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SALT LAKE CITY, . MARCH 17, 1900.

NOTICE.

The Seventleth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Friday, April 6th, 1990.

LORENZO SNOW, GEORGE O. CANNON. JOSEPH F. SMITH, First Presidency.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Seldom, if ever, has St. Patrick's day been celebrated with greater enthusiasm among the patriotic sons of Erin, than today. Recent events in the United Kingdom have made it a day of reconciliation and good will-the best possible tribute to the memory of Ireland's great "Saint."

St. Patrick is said to have been born in porthern Gaul of poble lineage; he was reared under Christian influence, his father being a deacon in the church. The year of his birth is placed at about 396 A. D. When fifteen years of age he was torn from his friends and home and carried a captive to Great Britain, where he was sold as a slave on the Irish coast. For six years he lived in bondage, tending cattle, but all the time contemplating the power and goodness of the Almighty. His servitude seems to have been to him what the years in the desert were to Moses, or the duties of the shepherd boy to the greatest of Israel's kings.

When an opportunity of escaping from the island came, the captive availed himself of it, and returned to the home of his childhood. But from that time he had an unconquerable desire to preach Christianity in Ireland. He consequently entered the service of the church and returned a bishop. It is said that the conversion of Ireland is one of the most remarkable incidents in ecclesiastical history. There was no conflict, no bloodshed. In a few years the entire people from being pagans became professed Christians.

In explanation of the significance of the shamrock it is told that St. Patrick used the leaf of that plant to illustrate the dectrine of the Trinity to a noble assemblage of Druids and rulers. Since then the leaf has been held almost sa-

The anniversary of the day will be celebrated by Irishmen in this city, the chief feature being the illustrated lecture in the Theater, by Father Cashman, of Chicago. His subject is Ireland. The lecture is to be interspersed with songs and music by the following local artists: Mr. H. S. Goddard, Miss Margery Webber, Master Roy Williams, Mrs. J. Hal Moore, Mr. George D. Pyper, Miss Sallie Fisher, Mrs. Richard Keenan and Miss Elsie Barrows.

The proceeds are to be for the benefit of the Kearns St. Ann's orphanage, and this noble cause cannot fail to draw a large house on an occasion like the

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The Bishop of the Thirteenth ward in this city held a general meeting of the Priesthood in his ward on Thursday evening from which much good may be anticipated. Among other matters pertinent to the occasion, the subject of the organization of the several quorums was considered.

Elders and members of the lesser Priesthood were instructed to connect themselves with their proper quorums, in cases where they had neglected to do so, and practical steps were taken in the meeting to effect this, which were eminently successful. The full attendance was very gratifying, and the excellent spirit prevailing augured well for the future progress of the ward.

We recommend this action to all the Bishops in this Stake of Zion. Every man holding the Priesthood should be known to the authorities of the ward where he resides, and his name should be enrolled on the ward record, and that of his proper quorum. Every member of the Church should be identified with the ward of residence. A certificate of membership should be taken from that ward in case of refusal.

These simple rules have been urged times without number. Church records should be made complete. They cannot be accurate unless members will comply with these simple requirements.

The clerks of the wards and of the quorums should confer together and work in harmony, so as to help each other in the recording of changes that occur from ordinations, removals, deaths, etc. Presidents of quorums should also keep track of these changes and report such as come under their observation to the clerks and other officers interested.

If the presiding officers of the wards ind other local organizations will make special efforts to get the people together, and arrange all Church affairs ander their jurisdiction in full work-ing order, more life will be felt, more with Spain and with Cuba, which forunder their jurisdiction in full work-

good will be done and the spirit that should animate every particle of "the body of Christ" will have free course, Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of | joy will abound and God will be glori-

LIBELLOUS ACCUSATIONS.

In overweening anxiety to exhibit acquaintance with the affairs of the Church, a contemporary frequently exposes itself to the derision of persons who understand Church doctrine and discipline. Statements are made which sometimes have a thin thread of truth, and at others are composed of an entire fabric of guesswork and falsehood.

A recent instance is an account of an alleged trial before the First Presidency of the "Mormon" Church. The details given are of a most scandalous character, such as ought not to be published, and are in some respects grossly libellous. Reference to them is made in another part of this paper, in justice to the gentleman who has been thus attacked in print, and who will probably take his own means of obtaining reparation.

