

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted.)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Editor.
Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.

(In Advance)
One Year \$2.00
Three Months75
One Month25
Sundays Edition, per Year \$2.00
Semi-Weekly, per Year \$2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE.

In charge of R. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, 100 N. W. Cor. 10th
St., 100 Park Row Building, New York

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

In charge of F. J. C. Cooper, 75 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed to
the Editor.

Address all business communications
and all remittances
to THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice at Salt Lake
City as second class matter, June 15, 1879,
under Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 9, 1905

A WISE MOVEMENT.

Some of the prominent ladies in this city are advocating the strict enforcement of the curfew law, and a change in the age limit extending it to sixteen years, or even higher. With the first part of their movement we fully agree. It is notorious that the law is not enforced, but that many little boys and some little girls roam the streets at night to a late hour, without check or hindrance. The curfew bill has long ceased to toll as a warning to juveniles to hurry to their homes as quickly as possible; but a whistle is sounded at 9 p. m., which answers the same purpose, but it is very much like a dead-letter law, that reposes on the statute book but is seldom waked into active execution.

There is no reason why this should be so. It is wrong and a shame to our city that children should be permitted to defy or ignore the curfew ordinance, and thus grow up under a lawless spirit or a feeling of utter indifference in regard to the regulations of the city. By calling official attention to this matter, the ladies will perform a public service, one that will be of benefit to many a home and family.

As to the other part of the proposition we are somewhat in doubt. It might be a good thing to extend the provisions of the law to reach boys and girls of the age of fourteen years, but beyond that we are of the opinion it would not be practicable or be endorsed by the majority of our citizens. It is very true that too many young folks are allowed to walk the streets at night, especially young girls without a chaperone, and during school terms especially they ought to be in their beds, resting body and brain, so as to be able to meet the demands upon the mind and the constitution which daily studies involve.

Whatever may be done or neglected to be done in the way of amended law or ordinance in this respect, it is really necessary that parents should pay stricter attention to this subject and exercise a surveillance over their sons and daughters, which would curb the evil complained of and be of great benefit to their offspring. It would in many instances save much trouble to the parents, if not shame to the household. We hope the ladies will press their resolutions and continue their work until that which they have in view is accomplished, to the extent that would be prudent and practical. At any rate, let the curfew law be enforced!

A "CHRISTIAN" DEFAMER.

A puerile little local scolding calling itself a "Christian Advocate," which obtains no support worth mentioning in these parts, either moral or financial, but which is hired by certain ministers to print nasty things about the "Mormons" for outside consumption, has an article headed "Still Teaching Mormonism in the Public Schools." We here quote a couple of sentences, which are quite sufficient to show the animus and wilful untruth of this alleged Christian publication:

"The Mormon Church is still teaching its creed in the public schools. We demand that the un-American practices be stopped in every shape and form."

Everybody in this State who is acquainted with the facts, knows that this statement and demand contain a double falsehood. First, not only is there no teaching of the "Mormon" or any other religious creed in the public schools at present, but there has been none in the past. We believe that the writer of that untruthful paragraph knows as well as any one else that what we say is absolutely correct. Such teaching is and has been forbidden by law, and a teacher who would permit or engage in such an unlawful practice would be liable to prosecution.

If the editor of the wretched publication with so false a title really means what he says, when he makes "demand" for the stopping of the "un-American practices," he speaks of, why does he not cite some case of infraction of the laws, that the offender may be proceeded against, or what would be still more to the point, make a complaint himself or give information to the public prosecutor, and thus do something in earnest to stop the lawlessness "in every shape and form"? If he does not proceed to do one or the other, he stands a self-confessed fabricator of shameful untruth.

In the same issue of his mendacious paper he prints a number of stories which he alleges are "facts concerning four Mormon women," which are evidently concocted by the writer himself and show a prudent mind and a depraved heart. He gives no names, or places, or dates to identify his terrible tales, and we challenge him to prove the truth of his statements, or bear the brand of infamy which should be placed on the brow of a professed

"Christian" who bears false witness against his neighbor.

We give this brief notice of the miserable little dribble of mendacity with a Christian title, at the request of persons who appear to think enough of it to be indignant at its endeavors to cast reproach upon a church and a people that are too far above his alleged mind for him to comprehend. Failing in that, however, he might at least be decent, if that is possible for a person of his calibre.

