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SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 30, 1901.

Y. M. & Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The General Conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in Salt Lake City on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1901.

General public meetings will be held in the Tabernacle on Sunday, June 2nd, at 10 a. m. and 2 and 7:30 p. m., and business meetings will be held on the succeeding two days for the Young Men, in the assembly hall of the new building of the Latter-day Saints' Business college; and for the Young Ladies, in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms.

All officers and members of the associations are requested to be present at all the meetings, and a cordial invitation is extended to all the Saints to attend the Tabernacle meetings.

THE LESSON OF THE DAY.

Memorial day has been duly celebrated in this city. Probably the decoration of graves was more general and profuse than on any previous occasion. "The city of the dead" has increased its silent population as the years have gone by, and the interest in the annual ceremony has grown greater, and thus the cemeteries presented a floral scene to-day, imposing and pleasant to behold.

The exercises were in excellent taste, the parade was fine and orderly, the oratory of a high class, and the manifestations of love and veneration for the departed, by hosts of people, were very gratifying as indications of popular sentiment.

If the spirits of the loved ones whose bodies sleep in the ground could witness the devotion of their relatives and friends, they must have rejoiced over the spectacle. They would see that though absent from earth they are not forgotten. If the veil between them and us is ordinarily impenetrable, but is lifted occasionally for their benefit, surely a time like this would be appropriate for the privilege.

Supposing no pleasure or profit to them can come from the celebration of Memorial day; that earth with all its sorrows and its joys, its darkness and its sunshine, its tears and smiles, its ashes and its flowers is shut out from the spirit vision, still there is great good in the custom of decorating the graves of the dead, in honoring the valor of the nation's heroes, of praising the patriotism of those who fought for country or for home. It rekindles the fire of emulation in the hearts of the living, and stimulates noble sentiments that otherwise might slumber in the soul.

While it is to be hoped that the nation may be spared in future the horrors of war, and that there will be no need for armed hosts and the weapons and munitions of battle, it is necessary that the martial spirit shall be kept alert, so that defense may be ready if defiance gradually passes away. And though soldiers' graves may not be multiplied, the generations to come may still keep in memory the glorious deeds of their departed ancestors, and Memorial day should therefore be perpetuated even when nations shall study war no more.

Apart from the military feature of the day we celebrate, there will, we hope, be always kept alive the sentiment of affection and veneration for the departed, young and old, which prompts the gathering and distribution of floral offerings, in memory of the loved ones who have left us, and whom we expect to meet when we too have finished our earthly career.

Therefore, let Decoration Day be always a holiday, by provision of law, by general custom and by individual desire, for it is both poetical and practical and is an educator to mankind. It is a beautiful and elevating observance and draws the thoughts of all who participate in its exercises, to things that are higher than those of this world.

The flowers we scatter will fade and their perfume will apparently be lost. But as not one elementary particle of matter will or can be annihilated, so the conscious being that survives when the dust returns to earth as it was, can never perish, and every atom of the body parted from will have eternal existence and use, and all shall live again and fulfill its destiny through everlasting ages.

A NEGRO EXODUS.

The movement among the colored people of the United States for a general exodus is commencing to take tangible form. At a conference recently held at Camp Hill, Alabama, a set of migration resolutions were passed. The preamble states that "God Almighty permitted the black man to become a slave in the United States for a short time to the end that he might imbibe the principles of civilization and liberty," and then follow these resolutions:

"Whereas, The calling of a consi-

tutional convention in the state of Alabama to disfranchise the negro is but the voice of the Almighty God summing him (the negro) to return to his native land, Africa, be it

"Resolved, That this organization shall be known as the Afro-American Exodus union; be it

"Resolved, further, That every negro in the state of Alabama use every effort to liquidate his debts, all his time at work and live economical that he may have means of exit when called upon by the Afro-American Exodus union to colonize in Africa."