It should be understood that the affairs of the Church are not proper subjects for secular interference, when they relate only to members of the Church in their religious standing. Also that there are regular Church tribunals before which such cases are investigated, and that in these all the parties are afforded ample opportunity to present their cause. But Church. members only have the right to appear as accusers or accused, or as witnesses, It is a Church affair wholly and entirely.

The "common Judge in Israel" is the Bishop of the ward where the accused person resides. He with his counselors sits as an ecclesiastical court and hears the case pro and con and with them renders a decision according to the evi-

An appeal may be taken from that de. cision of the High Council of the Stake of which that ward is a part, and all the parties to the first trial have the privilege to be present. This court is presided over by the Presidency of the Stake. The whole case is gone over, either on the minutes of the Bishop's court if acknowledged to be correct by the parties, or if necessary it is tried de novo. Six members of the council watch the proceedings for the accuser and six for the accused, to see that no injustice is done, and each party is allowed the same number of speakers, and, in addition, to state his or her own case, appear as a witness, and also plead for himself or herself. The President with his counselors renders the decision, which stands if sustained by a majority of the twelve High Priests forming the council.

This decision may be reviewed by the First Presidency, to whom the minutes of the trial are sent when required, and pression and in manner." Then the if error is discovered a new trial may be ordered. But the First Presidency does not sit as a trial court. The case which has been improperly paraded before the public has not been "under hearing" before that body either "with Blosed doors" or openly, nor has Apostle George Teasdale been "sitting as a judge in the case," as erroneously declared in the paper that has held up the matter so glaringly. Were it not for the injustice done to a prominent man in Cache county and the scandal thus promoted, its statements would be merely food for mirth.

Every facility is afforded in the Church courts to secure fairness and equity and bring out all the facts in any case under trial, and the financial, social, official or other status of the parties cuts no figure in arriving at truthful and just conclusions. There is no tribunal on earth where the humblest person is more certain of righteous and perfectly square treatment than in a "Mormon" High Council. Attempts to place them in another light are to be classed with the libellous charges that have recently been made against a prominent citizen of Cache county, and they should receive universal reproba-

PUERTO RICO'S APPEAL.

The Puerto Rico Bill is still the subject of a somewhat heated public discussion. The report now is that it is proposed to change the original provisions so as to charge a duty on merchandise coming from the island and destined for the United States, but admitting free of duty all merchandise from this country intended for Puerto Rico. It is maintained that even such distinction is unconstitutional. Puerto Rico is, by the treaty of peace, a part of the United States, and Congress has, it is said, no power to levy a tariff on any goods shipped from one part to another of the country.

But even if such power were by the Constitution conferred upon the national Legislature, it is self-evident that its exercise would be conditioned on expediency. The power to legislate is a power to confer benefits upon the greatest number concerned. There is no power vested in any body to by laws perpetrate poverty and distress upon a large population looking to this country for good government and justice.

The Puerto Ricans, themselves, therefore, must be heard on this question. And they have sent to Congress their views. They oppose the principle of a tariff between their Island and this country, because:

"Taxation on our exports means an embargo on our foreign commerce, and because curtailment of our commerce with the United States would lock up our products here and prevent us from gaining our legitimate proportion of profit on our productions. Do not mis-take the proposed Is per cent of the Dingley rates for a reasonable rate. It is a fact that no class of goods produced here from leaf tobacco will be taxed less than 25 per cent ad valorem, while one of the most important of this class will be taxed 160 per cent ad m under the bill adopted by the

House of Representatives." They conclude their argument by a

statement of the present condition: "The fact cannot be disputed that our people are in sore distress. All commerce is now hampered. The in-vestment of capital is stopped. Our farmers have not the means to plant or to gather their crops. Building and improving are impeded. Capital re-fuses to come here for investment in either manufacturing or agricultural pursuits, for the reason that the sov-ereignty of the United States over this

They then ask as a right in equity pray, give us a stone. We ask for an immediate decision."

It is a pity that so much time is consumed in trying to find a compromise measure on a matter upon which the American people cannot be seriously divided. While Congress is deliberating the Puerto Ricans are suffering. They need relief by speedy action of Congress -action indicated by the Constitution and the will of a great majority of the American people.

ST. HELENA.

St. Helens, the lonely island to which General Cronje and so many of his brave followers are to be deported. is situated in the South Atlantic ocean, about 1,200 miles west of Africa. It must not be supposed that the fate of the Boers there will be anything like that of Drevfus on the Devil's Island. On the contrary they will be cared for with due regard for the requirements of civilized warfare.

