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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 24, 1901.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

The Deseret News, in its mammoth Christmas edition, has already expressed its sentiments in regard to the great annual Christian holiday, and presented its patrons with an edition which appears to be acceptable to all who have seen it. It would, therefore, be superfluous to repeat to any extent its good wishes and hopes for the happiness, enjoyment and prosperity of its readers at this festive season. But we take occasion to thank all who have so cordially supported this paper in the past, and to solicit their continued good will and assistance. After the great labor in bringing out the Christmas "News," a little in advance, we shall take a day's rest with our friends tomorrow.

We now offer the compliments of the season to everyone. If we have any foes we include them in this general benediction. We have only good will towards those who oppose us. There should be no rancor in the hearts of rational people against each other, but forgiveness of faults should warm every heart, and that charity which covers injuries and stifles resentment as with a mantle of conciliation, should be universally extended.

We hope that at this Christmas in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and one, families will be united, discords be drowned in the harmonies of the carol and the strains of joyful music, and that the sound of its festivities will be a prelude to the grand strains of fraternity, in which all nations shall join as a chorus to the triumphant songs of the heavenly hosts. "On earth peace, good will to men," should be the sentiment to guide the world on its way to the reign of righteousness, when He who was the babe of Bethlehem shall be recognized as King and Lord of all. A merry Christmas and a happy new year!

A CLOUD OVER CHRISTMAS.

The one dark cloud that hovers over the people of this city at Christmas, is the unsolved mystery of the tragedy which has been the chief subject of conversation for the past ten days. The sympathies of all classes in this community go out to the bereaved widow and her fatherless children, and also to the family of the man who, immured in prison, lies under the pall of deep suspicion. May God comfort them in the hour of affliction!

To extend commiseration to the accused prisoner might seem to some a sentiment out of place under the circumstances. But whether he be innocent or guilty, we are sorry for his condition. It is sad that crime should be committed. We may well pity the transgressor. Christ, whose birth we celebrate, shed his blood for sinners. He gave Himself, the just for the unjust. The penalty for guilt must be inflicted by earthly courts. But mercy forbids revenge. It is hard, indeed, when the innocent are accused of deeds they abhor. The deepest sympathy may be rightly felt for them. Therefore, whatever may yet be adduced in evidence of the guilt or innocence of the silent prisoner, it is not improper to feel sorry for his situation.

There is one thing associated with this terrible case to which we draw attention with some reluctance, but with the firm conviction that it ought to be mentioned. It is the continued declaration that the prisoner is being put through the "sweating process;" that the officers expect him hourly to "break down;" that he is continually plied with questions for the purpose of extorting from him a confession of guilt; that all kinds of expedients are tried for the purpose of entrapping him into statements that may be used against him.

From one point of view this may appear to be justifiable. It may seem to be the only probable way to settle the case. But under the law an accused person is to be considered innocent until he is proved guilty. No one is required by law to testify against himself. It is legally settled that statements thus extorted cannot be used in evidence. Courts often inquire of officers when giving testimony against a prisoner at bar, whether they took the precaution to warn the accused that anything he might say must be voluntary and that it would be used in his prosecution. If they have failed to give this caution, they are rebuked severely for their improper action.

Such voluntary admissions as the accused may desire to make are properly to be received, but they are not to be "sweated" out of him unwillingly, and there is no more authority in law for working upon the nerves, or fears, or sympathies of a prisoner by modern methods, than for the operations of the thumb-screw, the rack or any other torture resorted to for a similar purpose in the middle ages.

We highly approve of the diligence exhibited by the officers of the city and the county, here and elsewhere, in endeavoring to clear up the mystery of this sad event. Every fact they can glean, every bit of evidence they can accumulate, all the details they can work out, are evidences of their alacrity and perseverence. We honor them for their zeal and praise them for their integrity. We do not wish to find fault, but we do desire to have it borne in mind that the vilest criminal has certain rights before the law, and that he should be protected in them by all persons clothed with the law's authority.

We have approached this matter cautiously, for we do not wish to offend, or to throw the shadow of a hair in the legitimate way of arriving at the truth, and fixing the crime upon the real offender. The blood of innocence cries out from the ground against the slayer. He should be run down, if possible, and punished for this capital offense, but he must first be convicted, and that conviction must be obtained according to the provisions of the criminal law. It is a sad affair, indeed, and we sincerely hope that this Christmas will not pass away, until the public mind is set at rest as to the awful crime and the guilty criminal.

M'KINLEY MEMORIAL.

The "News" has been requested to give publicity to a statement adopted by the trustees of the McKinley National Memorial association, of which Judge William R. Day, ex-secretary of state, is the president. In it, the purposes of the organization are set forth and the public are warned against "any enterprise attempting to make capital out of the sentiments of affection which inspired the desire to rear at the grave of our late President a memorial which shall fittingly honor his memory."

