

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## WISDOM IN ALL THINGS.

It is one of the doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that the sick may be healed by faith. This has been frequently explained. It has been declared by revelation in the nineteenth century, was the doctrine of the Church in the first century, and was taught by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He ministered on earth in the flesh.

It has been customary with sick members of the Church to "call for the Elders" to anoint them with oil and lay hands upon them, and there are scores of thousands of testimonies to the fulfillment of the divine promise, that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Of course, there are instances when, because of the lack of faith, the afflicted are not healed. The Deseret News has repeatedly advised the aid of skilled physicians and surgeons when medical services are needed, instead of resorting to incompetent persons and quack remedies.

In times of epidemics, real or officially asserted, the laws require the observance of quarantine regulations. These should be strictly complied with by those who are under quarantine, and also by their friends. No one has the right to break through them and endanger the public health by carrying infection. Great caution should therefore be exercised by the sick and their friends under such circumstances, and they should not do anything liable to spread disease.

Elders ought not to be called upon to go to quarantined houses, unless official permission can be obtained, and they disinfect their persons and clothing after such visits. Notwithstanding the foolish and dangerous official declaration that no persons are liable to carry disease to others "unless they themselves have first contracted it," common sense and experience have established the contrary. We therefore give this word of caution: Particularly, public men, who mix with people in business or otherwise, should be excused from waiting upon the sick in houses that are quarantined. Not because they should or would shrink from performing a sacred duty, but in order to comply with the law and out of regard for the public health.

We know that, as a rule, the Elders are fearless in their ministrations to the sick, no matter what may be the nature of their diseases. But "wisdom cries aloud to her children," and prudence should be observed in all things. There ought to be some one, and is in almost every family of the Saints, who can perform the ordinance for the sick. And it should be remembered that it is not the man who heals, no matter what office in the Priesthood he holds, but it is the Lord who answers "the prayer of faith," and it is by faith that the sick are healed. A word to the wise ought to be sufficient.

## A ONE MAN POWER.

According to an opinion rendered by the State attorney-general and the attitude of the secretary of the State board of health, Utah is now under the domination of one individual, who has been exercising autocratic powers and evidently intends to wield them at his own sweet will. Of course an "opinion" is only an opinion, unless it comes from a court after a trial, when it amounts to a decision, and is the law until superseded by another judicial opinion or "last guess," as it is designated by some members of the bar. But public officers are generally guided by the opinions of the State attorney, so we may look for action in the line hitherto pursued until some effectual remedy is found.

The one man power, assumed by the secretary of the State board of health, is such as ought not to be exercised by any one individual, however cautious, prudent and discreet. But when vested in a cranky person who issues decrees without sense, and gives directions that are the scorn and derision of experienced physicians as well as the general public, such despotism becomes not only insufferable, but a menace to the public welfare.

The attorney-general's opinion is based upon section 1038 of the Revised Statutes of Utah, which confers upon the State board of health, "authority to make such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as may be deemed necessary for the preservation of the public health." The same section makes the powers of the State board "co-ordinate with every local board." But a later law provides that:

"The local boards of health shall have jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to the preservation of the public health in attendance upon the health and private schools in the State."—Laws of 1899, chap. 45, sec. 24.

Thus the lawful powers of the State board of health under the old law were but co-ordinate with those of the local boards, and under the later statute the authority as to health in the schools

is vested in the local boards alone. The Laws of Utah of 1899 supersede those of previous date, wherein they in any way conflict. But, in any event, the powers conferred on boards of health are not intended to be centered in a single individual, as now assumed by the secretary of the State board, who issues his edicts as though he were "the whole thing," as he is named by a number of officials in different parts of the State.

In section 1102, laws of 1898, the secretary is authorized to "perform and superintend the work prescribed in this title, and perform such other duties as the board may require." "The work prescribed" relates to the several duties which the secretary is required to perform, and which are proper and suitable to his office. It is also made the executive officer of the board, and is the only paid member. He receives "a thousand dollars a year and necessary expenses" as his compensation. But there is nothing in the law that gives him legislative functions or that authorize authority that he has assumed. It is not for him to issue an ipse dixit that a particular disease is epidemic. That is for the whole board to determine after proper investigation.