The Island has a good harbor, well fortified. Its coast is, besides, torn by numerous ravines which would permit the landing of a daring rescuing party, were it not for the vigilance of Great Britain's ships. The climate is said to be mild and salubrious, and the sojourn of the prisoners there should be a welcome change from the hardships of the African campaign. They are to be kept there, it is understood, until the close of hostilities, and as the outlook is at present, their term of confinement cannot be long.

CAUSED A SENSATION.

Newspapers in various parts of the country are commenting on the fact that some of the larger denominations are actually decreasing, or in a state of stagnation. But seldom have "Christian" ministers had the situation brought home to them with greater force than was the case last Monday night in San Francisco, when Rolla V. Watt, a prominent Methodist, read a paper before the Ministerial association, entitled "From the Pew."

As reported in the Call of March 13, he stated that after forty years of Methodism in San Francisco, there are less than 3,000 in that church, and less than 30,000 of all Protestant churches, out of a population of 200,000. Often, he said, the church treasury is empty and the bank account overdrawn, because "we provide for everything else before setting aside anything for God's work." He charged the ministers in the pulpit with "carelessness in thought, in exspeaker went for the nigh officials. He

"The bishops have almost despotic control of 18,000 Methodist preachers, fixing their places of residence and therefore approximately fixing their salaries. This autocratic power, which is sometimes used arbitrarily, is as a have the temerity to call the bishop to

Talk of despotism in the Church of Latter-day Saints! Hear Mr. Watt on the Methodists:

"There is in our church an aristoc-racy of officialism. These men hobnob together, confer with each other and in ects act as if they were the masters of the situation, and as a matter of fact they really are. The most dominant men in general conference are general conference officers. They largely shape and control legislation and, worst of all, pass upon their own

The speaker concluded as follows: "So long as the laity is careless of its obligations, personal service and money contributions; so long as the ciergy seek convenience and income; so long as official life is preferred to the ministry; so long as bishops shun a residence in a hard field because it is hard; so long as our religion does not make us different in motive; so long we have little reason to hope for progress. We are mutually responsible for the present situation. Unfortunately, there decay of faith, a decrease of vital godliness, of religion in the home. This fact we must recognize. If it were not so our church would not be living a miserable existence in this city after forty years of endeavor and losing ground everywhere."

The Call says the address created a sensation, and this is easy to believe, The Master himself created a sensation when He drove from the Temple ground those who had made merchandise of the ordinances of the Almighty. Modern churches are in no sense any cleaner than were the sacred precincts at that time, and any effort to set matters in order is sure to cause a sensation among those who continually cry, "Peace, peace!" although there is none.

The story of the cold wave in the Mississippi Valley this morning, causing the thermometer to reach one degree below zero at Chicago, is enough to cause a dweller in these higher altitudes to perspire with satisfaction at the better conditions here.

Cecil Rhodes speaks of every British general in the field who failed to relieve him in Kimberley, as "incompetent." It would be interesting to record those generals' opinion of Rhodes; for they, like the Boers, look on him as a chief source of the present trouble.

The London dispatches say considerable irritation exists there because friendly America made a suggestion for peace in South Africa, while unfriendly France did not. Perhaps it does not occur to the irritated classes that "a kick from a friend is better than a kiss from an enemy."

A Pittsburg dispatch says there is a mystery connected with the absolute disappearance of a furnaceman at Mc-Keesport. Since he was enveloped in about 300 tons of molten fron, there should be no surprise that his conversion into thin air was so effective as to render him invisible.

The most recent dirigible balloon is one invented by a Russian, Dr. K. Danilewsky, of Charkov, Those who have seen the experiments of the inventor, pronounce them a decided success. It is believed that a practical solution of the problem of air navigation has now been found.

It is not likely that Sir Thomas Lip-

merly took our exports at fair prices next year, since the Clasgow exhibition and enabled us to live." nanagers have requested him to withhold his challenge till 1902, and in the that free trade with the United States | meantime will give an international be given them. "We ask bread as a regatta that will afford opportunity for right from our mother. Do not, we testing new boats for the competition with American yachts.

The young man in Kenosha, Wis., who, at the risk of his own life and by suffering severe injuries himself, saved the high school building from destruction by fire, at the close of an oratorical contest Friday night, showed that he is composed of the stuff of which heroes are made. The Wisconsin town ought to give a substantial evidence of appreciation of his brave deed.

