

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
 LORENZO SONN, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.
 PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
 OFFICE: 100 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
 CHARLES W. PETERSON, Editor.
 HERBERT G. WATKINS, Business Manager.

Subscription prices.

Rate	Per Annum	Per Month
Single copy	10¢	10¢
Three months	2.50	83¢
Six months	4.50	75¢
One year	8.00	66¢
Foreign, per year	10.00	83¢
Post paid	11.00	91¢

Correspondence and other reading matter should be addressed to the Editor.
 Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 24, 1899.

THE GEORGIA LANCING.

The moonlighting story about the murder in Georgia of the negro, Sam Hays, again reminds this country of the necessity of the enactment in the several States, of laws prohibiting the most violent practice for such outrages. To stop lynching, it is not enough to have a vigorous prosecution of that class of criminals to which the negro is said to have belonged. It is as important as the law, however, to have a satisfactory law to the mob, when carried away with savage instincts. Law or no law, they simply proceed to satisfy their thirst for blood.

This is entirely demonstrated in the latest atrocity. Not only did the frenzied mob force their victim in a manner of which old-time cannibals would have been ashamed, but they also fought for grim "satisfaction" of the horrible deed. And there are indications that the atrocity has not yet been appeased. On the alleged "confession" of the victim, an old man, a speaker, is highlighted in the crime, the mob, and, in fact, it seems, is to be made the central figure in a tragedy.

The Atlanta Constitution, anticipating the storm of indignation that will sweep the country from one end to another, when the details of the lynching become known, draws a vivid picture of the murder of the man Crawford and the assault upon his wife, but, unfortunately for the argument, the act of the mob has deprived the world of the legal opportunity of judging the facts. Had the criminal been brought to trial, the evidence might have been given, and his guilt might have been established. The Atlanta paper may pardon the public, for a refusal to accept as evidence the statements of the avenger that cut and slashed the chains south-entrances, and, in fact, the very fact of the lynching.

Lynchings have been called a blot upon American civilization. They are more than that. They are stains that show the stain in the body politic of a horrible disease, which must be eradicated or result disastrously. They are a form of anarchy, the mob usurping the power delegated to the lawful authorities. In most countries, such proceedings would be regarded as a crime, and the ring-leaders would be treated accordingly. In this country, law, lynchings must be stopped, if we intend maintaining our position among the civilized nations of the world.

Once in a while a foolish effort is made to enact laws against the mobocracy that usurps the functions of the courts. This Governor Moore, in Illinois, recently recommended to the legislature of that State, a measure making counties in which mob rule prevails liable to the relatives of the victims. This was for the purpose of making it a question, whether the "slave problem" is finally solved. Possibly a national action is required, to the effect that the Illinois made free shall also share with their fellowmen the privilege of equality before the law.

THEY ARE "ALIENS."

We are told by an alleged local expert on history—particularly that of Finland—that the Russian government, of late years, has been endeavoring to win the confidence of Finland, because "in power, no matter how strong, can afford to have within its boundaries an alien people."

But this is not all. The government had to "wangle" the Jews, too, because "they do not give their full allegiance to the Czar." In other words, they are traitors. We hope Finlanders, and all those of the Finnish faith will notice the high estimation in which they are held by the expert, unbiassedly after the most thorough research. The Hebrews, particularly, should note the verdict that their countrymen, in Russia, are traitors. For if they are traitors in Russia, they are such here, as in whatever country they may reside, so long as they faithfully adhere to the God of their fathers.

As to Finland, it is not without interest to recall the fact that Alexander I solemnly promised, for himself and heirs, to respect the constitution of the country, and that the father of the present Czar, Alexander III, was the instrument in a liberal direction, delegating to the Diet the right of initiative in legislation. So much did these emperors care to have within the boundaries of their empire, that they even made as applied to Finland—the "alien" people of that country.

It may also be pertinent to state that the Finlanders have always proved themselves loyal to their ruler. They have furnished some of the best troops to the army and the most faithful sailors to the navy. Finland carried away many laurels in the war with Turkey, she is now one of Russia's allies. But the present war, we are greatly told, has discovered that the Finlanders are an "alien" race. Americans should not be "blinded" by the propaganda of the "Finlanders" for "democratic" values. At least, that is the sentiment of a paper, which ever since its inception has been bent on the denationalizing business in a small way.

DECLINE OF BELIEF.

The decline of the so-called Christian religion throughout the country is a subject causing anxiety to many a thoughtful mind. And well it may. For it is known that a community from which religion is banished, is a community, wretchedly declining both morally and physically.

That the decline of religion, particularly in our rural communities, is a subject, outside of the time, "There are times," is asserted, "where no church is found, where no children grow to manhood unchristianized, where the community where the dead are laid away without the benediction of the house of Christ, and where marriage is not solemnized by the rites of the church."

The decline of religion in the cities is not less apparent. On the subject Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, in the Independent of April 15th, has some timely and pointed remarks. He points out that the "city Christian" as a rule is not strong enough to hold his own ground. The city "pushes the non-believer under his eyes on Sunday morning, and he is not strong enough to 'will to turn his eyes away.' A fifteen-cent drop in the price of his seat, and he remains away from evening worship. There is a decline in prayer-meeting attendance, and his seat is vacant."

He has noticed that many of these "city Christians" are anxious to keep engagements to society and business, but they have no conscience whatever concerning the duties, they owe to their church. As far as concerns the duties of church-membership, they are non-committal and blind. "They are caught in the evil of city life and carried hither and thither by its swift, flowing currents, and, before they are aware of it, their church life is reduced to a perfunctory and desultory attendance on duties which are light Sunday mornings."