It will be found on close scrutiny that, even taking the decision of the majority of the Supreme court, (the fallacy of which was clearly shown in the minority opinion) and the views of the attorney general, there is nothing that justifies the exercise of arbitrary power which the secretary of the State board of health arrogates to himself, and to which some of the local boards and health officers bow in humble reverence. The local boards of health have original jurisdiction over "matters pertaining to the health of the schools," and are not placed under the dictation of any one man power, but simply have to report to the State board the hygienic conditions of the schools under their supervision, on forms furnished to them by that board.

The secretary of the State board has exhibited such incompetency and arrogance as have raised general indignation in the State, sending his orders here and there with intimations as to what he will do if they are not complied with. And his noted announcement as to the Teachers' convention in this city, shows that he is either grossly ignorant of scientific conclusions and the lessons of experience, or he does not know the meaning of his own language. In answer to an inquiry from Superintendent Cooper as to danger from the attendance of teachers at the convention to be held in this city, he replied:

"In my opinion there would be no danger to be anticipated from the attendance of teachers at the State Teachers' convention, provided they shall have been successfully vaccinated; otherwise there would be great danger. They would not be liable to carry the disease to others unless they themselves should first have contracted it."

Such a declaration as that in the last sentence of the paragraph is more dangerous to the public health than the presence of a pestilence that is properly quarantined. That persons who have been in the company of the infected may unwittingly convey the disease in their clothing to others without contracting it themselves, has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the faculty as well as the general public, and legislation has embodied the conclusion in laws that forbid the use or importation of clothing and other things that have been exposed to infection.

It is frequently reported that quarantined patients are visited by persons who come and go without disinfection, and it is believed that this is doing more to spread contagion than any other means. This is, naturally, encouraged by the pronouncement of the official who is regarded as embodying in his personality the whole State board of health, and exercising prerogatives that a careful reading of the law does not disclose as being vested in that body itself.

If the laws in relation to the legitimate powers of the State board of health were carried into effect, and public nuisances were abated, sources of sickness removed, diligence used to secure sanitation, and greater caution as to professional visits to the afflicted, all of which are under the legal supervision of the State board, there would be much more likelihood of stamping out contagious disorders, than by the compulsory methods which amount to a monomania with the officer who exercises this one man power.

## THE EVERLASTING GOD.

The Worcester Spy has a writer on religious topics, Mr. Frank L. Phalen, who furnishes that paper weekly contributions to its editorial columns. In a recent issue that writer in an article on "The Ineffable Name" took occasion to say that "the name of God stands today for a very different conception of Deity from that which satisfied the patriarch Abraham, or the law-giver Moses."

The statement, coming from an "orthodox" pen, strikes us as exceedingly interesting, because the Latter-day Saints have at various times been stigmatized by "orthodoxy" as heretics and even blasphemers, for asserting that the modern conception of God is at variance with the Bible doctrine.

Mr. Phalen takes the view that the "Hebrew Jehovah" was a "manlike God" who "came down from the local and near-by heaven to visit his favorites or to see how things were going on," but that this view of God, science and the revelations of history have rendered impossible. He says: "The old heavens and the old earth, with the old ideas of gods and demons have passed away," in time and space, governed by an Eternal Spirit.

The change, Mr. Phalen seems to think is due to the teachings of Jesus, and here is where the inconsistency comes in. Our Lord Himself was not only governed by a most sublime faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but He was the express image of that "Hebrew" Deity. The God of the New Testament is no other than the God of the Old, the Maker of the heavens and the earth, our Father and our friend. That the modern conception of Deity is different from that of Abra-

ham and Moses is true; but it is not true that the change is due to the teachings of Jesus and His followers. And this fact cannot be too strongly emphasized.