We notice in the New York Mail and Express that Mme. Mountford now is In that city. The Express says:

"Mme, Mountford will deliver Lenten ctures illustrative of life in Palestine, and Mr. Seward will bring his enthusi-asm for Christian unity into relation with this illumination of the life of Jesus. Mme. Mountford has had great success in making clear by her knowledge of Oriental life many phases of the beginnings of Christianity in Pales-

An announcement has now been made by Maurice Loewey, manager of the Paris observatory, that the map of the heavens on which work has been progressing for about ten years, is nearly completed. It will show in the neighborhood of 30,000,000 stars down to the fourteenth magnitude. What a change from the olden time, when Ptolemy counted a little over a thousand stars.

A kopje, says the New York Tribune. is not a hill so much as the stump of a hill-what is left of it after ages of denudation; but the special feature of it is that it is almost invariably covered with a breastwork of bowlders. Tropical torrents have washed away the earth and all the soluble components of the rock, and what is left consists of heaps and lines of detached masses of sandstone, ironstone, or

The establishment of a school of forestry by Yale university is an appreciable improvement. By the way, if western universities and agricultural colleges would take up a branch of instruction on the grasses suitable for the arid sections of the West, and their cuitivation and preservation, valuable results would be sure to follow. The preservation of grass ranges on mountain and plain is as important to the West as is the preservation of forests.

While "Christian" churches are declining, the so-called Christian Scientists are reporting much progress in this country and abroad. The organization now has, we are told, 394 charter churches, 80,000 enrolled members, and an active ministry of about 12,000, an especially large proportion of the whole body. One of the most striking indications of growth is the reported increase in the circulation of Mrs. Eddy's "Science of Health," which is the text book of Christian Science. Already nearly 200,000 copies have been disd. It is not difficult to see the handwriting on the wall,

This being St. Patrick's day, when green ribbon is much in evidence, the following story is apropos: In a Utah school one of the questions on geography was in regard to the races of men, and a little boy enumerated them as follows: "The Caucasian, or white race; the Negro, or black race; the Indian, or red race; the Mongolian, or yellow race; and the Irish, or green race." The native wit and well known valor of the sons of the Emerald Isle render them the very opposite of "green' 'in the slang sense of the word. May the "ould sod" however, always be green!

The publication of the book of Doctrine and Covenants in the Danish language, announced in another column, will be appreciated by our friends from Denmark and afford great satisfaction, As the work of translation has been done under the able supervision of Elder Anthon H. Lund, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, it will be recognized as correct and thoroughly reliable. It will be prized, not only here and in Scandinavia, but in every part of the world where our Danish speaking brethren and sisters dwell. We commend it to their consideration, and advise them to communicate with the business department of the Descret News and send in their orders early.

THE QUEEN'S IRISH VISIT.

Boston Herald.

We see nothing in the visit of the venerable Queen Victoria to Ireland but a gracious acknowledgement of her obligations to her Irish subjects. It may be said that this comes somewhat late, but it may be replied, better late than not at all. We do not understand that it is with a view to asking favors of the Irish people at present; the need for this, if there be any, has passed. t is rather as a recognition of common interests and faithful service on the part of Irish subjects. There may not he any especial enthusiasm aroused by the queen's presence; the tardy maner in which it has been accorded is likely to have its effect here; but it is fair to anticipate the respect from the Irish people which is due to her sex and her age as well as to her sover-

Springfield Republican. It is rather late in the reign of Vic-

toria to make another visit to Ireland, where she has spent a grand total of twelve days thus far in the sixty-three since her coronation. The for this visit is ea-sought, but nothing tre-us in international signifimerly cance can be attached to it. The queen alty by her venerable presence after an absence of about forty years from the island, and, at the same time, express her appreciation of the work of Irish soldiers in the war. If she can sweeten the feeling between English and Irish by the trip, it will be greatly to her

Worcester Gazette.

The party in power well knows that the mere sight of the old lady who for sixty-three years has been at the head of the world's mightlest empire, can effeet more than years of speechmaking and parliamentary explanations by ministers. The queen's proposed visit to Ireland has much the same end in ton will compete for the America's cup | compliment.

Z.G.M.I. Gloak Dept.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the March number of Cassell's an article on the Connaught Rangers, who are now at the front. Mr. Mal-colm Salaman contributes an apprecia-tion of Mr. W. S. Gilbert from long personal acquaintance. Another article treats on the guns in use in South Africa.-New York.