It will be very interesting to see what support this move will obtain among the colored people. It is clear enough that they have a perfect right to stay here, if he choose—but it is equally clear that he never can attain the rights and privileges accorded him by the constitution, as long as prejudices and race hatred exist as they do today in many sections of the country. Not only are the criminals of the race deprived of their right to trial and punishment by law, but even the law-abiding individuals are threatened with disfranchisement because of the color of their skin, and there seems to be no help for it. It is not impossible that the calling of the constitutional convention in Alabama for the purpose of disfranchising the negro, is, as the resolutions say, the voice of the Almighty, summoning the people to return to their native country. The cruelty of the ancient Pharaohs to the children in bondage was, similarly, a call to them to turn their minds toward the land of promise.

The transferring of the negro to United States soil was in defiance of the laws of God and humanity. The consequences have not failed to come. The country is still remembering with sadness the blood that was shed, to right, partly, the wrong then committed. There is truth in the declaration that "God has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." It is not accidentally that the black race was assigned to Africa, and the yellow race to Asia. It was not by mere chance that the Almighty determined that Japhet should be enlarged, and "dwell in the tents of Shem." It was all by design, and it is the violation of this plan that causes so much international confusion and trouble. In all probability, as a preliminary to the coming reign of universal peace, all these things will have to be readjusted. There must be a renewed conformation to the original plan. The present is a time of gathering, and readjustment among nations. It is perfectly intelligible that the colored people should partake of the spirit of gathering that seems strongly active in other "pan-national" movements.

A great many intelligent negroes do, not, as yet, believe in a negro exodus. But if that movement is in harmony with the divine plan, it will go on notwithstanding all objections. It will be exceedingly interesting to follow it in its further development. Should it materialize it would be the greatest migratory move in the history of mankind, should it find general favor among the colored people of the country.

SARAH'S IMPRESSIONS.

Foreigners who pay a flying visit to America and view the country through car windows and from the balconies of hotels, are generally sure to favor their fellow countrymen with expert opinions on American life in its various phases. Generally, too, they are sure to say some absurdities. It is very provoking, of course, but there is this consolation that Americans who "do" Europe in three months, retalliate in kind.

Sarah Bernhardt has now undertaken to enlighten her people on the American home. She says "In America home scarcely exists. People live in hotels, or employ housekeepers." She further explains that American girls are "in no hurry to enter the bonds of matrimony, because to them marriage brings an obligation from which the unmarried are free"—a very profound observation indeed. How is that in la belle France and other countries? Is marriage there without special obligations? And is it true that the American girl, as a rule, shrinks from any honorable obligation? What kind of girls did the divine Sarah associate with while here, anyhow?

AGREED FOR ONCE.

We cannot help feeling a little, very little, sympathy for the Tribune, in the uncomfortable position in which it finds itself on that deaf and dumb school affair. It has been driven up squarely against its own charges and admissions, and has forcibly run against several stumps. But this seems to have brought it to some sense of what is right and proper in school affairs, and if it keeps in the same mind as it appears to be in now, a great deal of unpleasantness will be in future avoided. In reference to the appointment of "Mormons" to public school positions, this is its latest utterance:

"If a Mormon can be found who by education, experience and ability displayed as a teacher and manager of schools is qualified for the place, he will have no criticism from the Tribune touching his fitness for the place, but we do not want someone with only a smattering of education, and with no claims for the place except the necessity of rewarding him for services rendered to his creed."

We are pleased to be able for once to agree fully with the Tribune on this important matter. We heartily endorse what it says on this point, and will pass by its announcement that "this is the difference between the Tribune and the 'News,' as an exhibition of natural chagrin at the trouble it has brought upon itself, by its inexcusable attacks which have been so thoroughly defeated, ignoring its unpleasant remarks, we will join in its sentiment, which we hope will be remembered by all its readers, that "we want simply a fair field and the best man every time to win."

The day has been most delightful for the ceremonies and pleasures of the occasion.

What the country needs is not a wireless system of telegraphy, but a wireless system of politics.

A QUESTION OF HEREDITY.

A very important conclusion as to heredity, has been reached by a committee of British scientists, appointed for the purpose of investigating whether heredity is sometimes transmissible to the habits of parents or ancestors. The committee was selected by the London Medical society and consisted of five physicians, two surgeons, a professor of bacteriology, an army surgeon and five general practitioners. They spent sixteen months investigating the various points involved, and their conclusion was that a craving for intoxicants is never transmitted from parents to children.