It is not insurmountably difficult to trace the origin of this modern conception of God, of which the theological world is so proud. It can be pursued back to the celebrated Father Augustine, to whom Christendom is also indebted for the doctrine of purgatory, and the ideas of human depravity and divine grace that are embodied in the revolting doctrine of infant damnation. Augustine was living at a time when Neo-Platonic and Stoic philosophies made their influence felt in the world of thought, and under these influences his theology often assumed bizarre shapes. To him the three Persons in the famous Athanasian creed became three forms in which the one God is manifested in His relation to men. He held that each person is the Trinity, and that the Trinity, though three, are essentially one Being. And this conception still has orthodox sanction.

Since Augustine's definition, no new light has been thrown upon this chaotic picture of the Deity, by its devotees. Students of theology generally console themselves with the thought that its indistinctness is its chief excellence. It is the source of conflicting doctrines and general confusion. The absurdity of the entire position is perhaps best seen in the vain attempt to escape from the difficulty by defining God as an "Absolute Spirit." For this, if Spirit is a personality, is a contradiction of terms. "Absolute" means without limitation, while personality clearly involves some limitation. Nothing can more clearly illustrate the helplessness of orthodox theology than such efforts at defining what at other times it proclaims to be incomprehensible and, consequently, undefinable.

And this is the miserable caricature of God, Mr. Phalen holds up for admiration, as so much superior to the "Hebrew Jehovah," the God of Abraham and of Moses. This is the gift to mankind from science and the revelations of history, as a substitute for the Lord God of old. If ever, in the history of man, there was need for the proclamation of the message of the angel: "Worship Him, that made heaven, and earth, and the sea," it is in our time. The God of creation is the God of the Patriarchs and the inspired law-giver of Israel, the God of the Prophets and of Jesus, the God who lives and rules for ever and ever.

## JOSEPH THE PROPHET.

Tomorrow, Dec. 23, the Latter-day Saints will remember with gratitude the 56th anniversary of the birth of Joseph, the Prophet. They reverence the martyred servant of the Lord, as the instrument through whom they have received light and truth, peace and joy and a hope that, like the links on the pillars of the ancient Temple, reach beyond the veil and place them in communication with the glory of God resting on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. They will think of him as the messenger through whom they were offered both temporal and eternal salvation. For with a great many of them, all they have and all they are, they owe to the Gospel which he was raised up to proclaim.

The Prophet Joseph was one of the most remarkable men in this century. One of his great characteristics was his faithfulness to the cause entrusted to him. In faith in God, and love for his fellowmen he rose to a height attained by but few. And for this reason he remained firm as a rock, even when the storms of adversity raged around him—when foes attacked him with the fury of beasts, and "friends" forsake him, or plotted his downfall. He gave his life for the cause he had espoused, at a time when he might have escaped martyrdom. And thus in his death, as well as in his life and his testimony, he forcibly appeals to the Saints of the Most High, admonishing them to remain true and loyal to Christ their divine Master.

The recurrence of the anniversary of his birth should remind the Saints of their duty to be faithful and true, as he was, to the end. They have accomplished much both at home and abroad, but there is a still greater work to be done, for which none but the humble, the pure, the loyal and the just are fit. There are blessings to be received which can be given to none but those who keep the divine commandments. Let the memory of the martyred Prophet inspire to greater efforts for all that is good and praiseworthy. That is, after all, the celebration most worthy the memory of a Prophet of God.

Burglars seem to be having a taste of success nowadays, judging by dispatches today from the eastern part of the country.

Influenza is playing havoc in St. Petersburg, Russia, the death rate being very high. Even the doctors are suffering severely.

A few days' thought makes the Hay-Pauchefote treaty more acceptable to Britons than it appeared at first. There is no danger of a quarrel over it.

The Chinese who are natives of Hawaii want to be classed as American citizens. There is a large class of people in the category of "want to, and can't."

Notwithstanding the old saying that "as the days lengthen the cold strengthens," there are many people who are glad that for some months the days will be longer, this being the shortest day of the year.

More troops are being hurried to South Africa. Such Christmas news is far from reassuring to the English people, who are already weary of the protracted war. But British tenacity is not likely to give it up.

The scarcity of beef cattle on the Pacific coast is said to be becoming a serious matter. Prices are getting so high that many people are thereby forced to become vegetarians to a large extent. That probably will not hurt them.