The McKinley National Memorial association was organized by personal friends of the late President. The trustees were appointed by the President of the United States, and the first meeting was held at Cleveland, Oct. 10. The purpose is to erect a fitting memorial over the grave at Canton, Ohio.

The work of organization is said to have progressed satisfactorily. It is proposed to have branches in every State and Territory and local organizations in cities, towns, and rural districts, with a committee in charge working in connection with the state auxiliary, so that the public may be given the fullest opportunity to subscribe. All banks, it is said, have been designated depositories for subscriptions. All postmasters will receive and forward moneys, and all express companies will issue money orders free of charge, and, when necessary, forward money free. In foreign countries the ambassadors, ministers, and consuls of the United States will receive and forward subscriptions. It is suggested that the name and address of every subscriber be forwarded to the treasurer, Myron T. Herrick, Cleveland, Ohio, for preservation in the archives. The subscribers will receive souvenir certificates worthy of preservation as works of art and as evidence of the holder's participation in the erection of the national memorial. It has engraved upon it a portrait of President McKinley and, in shadow, pictures of the President's home at Canton, the Capitol, and White House.

The two associations, that undertook to perpetuate, in suitable monuments, the memory of the President, are now working together, as will be seen from the following resolution adopted by the trustees of the Memorial association:

"Resolved, That it be the sense of the trustees of the McKinley Memorial association that the field of popular subscription should be left to it for raising the sum necessary to provide a suitable memorial to the late President at Canton, where his body lies; and that this association should join with the William McKinley Memorial Arch association of Washington in memorializing Congress to erect a national memorial at the Capitol of our country to commemorate his services to the nation."

The Arch association is said to have acquiesced in this resolution and has ceased to solicit popular subscriptions, leaving the field to the Memorial association.

The officers of the organization are: William R. Day, president, Canton; M. A. Hanna, vice president, Washington; Myron T. Herrick, treasurer, Cleveland; and Ryerson Ritchie, secretary, Cleveland. There are representatives in many of the larger cities of the United States, from New York to San Francisco. Honorary members are the President of the United States and the governor of each State and Territory.

We have given in brief the statement by Judge Day. It is a matter in which the American people is interested. The memorial to be erected, should be one reflecting the grandeur of the nation in whose services McKinley gave his life. It should be reared by popular subscriptions, as an evidence of the estimation in which he was held. The work of collecting funds should be done without unnecessary delay, too. Let there be a monument to the departed one, worthy of the American people and the twentieth century.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

There seems to be some doubt as to whether Signor Marconi has demonstrated the possibility of sending messages, without wires, across the Atlantic, but wireless telegraphy is notwithstanding this, an accomplished fact.

The London Express says that if you want to send a message to any friend on board a steamer coming across the Atlantic, you can do so, by stepping into any inland postoffice and sending a wire in the ordinary way. An additional charge is made. The postal authorities dispatch the message to the Marconi station in Ireland, and the message is wafted to the ship, provided it is fitted out with a receiving apparatus.

The Marconi telegraph company has, further, started a school of instruction at Frinton-on-Sea, where opportunities are given of gaining an insight into the mysteries of the wireless telegraph, and this school is frequented by pupils from the principal technical colleges in London.

The school has only been opened a few weeks, but the villagers are said to be "wireless telegraph mad." They all take a keen interest in the experiments there made.

It is evident that wireless telegraphy is an accomplished fact. And the utilization of the new invention for telegraphing across the seas is but a question of time. If it has not already been done, it will be done. The wonders of electricity are by no means exhausted. As men become more acquainted with the possibilities of that mysterious power, they will be able to perform greater marvels than any of those hitherto performed by the apostles of sciences and inventions.

REMARKABLE FINDS.

In the current number of The Hesperian, a magazine published in St. Louis, Mo., it is stated that a tablet graven in an unknown language has been dug from a mound north of the village of Wyman, Michigan, and is now lying about in a farm house, among other antiquities found in the same place.

The inscriptions are unintelligible to the people that have examined them, but the tablet seems to contain the ten commandments. At least, that is the impression, and there are other curiosities, such as flint spearheads scratched with pictures suggesting the deluge; also pottery, weapons and sarcophagi containing charred human remains. The writer in the Hesperian says the characters resemble Egyptian or Assyrian, and it is proved beyond a doubt that the antiquities found have not been deposited there by a practical joker, for great pine trees, some centuries old, have grown over the mound since the articles were buried there.

The village of Wyman is described as a lumbering town, and the people there did not pay much attention to the statements of Mr. Scotford, a painter, when he said he had found some curious objects; but others unearthed similar articles, and the matter became interesting. The largest collection is said to be owned by a farmer, Hiram J. Rich.

