the executions are to take place, providing they are to be consummated, a National Drill of all the available troops of the United States army will be in progress at Chicago. The selection of that city for a national military encampment may possibly have been accidentally coincidental with the executions, but the general belief is directly to the contrary. It is viewed as a measure of safety, for the suppression of any outbreak that may occur. Upon this point the following dispatch from Washington lately appeared in a leading Philadelphia paper:

"An astonishing rumor comes here from Chicago sources that the National Drill, arranged to take place in that city next month, has a deeper purpose than a mere competition at arms. It is well known that citizens at Chicago have feared from the time of the announcement of the sentence of death of the Anarchists that the execution of the death penalty would be a signal or a revengeful outbreak."

Should this opinion be confirmed as a fact, by placing its correctness beyond question, it will certainly give the Anarchists ground for an increased estimate of their own power and importance. It will be taken as a very marked acknowledgment of the potency of the communistic fraternity, as it would be no ordinary element of danger within a State that would lead—under a slide-pretext—to the concentration, at the point of anticipated peril, of all the available military force of the nation.

The question then presents itself, in case the anticipated uprising does not materialize is danger from an outbreak removed? The answer must be that, if it existed up to and at the time of the execution, it will still exist. That which was competent to be an exciting cause up to that point, operates subsequently in the same capacity from motives of revenge, combined with the common one of spoliation and plunder. Reasoning along upon this line, it must be held that whatever preventive precautions were needed in the first place would be continuously requisite, their original purpose not having been dissipated.

Let us look, however, at the anarchist question as a whole. If the condemned men are executed, that event would appear to constitute Chicago the central point of danger. If, on the other hand, the available troops are concentrated there the peril is distributed to other large cities known to be anarchist hotbeds for the reason that from them would be withdrawn whatever of a national military force might be essential in an emergency to restrain or suppress similar outbreaks. This idea seems all the more forcible when it is remembered that sympathy for the condemned men and the desire for vengeance on their account are not confined to Chicago. They are as deep and broad in other places as there. The fact should not be lost sight of either, that the vindictive tactics of the anarchist are not unlike those of the Indian in one particular. His retaliatory instinct does not necessarily confine its operations to those who are the actual perpetrators of any real or imaginary wrong. Any "bloated bondholder," capitalist, monopolist or public official is esteemed proper prey. If the available army forces are to be concentrated at Chicago ostensibly to engage in a National Drill, but in reality as a safety precaution, should the Anarchists break out elsewhere they could not be safely transported to the scenes of conflict, as that would leave the Queen City exposed and the opportunity for destruction to there be opened.

Taking in the whole situation, it must be admitted that if Chicago is in danger from a violent outbreak from the cause under consideration, then so is the country at large. That the atmosphere is not free from peril can be seen at a glance. The presence of so much smoke in the air is an indication of the existence of fire. The