DOING GOOD WORK.

The Denver Post recently had a very interesting article giving an account of an interview with John P. Meakin, of this city, accompanied by his portrait. He is mentioned as a noted lecturer and a dramatic reader, and his criticism of the National Mothers' club for sending a petition to Washington with two million signatures, protesting against the seating of Senator Smoot, is characterized as vigorous and forcible. In the course of conversation with the representative of the Post he said, as reported in that paper:

"The Mormons come nearer to being Christians than many who profess to follow the footsteps of the Nazarene," continued Mr. Meakin.

"I have known Reed Smoot from boyhood—in fact was raised with him and therefore know whereof I speak when I declare he is clean. He has never been a polygamist, nor does he believe in polygamy; he has never broken a national, state or moral law. It is impossible to find a cleaner man than Reed Smoot. He never smoked a cigar or used tobacco in any form; never tasted whisky or beer, and never played cards or gambled at any time."

Prof. Meakin gave some pertinent facts and figures in regard to the decline of the polygamous relationship in Utah, and showed how it would naturally become extinct in the course of another fifteen or twenty years. Referring to the subject of political influence by the Church he said:

"Since the present president, Joseph F. Smith, has been in power, the Church has not dabbled in politics at all. It is due to the credit of President Smith that that Church has been divorced from politics."

Mr. Meakin while lecturing in the interest of the fraternal orders with which he is associated, has done some excellent work in the way of correcting popular fallacies concerning the "Mormon" people. One of these is that Senator Smoot is a polygamist, and the other that the President of the Church dictates and controls the politics of his people. The refutation of these falsehoods is good and timely work performed by the professor, and we congratulate him on the influence he carries and the effects of his sound reasoning and eloquent oratory.

JOURNALIST IN EXILE.

Mr. Emil Oppfer, a noted Danish journalist who is at present in this city, some time ago visited the Latter-day Saints colonies in Mexico. He travels around the world, gathering information concerning his emigrated fellow-countrymen and endeavors to interest them in the progress of the Old Country. In the fulfillment of this patriotic mission, he went to Mexico, and is now traveling through the United States. Mr. Oppfer is a man of excellent education and independent thought. When the oriental war broke out, he was one of the very few Danish journalists who dared to denounce Russian tyranny and predict its fall, and so pronounced was he in his views that he was exiled from his native country, by the government which, of course, is very friendly to the Czar.

Mr. Oppfer, in a letter to a widely circulated Danish journal, speaks very highly of the Danish settlers in the Mormon colonies in Mexico, and of the Saints there generally. He says in part: "The Mexican government is well pleased with them, because they have cultivated the soil and imported better horses, cattle, wagons and implements than were known formerly in that part of the country. The Mormons are industrious, and the Mexican inspector who during the first years visited the colony reported to the government that the country had during the last three years, since the arrival of the Mormons, advanced more than it had done during 150 years previous to that event."

Mr. Oppfer will find many of his countrymen in Salt Lake City and other settlements in Utah. Some are members of the Church. Others are not. But, as a rule, they are intelligent, good citizens in comfortable circumstances. They are sincerely devoted to the institutions of their adopted home, but they also fondly cherish the memory of their faithful native country, and take an interest in its progress. We are sure they will appreciate the visit of the noted journalist and traveler.

ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT.

The American consul at Hongkong has requested the viceroy to prohibit an anti-American mass meeting which it was proposed to hold in that city. The Chinese official is said to be indifferent in the matter. And why should he not assume that attitude? Not long ago Americans in this country held an anti-Chinese mass meeting on the Pacific coast. Suppose the Chinese consul in San Francisco should have registered a protest, would the governor have taken any notice of it? We believe this country will have to become reconciled to a change of policy in the treatment of the Chinese. There will have to be less partiality. The Chinese are coming to the front, under Japanese direction. The maneuvers of 40,000 Chinese troops, a short time ago, was an indication that in time half a million Chinese soldiers, similarly armed and drilled, will be at the command of the Chinese government, with perhaps another half a million in reserve. We should not wait till China becomes a strong military power, to accord to her the rights we claim for ourselves in China. The recent murder of American missionaries at Luenchow proves that there is a strong anti-American feeling which can be easily excited by mob leaders. We may have to modify our Chinese exclusion laws, in order to remove this ob-

stacle to American trade and the progress of American civilization in the Chinese empire.