This is contrary to a general impression. Many hold that children of intemperate ancestors of necessity inherit a depraved taste for liquor. But the report of the commission flatly denies this. It declares that there is no evidence in the entire human history, that acquired characters of any kind are heritable. The testimony of physiology, biology, and botany is to the effect that "no instance of the hereditary trans-

mission of an acquired taste or characteristic has ever been demonstrated either in the animal or the vegetable kingdom."

It is, of course, not denied that excessive indulgence on the part of parents has a detrimental influence upon the offspring. They are liable to have children weak in mind and feeble in body. But that is an entirely different question.

If the conclusion reached is well founded in fact, it fastens the responsibility for bad habits just where they belong—on the individual that has acquired them. He cannot escape under the cover of ancestral sins. Each one has to be responsible for his own acts. His free agency is not curtailed to the extent many have believed.

The question of heredity and responsibility is one that occupies the thinkers of the age. It has been made to appear that man is but a puppet in the hand of fate, his actions the result of the operation of natural laws, unchangeable, immutable. It has been made to appear that the drunkard and the thief and the murderer but follow the mandate of the law of heredity, and are no more responsible than is the stone for falling to the ground, at the bidding of the law of gravitation. The view is incompatible with the prevailing belief in a free agency, and responsibility. It is contradicted by the consciousness of guilt by every rational being, when a wrong has been committed, and a sense of satisfaction at the performance of a duty. To many it is impossible to harmonize heredity with responsibility, and they seem to have no choice but to reject the one or the other as inconsistent with facts.

Today the force of pre-natal influences seems to go against evidences of the most convincing character. The condition and appetites of the mother must surely have a powerful effect upon the offspring. Both over-indulgence and the lack of gratification appear to act upon the unborn babe, to be manifested as time brings the growth and development of the human being thus affected.

Investigation in this field is much needed. Only by thorough research can the existing difficulties be cleared up. In all probability it will be found that the law of heredity operates more to the benefit than the detriment of the human race. It was long ago declared that the sins of parents are visited upon children, under certain conditions, to the third or fourth generation, while blessings are conferred upon thousands on account of righteousness in ancestors. If this has any practical bearing upon the question it places all men very nearly on an equal footing. For if children inherit traits at all, they inherit good traits from many generations back, and evil tendencies only from a few generations. Each one has, then, enough noble inheritance where-with to combat the opposite. Each one is in a position to work out his own salvation and to bequeath to posterity an inheritance of virtue and righteousness. Man may not be responsible for any bad tendency he has inherited, but he is certainly not without guilt, if he neglects to use the power to do good that has been transferred to him, or other means given for his salvation. If he really has the power to do good, but chooses evil, he is responsible for that choice, and the consequences thereof.

LIFTON'S CHALLENGER.

Kansas City Star.
 There will be general regret in the United States over the accident to Sir Thomas Lifton's challenger. It is to be hoped that it can be repaired in time, so that the races may take place later in the year. But the sympathy for the unfortunate would exist even if no international competition were imperiled. Sir Thomas has proved himself a thorough sportsman in his attempt to win the America's cup. His attitude throughout has done much to obliterate the disagreeable impression left by the last challenger, the Earl of Donrazen, who showed himself a thorough and in his dealings with the New York Yacht club.

Kansas City World.
 The squall that wrecked the challenger may be responsible for the postponement of the cup race for the present year, and even if the British boat is repaired in time to take part in the race, there will be a feeling that the Englishman is not getting "a run for his money." Americans who have neither interest in the international yacht race nor concern about shipbuilding, will regret knowing that a foreman who has demonstrated the thoroughbred qualities that Lifton has evidenced is handicapped by an accident. And those who recognize in the cup races a stimulant to American shipping and the spirit of nationalism will enter very much into the feeling of regret for the gallant challenger, who has spared neither money nor time in his efforts to put a boat in the race that will be worthy of the stake.

SACRAMENTO RECORD-UNION.