The tablet on which the Decalogue is thought to be engraved, is said to be patterned after those generally seen in paintings representing the tablets of Moses. It is a foot long and nine inches broad. Numerals are not used to mark the separate paragraphs, but lines, like tally scores. One of the spearheads is almost nine inches long and six broad. On its polished surface is seen a picture of a flood. Men are holding their arms above their heads as if to ward off the descending water. There is an ark on a mountain, and there are animals filing out.

This is certainly a most interesting find. It is only one of many that prove that this continent has had, in times past, a highly developed civilization, and that point to a common origin between the ancient civilizations of the two hemispheres. Is there any key to this mystery? Can the riddle be solved by any other answer than that suggested by the volume commonly known as the Book of Mormon? Has the world been presented a theory on these facts more satisfactory than that of which Joseph, the Prophet, is the author?

THE NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL

The Milwaukee Wisconsin, speaking of the newly appointed postmaster general, Hon. Henry Clay Payne, says in part:

"Mr. Payne is peculiarly well qualified for the great office to which he has been appointed. He was postmaster of Milwaukee for ten years, and thus became thoroughly acquainted with all the details of the postoffice department. He is a man of large ability, with quick perceptions, and therefore he readily mastered the whole outline of official duties. Many would call him an expert in postoffice matters. These are qualifications for the office which the people will commend, and which men of all parties will recognize. He has a large knowledge of the politics of the whole country from his experience of sixteen years on the Republican national committee, of which he has been vice-chairman for four years. The President has long recognized his ability and his worth, and when Postmaster-General Smith tendered his resignation, it seemed the most natural thing to appoint Henry Clay Payne, of Wisconsin to fill the place.

"Some political wiseacres have made themselves ridiculous by declaring that Mr. Payne was appointed solely because the President needed a political general in his cabinet. We would rather say the President needed a first-class man for the office, and looking over the whole ground and canvassing the merits of leading men of the party he concluded that he could not do better than by appointing Henry Clay Payne to this great trust.

When the postoffice department of the United States was first organized its annual expenditure was only a few thousands of dollars. Now that the annual outlay has reached over $115,000,000 the people of the country can perceive what a leap this department, which is really for the diffusion of knowledge among men, has taken."

Merry Xmas!

Compliments of the season to all!

The Deseret News will take a holiday tomorrow.

There will be no issue of the "News" on Wednesday, December 25.

Everybody who speaks to us has a word of praise for the Christmas "News." It is pronounced the best ever printed in Utah.

The king of Siam may visit this country, but his visit can never arouse such interest as did that of the Siamese twins.

The President should be able this night of all others to put the secretaryship of the treasury into a stocking where it will stay.

The University of Chicago continues to expand and call for more. It is possible for a university, as well as for a man, to expand faster than it digests.

The first woman who ever sat for a photograph has just died at the age of ninety-five. And women have been following her example ever since.

"I am not going to discuss the administration. President Roosevelt is getting along all right—after his fashion," is placed to Senator Hanna's credit. And it is a very good fashion, too; one that seems to be quite popular.

Historian Maclay says he has been vindicated. And Secretary Long called for his resignation because he had been vindicated. The ingratitude of republics is notorious and proverbial.

Those Portland, Or., boys who held up a boy to secure money with which to pay for dancing lessons, will not only be made to dance but they will have to pay the fiddlers, too.

Partisans of Schley say that Dewey's opinion is just as good as Benham and Ramsay's, while partisans of Sampson say it isn't half as good as theirs, that at best it is only a third as good.

Mrs. W. P. White told the members of the New York West End Presbyterian church that before long the "Mormons" would control in thirteen states. Doubtless the lady had in mind the thirteen original states.

Receiver George A. Smith will please accept our congratulations on his reappointment to the office which he has filled with honor and signal ability, and our Xmas wish is that he may long serve his country and enjoy the position in which he has done his duty up to the present date.

The name of Stanton seems to be one of ill omen for Presidents. It was the refusal of a Stanton to resign that caused the Senate to bring impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson. The Senate is hardly likely to bring impeachment proceedings against Theodore Roosevelt because Edgar Stanton Maclay has been requested to resign and has refused to comply with the request.

According to the New York Sun, Americans are now consuming large quantities of European potatoes. They are sent here from Scotland, Ireland and Belgium. Some time ago the Southwark arrived in New York with 90,000 bushels. Then the Vaderland came with 60,0000 barrels and the Laurentian with 30,000 bushels. It is said to be the first time in eight years that this country has been under the necessity of importing potatoes from abroad.