Mr. F. S. Robinson contributes an

article to The Magazine of Art for March upon the Queen's Clocks at Buckingham Palace. He says there is nothing in her majesty's London resi-dence of the same personal and his-toric interest as the Windsor clock, which Henry VIII gave to Anne Boleyn on her wedding morning, but there are several of most astonishing shape, to amuse those who are interested to trace the extreme developments of the Ro-callle and that pseudo-classic style rather incorrectly called that of the Empire. The design of some of these is outlandish enough to stagger more sophisticated observers than the sim-Sevigne wrote in 1675; "M. Boucherat was telling me the other day that priest had received in the presence of his parishioners a clock sent to him from France, as they describe it. They all began crying out in their language that it was the Gabelle" (a concrete and demoniacal presentment of the exsalt tax)—"that was plain The priest, equal to the occaenough. replied after the same style: 'Not at all, my children; you are all of you quite out. This is not the Gabelle-it is the Jubilee,' and in a moment they were all upon their knees." What name they would have given to her if they could have seen the negress-head clock rolling her eyeballs as she does in a certain bedroom at Buckingham Palace may be left to conjecture.-New York.

The current number of the Living Age has this list of contents; "The War in South Africa," Quarterly Review, "From Pour Les Treize Portes de la Ville," Revue des Deux Mondes, "Animal Chivalry," by Woods Hutchinson, Contemporary Review, "Among Chinese Monasteries," by Alicia Bewicke Little, MacMillan's Magazine, "A Man," by Stephen Phillips, London Chronicle, Stephen Phillips, London Chronice,
"Misunderstandings, II," by Th. Bentzon (Mme. Bianc), Revue des Deux
Mondes, "How Long?" by Clara Singer
Poynter, Chambers's Journal, "Books
Poynter, Chambers's Journal, "Books We Think We Have Read," Spectator;
"O Undistinguished Dead," by Austin Dobson, Sphere, "A Colonial's Return," by Henry Martley, Longman's Magazine, "Nerves in the Nursery," by E. H. Cooper, Speaker: "The Glory that was Rome," Academy, Boston. Rome," Academy.-Boston.

The current number of Harper's Weekly contains a large number of exceedingly good pictures of the war in South Africa. Among these are Mr. Easton's photographs made on the Boer side at the battle of Pepworth Hill and Gordon Grant's stirring eketch of the "Capture of the Suffolks at Colesberg." There are also pictures of a portion of the new Canadian contingent and the British signal corps in action.-New York.

In the March number of National Magazine, a great number of timely topics are discussed. "Joseph Chamberlain's Visit to America" sets forth some interesting views of a possible Anglo-Saxon alliance; Mrs. Fiske in "Old Nov-els in New Plays" will interest all theater-goers and those who are observant of the revival of classic novels in new drama. Mrs. Booker T. Washington contributes an article entitled 'Teaching School with a Broom," in which she explains how the plantation negro of the South is being educated to better living. In "Recollections of P. T. Bar-Maitland Leroy Osborne tributes a strong character sketch of the great showman, which has its humorous as well as thoughtful side. The fic-tion of the number is well sustained, the stories, sketches, and poems being of a high order.--91 Bedford, St., Boston.

Cassell's National Library, for March 21, contains Rasselas, by Samuel John-son, with an interesting historical sketch by the Editor. It is a handy littie volume.-Cassell & Co., New York.

Hon. Charles Denby, former minister to China, contributes to the current is-sue of Collier's Weekly a paper en-titled "Our Relations with China," Mr. Richard Le Gallienne contributes a half humorous, half serious article on mod-ern criticisms as seen through a press-clipping bureau. Mr. Richard Mans-field will contribute to forthcoming numbers of Collier's Weekly three pa-pers on the Stage.—New York.

The April number of Pearsons has already appeared, and is, as usual, up to its high standard. It has an interesting article on New York's under-ground railroad, and another containview. Although the Irish as a race ore no such worshippers of rank as the English, they are by no means uninfluenced by it. Even the most ardent nationalists will be flattered by the compliment.

Ing reminiscences of Frince Bismarck. Other features are "The Eyes of an Army" telling of the scouting service; "Pictures by Telegraph," and "Stories of Other Worlds." The fiction and poetry are splendid.—The Pearsons Publishing Co., New York. ing reminiscences of Prince Bismarck.

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