Well, well, ill luck still attends Yachtman Lifton. Yesterday his cup-challenger was fairly blown out of the water and her "sticks" ripped out and sent overboard by a stout and exceedingly sudden squall. He had the king of Great Britain on board and the royal ruler had a narrow call for his life. Lifton may yet have to take our advice and employ a Yankee to go over and build him a yacht that will sail without endangering the lives of all on board. In the meantime we will keep

repetition of any crime eventually makes the people callous to it.

A French general riding beside the German emperor after the latter reviews the household guard is an event of world-wide importance, for it shows that France is becoming somewhat, be it ever so little, reconciled to the results of the Franco-Prussian war. It augurs well for the peace of the world.

If the America's cup can only be defended by a yacht absolutely under the control of the New York Yacht club, and not by any American built boat, then the American people will not be as intensely interested in it as they have been. They had thought it was an American affair and not merely a New York affair.

The Westminster Gazette, commenting on the Supreme Court's decisions in the insular cases, declares that the Monroe doctrine is in danger. If that be so then Uncle Sam will have to take something to ward the danger off, a few of the Antilles and other West India islands now held by European powers might answer the purpose.

A resolution has been introduced at the convention of the Western Labor Union providing that the union shall enter actively into politics. The resolution cites the success of the labor party movement in Montana and proposes the organization of a labor party in each of the western states. There is also talk among the delegates of extending the union throughout the country. No action on the resolution was taken, but it should be promptly rejected. The aim of the resolution is, no doubt, to get control of a powerful industrial organization for the purpose of using it to further the political ambitions of its leaders. Political parties should be based on political principles and not upon special organizations.

A pleasing feature of the day's observance was the dedication of the monument to Elder John Morgan. His brother missionaries and all who contributed to the memorial, could not have chosen a more fitting time to show their regard for his worth. For he was not only a valiant warrior in the army of saviors of men, but was a gallant soldier in the Union army and was both morally and physically courageous. He is held in tender esteem by the Saints, and in respect and honor by many people in the South and other parts of the country, who knew him as a brave, strong and brilliant man, of exceptional talents and unswerving integrity to the cause to which he was devoted. He lives forever in the memory of the just.

The case of Lieut. Townley at Manila shows what queer ideas of conduct become an officer and a gentleman some people have. He substantially admits the charge against him—that of soliciting a bribe—but he pleads in abatement that he did this to help a friend officer out of trouble. Devotion to a friend and brother officer is a noble trait when nobly indulged, but it can never justify the commission of a crime. What it calls for is self-sacrifice, but there is no self sacrifice in soliciting army contractors to contribute to a fund to make good an officer's shortage, when the contractors expect to recoup themselves by a less stringent and watchful examination of their work. Lieut. Townley's intentions may have been good, but his manner of carrying them out was thoroughly bad.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the June number of The International Monthly, Hugo Munsterberg writes about "The American Woman," from a German point of view. "The Encroachment of the American College Upon the Field of the University," is the subject of a paper by Simeon E. Baldwin. Richard M. Meyer concludes his "German Criticism." "The Declaration of Rights of 1789" is discussed by Andre Lebou, while Carl von Noorden considers "The Principles of Modern Dietetics, and their Importance in Therapeutics." The remaining papers are the following: "Railway Alliance and Trade Districts of the United States," by Charles H. Hall; "The Literature of Expansion," Charles A. Conant; "Two Works on Decorative Art," Russell Sturgis, and "Up from Slavery," Mr. Booker T. Washington's Autobiography, Harry Thurston Peck, —148 College St., Burlington, Vermont.

COUNT VON WALTERSSEE IS ABOUT TO RE-ENTER FROM PEKIN.

He has had a most difficult place to fill and he seems to have filled it with tact and good judgment. There is nothing more difficult than to bring a lot of troops of various nations together and place them under a common commander. There can never be complete subordination. Nor is that all. Jealousies, prejudices and ambitions are ever at work to bring about disruption. And the allies at Pekin were no exception. Gen. Waldersee handled the situation well. When it was first proposed to place an international commander over the troops in China, Emperor William first sounded all the nations interested and having found them favorable he had the great tact to invite France to name a general for the supreme command. This she declined to do, thus leaving the way open to him to name Von Waldersee. Gen. Waldersee's handling of the situation has fully justified his selection.

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