Mr. Jefferson clearly shows the outcome of this important decay of religion. He is aware that the church today lacks "the one quality for which the Lord looks and waits." "City Christians" should stand like rock, looking back the determined moral and industrial forces. "Nothing but rock," he explains, "will save New York and Chicago, Boston and San Francisco from the fate of Babylon and Gomorrah."

No one can successfully deny the truth here so forcibly set forth. Has the people no part in the responsibility for the condition complained of? To any man at all familiar with the Christian religion, it is plain that a "Christian" ministry without divine authority is a farce. What would a farce be worth for without proper credentials? The ministers of today deny the possibility of obtaining direct divine authority, and yet they profess to be ambassadors of Christ; they claim to have a divine mission, but when asked to deliver it, they only look for the most profitable market in which to exhibit their wares, and then, their sermon being secured, the message is no longer theirs.

To be sure, they give lectures, eloquent discourses, learned dissertations, sometimes upon social topics and sometimes upon religious subjects. They tell their hearers of divine messages delivered centuries ago, often in a lofty and sometimes in an edifying and instructive manner, but as to their own divine mission, that which the people have a right to expect from men claiming to be divine ambassadors, is never delivered, and if the "ministers" are pressed hard on that point, as likely as not they will turn against the honest inquirer and denounce him as a crank, a heretic, a fraud, or a villain.

THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

New York World.
 An agent of the government just returned from Cuba, reports that the only sentiment he found there in favor of annexation to the United States was that of the Cuban people, who are property-holders. The thousands of Cuban people who have preferred the independence of their race, but have that done for their own American government rather than that the Cuban people, with their large uneducated class, are not likely to accept it. They are not likely to accept it, unless they are given the security of property and the prospect of a future.

New York Evening Sun.
 The people of Havana are taking kindly to the rule of the American military, and are according the situation, however as it undoubtedly is to the benefit of its people, with the Cuban people, who are property-holders. Military occupation is never popular, and it is so much less so in Cuba than in any other part of the world. It is in the Cuban people, and their confidence in the design of the American government that makes military occupation in Cuba less distasteful than it would be otherwise.

Springfield Republican.
 Some difference of opinion appears as to whether annexation is desirable if the Cuban desire it, but there is a solid phalanx of conviction that the Cuban must not receive from his plagues. "This is not an open question," says George Christie, with emphasis, "the honor of the United States is pledged to Cuba to be independent."

Los Angeles Express.
 Within the short time it will probably prove that the United States will withdraw the forces from Cuba, and leave the islanders to their own devices. They have had a slight taste of civilization which they may or may not desire to retain. Twenty years ago the hard lessons that a few years of experience with their own style of life have given to bring them to American ideas. That Cuba will ultimately become part of the United States seems almost a foregone conclusion, and perhaps the shortest mile to that consummation lies through an experiment in complete independence.

THE PEAKSHEEP.

Chicago Times-Herald.
 In the event of Mr. Reed's retirement, the probability of general consensus would seem to be the West for several reasons. It is pointed out that the Peaksheep membership of 100,000 in the next General assembly will be the largest in the history of the Peaksheep. The Peaksheep will be the largest in the history of the Peaksheep. The Peaksheep will be the largest in the history of the Peaksheep.

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sometimes they are manufactured out of "cotton," and very many such at that.

The threats of violence when coupled with impudence are too pitiful to excite wrath, and they are beneath notice so silly do they appear. The organs of malignity is also the expression of hostility. The fangs are gone and it can only gnash, like a lame and threatened thunder.

Editorials in the anti-Mormon "organ" this morning are of such a rabid and irrational character that the writer exhibits symptoms of lunacy and that of a somewhat dangerous type. A medical examination would be in order. Is it delirium tremens or softening of the brain?

We notice that the Ogden Standard is still out with the offer of \$100 for those "abundant proofs" of recent polygamy cases which have been handed about. The Standard does not seem likely to suffer great monetary loss. However it is having a "heap of fun" out of the author of the hoax.

Another gigantic trust has snatched an industry in its grasp. It is now the copper trust, and it is international in character. We are living in an age in which industrial conditions are built upon the principle of individual competition, while at the same time trusts make such competition impossible. How long can this continue without causing a revolution?

American good sense is shown in Cuba by the thousands inaugurated there for the thorough restoration of the country, notwithstanding the indifference of the natives. When military rules are enforced, roads built, schools erected and courts established, the people are in a good position to prove whether they are capable of self-government or not.

"Hark from the jungle a diabolical sound!" Instead of telling us what it means the organ that raised it asks us for an "explanation." No, thank you. We are not to be diverted by that kind of a tangent. Tell us what you mean and prove what you say, or stop the racket. We are not to "explain," let the complaints come on with the evidence, after a debate charge is preferred.

The Medical News calls attention to the fact that it is claimed that more than ten per cent of the soldiers and other birds that die in captivity succumb to tuberculosis, and that the question therefore has been raised of the possibility of infection from that source. The greatest living authority on tuberculosis in animals, demonstrated in some 200 successive autopsies on unselected dogs that died at the great veterinary school at Alfort, near Paris, that in more than one-half of the animals there were tubercular lesions, and in many of these the lesions were of such a character as to make them fatal and potent disseminators of infection to man.

It is known some times to have tuberculosis, and that they have in many cases been carriers of diphtheria and other ordinary infectious diseases, and indirectly to insure their propagation. It is known that this is necessary in the handling of pet animals.

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