And now for the Christmas News!

For an off year it was mighty interesting.

It is the day after election that is the time of excitement.

Mr. Hearst has proven one thing—that he must be reckoned with in future.

Count Serge Witte is standing like a stone wall between Russia and anarchy.

It will take time for the Russians to learn the difference between liberty and anarchy.

The fact is that the Czar is granting his people privileges faster than they can digest them.

What changes in the congressional elections next year the results of Tuesday's elections portend.

Wherever voting machines were used they proved a great success. It is the only up-to-date way of voting.

Anti-American feeling continues to grow stronger in Canton. The stronger it grows the sooner it will get through with it.

What an impetuous New York's vote for municipal ownership will give the demand for railroad rate legislation! They are kindred subjects.

"Drop politics and work," is Governor-General Wright's advice to the Filipinos. It is also good advice for the people of Salt Lake and every other city in the Union.

Red-top boots for boys are said to be coming into fashion again. There never was a genuine boy who did not find the happiest moment of his life to be the one when he got his first pair of red-top boots.

Java and Arabia export only 137,000 pounds of coffee a year. The United States alone uses annually twenty times that amount of Java and Mocha. In a famous phrase of the day, "Where did he get it?"

John S. Partridge was not elected mayor of San Francisco, but he said some most excellent things during his campaign. Never did man strike home a greater truth than this when he said: "The man who grafts is not a Republican; he is not a Democrat; he is not a Labor Union man; he is not a Socialist; he's just a plain thief."

The "News" again takes pleasure in reminding the public of the charity ball to be given this evening for the benefit of indigent patients of the St. Marks' hospital. The ball will be held at the new Armory. There should be a large turnout for so commendable an object.

If Mr. W. R. Hearst's contention that he was defeated at the polls by fraud and chicanery shall prove to be true, he will have the support and sympathy of every honest man in the country. His views on municipal government are a very minor matter compared with assaults on the popular form of government. And if Mayor McClellan becomes convinced that Mr. Hearst's contention in the matter of frauds against him and the electorate is true, there is no reason to doubt but that he will promptly surrender the office to him. It would be the only course for a high-minded and honest gentleman to take. And Mr. McClellan is that.

HEAVEN OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

Leslie's Weekly. The municipality of Freiburg, Germany, is the granddaddy of the public ownership idea, for it owns and runs about everything in town, from the usual public utilities to the pawnshop, insurance business, cemetery, theater, restaurants and the daily paper. The best part of this unique plan is that every department turns over a profit yearly to the city treasury. Only the schools and the theater are non-supporting—both educational institutions. You can hear the opera for 9 cents and get a supper afterward for 5 cents. The people are happy, and can you blame them? Wish New York was a Freiburg. The words "graft" and "politician" are unknown.

THE SAME OLD ARGUMENT.

Pueblo Chieftain. The old argument of kings was that the people were not competent to rule themselves, and therefore some one should be selected by "divine right" to rule the people and fix his own price for doing so. The argument of the modern corporation managers is practically the same.

CHINA AND THE MISSIONARIES.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. There is no connection between the recent assault upon Admiral Train of the United States navy by a mob of Chinamen and the resurgence of Boxerism which, in another part of the empire, took the form of murdering American missionaries and burning mission buildings; but the two combined serve to emphasize the peculiar position of China in the family of nations and to suggest unpleasantly that the masses of the Chinese people have absorbed none of the hatred and distrust of the "foreign devils" and are not prepared to "follow the white man's road" on which their government seems willing to set out.

Springfield Republican.