In the Schley court of inquiry case the decision of the majority must be accepted as that of the court, and it will always be officially recognized as it already has been. In a much more famous case—that of Dred Scott—the opinion of the majority of the court was against the slave. It was the law of the land, for the Supreme Court of the United States had declared it to be. But the dissenting opinion of Curtis was the one which the people accepted as theirs. And four years of civil war established it as right in the forum of morals as against the decision of the most august tribunal of the country. Vox populi, vox dei.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." Let the song of the angels be heard by the persecuted everywhere. Let it be heard by the nations whose great armaments challenge each other to war. Let it be heard by the lowly and outcast. Let it sound in the ears of the oppressor. Let it steal into our hearts, quieting all doubt, subduing our perturbed spirits, cheering us with the vision of the world redeemed, while it gives its own assurance to our individual hearts of our acceptance in the Beloved.

Dr. J. R. Miller.

To many people Christmas seems to mean but little. They think of it only in a selfish way, as a time for receiving gifts; or they see it only in its holiday aspect, as a day of festivity. It rises to no high level in their thought. It brings to them no sweet memories of the birth of the world's Redeemer. It speaks to them no message of divine love. But to enjoy a merely secular Christmas, without having one's heart warmed and blessed by the tenderness with which a true thought of the day throbs, is to miss its real meaning.

San Francisco Call.

The first Christmas of the new century therefore finds the civilized world well armed and suspicious. The subjects of quarrel between the great nations are too petty and small to justify war, but it is well known that little things may grow into big things if care be not exercised to keep them small.

New York Mail and Express.

Merry Christmas! One utters the words lightly, and they are but words, if you please, but, like the mystic syllables of Arabian story, they are words of power. Every year do they not work a miracle? In the shrill winds of December and the long sleep of the winter, one might suppose that they would not be heard, or that they would not be heeded. But there is that spell in them that the moment they are uttered men all over the world lay aside their tasks and turn and greet each other; the rigid force of nature relaxes, and under its winding sheet of the snow a glow spreads over the limbs of earth. "Merry Christmas"—it is only a phrase, but the fulness of things is in it.

THE MARCONI MIRACLE.

Los Angeles Times.

Now that Marconi has successfully telegraphed across the Atlantic without the aid of wires, the chaps who sneered at his "message from Mars" are beginning to wonder if the age of miracles has not again bobbed to the front.

Chicago News.

Marconi has been told to move on, as an Atlantic cable company has a monopoly of Newfoundland. Probably, however, he will be able to pick his messages out of the atmosphere somewhere else, exclusive rights to the use of that medium not having been granted to anyone as yet.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

All that Marconi has accomplished is to show that faint intelligible signals can be transmitted at vast distances. It may and will probably take a long time to develop this infantile sign babble in systematic and intelligible language. But this is a mere matter of perfecting the instruments used. Wireless telegraphy is now a demonstrated possibility.

New York Mail and Express.

But it does not matter how faint or simple the signal was, if it was really sent and received; and sent and received it seems to have been. On this foundation the transmission of intelligent messages may be built. The letter "S," thrown into the air, as it were, in Cornwall, and picked up on the very instant in Newfoundland, may represent a new and marvelous method of communication between the hemispheres.

Boston Transcript.

Marconi has proved that the distance to which electrical impulses may be sent is virtually unlimited, and that these impulses follow the curvature of the earth and do not fly straight out into space. In making these deductions we are assuming that the three dots forming in this system the letter S, taken up by the receiver at St. Johns, were the actual S's sent from the Lizard in Cornwall and not the results of atmospheric disturbances such as so often bother the telegraph and telephone wires. As to the practical value of the experiment it may be said that there are so many influences that would affect the delicate and sensitive mechanism of the wireless telegraph machine—storms, fogs, big iron ships with electrical plants on board crossing the line of operation, etc.—that great improvements if not new discoveries must be made before the system can supplement the cable for business or be of more than scientific significance.

Worcester Spy.

So great have been the achievements in the field of electricity in recent years that the announcement that Signor Marconi has exchanged signals across the ocean by his system of wireless telegraphy will create comparatively little surprise. Marconi is not unduly visionary. He is frank to say that the system is still in an embryonic state, but that he has reason to hope for results the most satisfactory. That the simplest signal was transmitted repeatedly such a distance was certainly a great triumph for the inventor, and apparently justifies optimistic conclusions.

New York Evening Post.

Marconi's marvellous experiments naturally find doubters, for it not only strains the faith, but almost baffles the imagination of the layman, to believe that from a signal pole in England to a kite in Newfoundland recognizable signals passed across eighteen hundred miles of ocean. That such was the fact, however, there seems hardly the slightest ground for doubting. In fact, Mr. Marconi's published interviews on the subject only heighten the confidence which is felt in him as a man of science. The frank acknowledgment that a signal rather than a verbal message was chosen because the instruments are still too imperfect for the more difficult test, shows the temper of the scientist rather than the headlong enthusiasm of the mere inventor.

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