These recent incidents emphasize with redoubled force the necessity for early action by Congress in modifying our exclusion laws and in placing our treaty relations with China upon a firm basis of justice and friendship. President Roosevelt in his recent Atlanta speech struck the true keynote of American policy in saying that this country, in its dealings with the Orient, "should take the lead in establishing international relations on the same basis of honest and upright dealing which we regard as essential as between man and man."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The November number of the Improvement Era has the following excellent list of contents: "Life of St. Paul for the Young—I-IV. By George L. Weed; The Mormon Boy at College," Prof. Osborne Widste; "The Prayer," A Poem, J. L. Townsend;

"The Courtship of Kanosh," a story, Susan Young Gates; "Peace," a poem, C. Clark; "The Truth Shall Make You Free," William Hall; "A Trip to Nauvoo," G. A. Gamble; "Topics of Moment—The New Treaty—Enlarged Freedom in Russia," Dr. Jos. M. Tanner; "Love's Carriage," a poem; "Editor's Table—A Spiritual Feast—Conference Benediction," President Jos. P. Smith; "Volume Nine Era—Questions and Answers—" "Convictions and Fines of the 'Rube,'" A. Milton Musser; New Publications: Reorganized Church vs. Salvation for the Dead—Outlines of Mormon Philosophy. "Notes," "In Lighter Mood," "Our Work—Class Methods," Dr. George H. Brimhall; "Obstacles," George Albert Smith; "Splendid Organizations—Annual Field Day Committee, and Events and Comments, Edward H. Anderson—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

In the November number of Human Life, Mr. Lewis begins the first of a series of articles of unusual interest, being his own personal experience with various public men while engaged in newspaper work at Washington. Other leading articles are "Football Situation this Fall," by Walter Camp; and "Our Militant Life Insurance," by Will Payne—Human Life Pub. Co., 18 Bedford St., Boston.

The Western Home Seeker is a new literary venture, published at Missoula, Mont. The first number contains many articles that should be of value to the class of readers, for which the magazine, in the first place, is intended. It has also several fine illustrations. The fact that several Indian reservations are to be opened up soon, is reported for this new indication, it is announced, but the publication will also be devoted to other subjects. It should have a wide field, because many American citizens are very much interested in the western part of the country.—Missoula, Montana.

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"MIDNIGHT IN CHINATOWN."

VOLCANIC, DRAMATIC CYCLOPE!
EVERY ACT A SENSATION!
VISIT THE OPIUM DEN!
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Beginning Next Week, "NEVEDA."

Babies in arms not admitted to any performance.

Night Prices—25c, 50c, 75c, Matinees—25c.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Giles Mercantile Agency and the American Mercantile and Reporting Agency have consolidated and business will hereafter be conducted under the name of The Giles-American Mercantile Agency, 2001 1st the business will be located at 401 to 411 E. Walker Bldg. (top floor). Phone, 350 for reports and 222 for collections.

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TEA
"Wasn't it dreadful?"
"Yes."
"Did she know it?"
"Probably not."

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\$2.80 NEW SHIRT WAIST SUITS \$2.80

They are just in, and every one is thoroughly up-to-date in style, finish and fabric. A beautiful line, made of mercerized sateen, dark colors—blues, browns and grays—in checks and figures; also a handsome plain black. They should be priced \$3.50 and \$4.00, but to introduce them we will place them in one lot and offer you your choice on Friday or Saturday at..... **\$2.80**

'Twould be folly for any Lady who wants a Shirt Waist Suit to Miss This Extraordinary Opportunity

FLANNELETTE GOWN SPECIAL.

For the business of these two days, we are making some remarkable reductions in the prices of our pretty Night Gowns, made of Flannelette, fancy embroidered. Just think of it—then come and buy.

A \$6.00 Gown for \$2.75
A 4.00 Gown for 1.90
A 2.25 Gown for 1.10

We haven't so many but what we should urge you to come early.

\$1.50 BLACK TAFFETA SILK AT \$1.00 A YD.

It is 36 inches wide. We cannot say "All Week" for this item, for we are not sure that we will have enough of it to last so long. It is such a stable fabric and one which every woman knows the true value of, that it is sure to move rapidly at the price quoted. A regular \$1.50 quality of 36-inch Black Taffeta Silk to be sold while it lasts **\$1.00** at a yard.....

ALL HATS TRIMMED FREE THIS WEEK.

We believe there are many women in Salt Lake who have either an old hat shape or some once-used trimmings, but not both, who would like to have a hat made up. Those who have the trimmings need only buy a shape; those who have a shape need only buy the trimmings, here this week—and we "will do the rest." Free. Maybe it will happen that you have neither shape nor trimmings; in which event, if you will buy them here, then we will make the hat according to your order, and charge nothing for our labor. But please remember that this Offer Only Holds Good

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BARRATT HALL, FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 8:15 P.M.