A Japanese minister has resigned because of having been accused of receiving bribes. It has been generally supposed that the accusation of not ac-

cepting bribes would be most potent in getting a Mongolian official to retire.

One Santa Claus death has been reported already. This is a school girl 14 years old, who was acting the part of Santa Claus at a New York public school entertainment. There is no occasion for programs that carry with them such danger.

The Tribune has not yet recovered from that "breaking out about the mouth" with which it has been for a few weeks again afflicted. It is a daily eruption and shows how sore it is. We console with its readers, and hope it will be better soon.

There is a better prospect for the wool market, judging by the Boston reports, than for some months past. Purchasers have held out a long time against the prices asked by the wool-growers, but seem now at the point of having to yield.

An agent has gone to New York and Chicago to induce girls to go to Arizona in the capacity of servants. The probability is that once in their new homes they would soon assume the role of masters, judging by complaints of this from the East.

The United States virtually has withdrawn from China, so far as armed occupation is concerned, and the other powers must fight it out, in case of a resort to violence. The entire course of the American administration in regard to Chinese affairs has shown commendable wisdom.

Colorado is gaining a reputation for being a very troublesome State, and the appeal of the Italian minister, for protection for his countrymen at Florence, will add to the unenviable repute. Coloradans should combine in a mutual improvement society, for the good name of the State.

The American public never has been proud of the hazing that has been permitted at West Point, but the revelations of what has gone on there will make it almost a disgrace for an officer to let it be known that he passed through that academy. For the honor of the nation, the court martial now in session should deal severely with those culpable in the cases now on trial.

The Associated Press representative at Honolulu refers to President George Q. Cannon as the head of the Mormon Church. The error has been repeated frequently in press dispatches. The head of the Church is the One whose name it bears, and its presiding officer is President Lorenzo Snow. President Cannon is first counselor in the First Presidency.

## ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

## The Outlook.

The war against vice in New York city is of interest to more than the citizens of the metropolis. The conditions which exist in New York exist in every great city; they are a natural result of the unnatural herding together of so great a population in so small a geographical area. Under the conditions which exist in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, in London, Paris and Vienna, it is difficult to maintain good physical sanitation, and it is still more difficult to maintain good moral sanitation. In such a campaign the moral reformer must be equally careful not to expect government to realize social reform. In moral reform there are always two forces to be invoked; that of persuasion, acting on the individual conscience; that of law, by penalty coercing the will. The second force must not be asked to do the work of the first, nor the first the work of the second. Our first and paramount demand is that law be not permitted to make difficult if not impossible the work of individual and social reform. We have a right to demand that law shall prevent all vice; but we have a right to ask that it prevent such encouragement of and such enticements to vice as make it supremely difficult to persevere in the way of virtue.

## Christian Intelligencer.

In the theory of government, private men are not elected to office as a reward for favor. Every official is a representative of the people. It would be well, well for the individual as well as for the nation, if every successful candidate, awaiting his induction to office, should be asked to make a solemn pledge, to the effect that he has been chosen, would make this the most prominent feature in his election. "When I receive the congregation," says David, "I will judge uprightly." No man who steps into the chair of power can dissociate himself from the obligations it imposes. Assumption is an implied vow that he will judge uprightly. Forgetting or ignoring this does not relieve him of the obligation. A dishonest official is a traitor and a perjurer.

## G. W. Cooke in the Boston Transcript.

The church to which a man belongs does not show where you will find the man when you come to the end of your own faith. The Catholic may be more liberal than the Protestant, and the Protestant more under authority than the Catholic. The Unitarian may be more devout than the Orthodox, and the Orthodox more open-minded than the Unitarian. It can not be otherwise in a time like this, when religious truths are undergoing a most searching analysis, and all assertions of faith are being called in question. No sect can now keep its youth wholly within its own enclosure so that none but its own teachings and examples shall reach them. More powerful than any sect is the environment, and the environment of every youth is now much wider than his own church. He hears from the platform and in conversation, he reads in newspaper and book, he sees in the conduct of the best men and women, that which contradicts his own church and creed. The whole atmosphere of American life is permeated with the ozone of individualism and independence; and no church can shut its doors so closely as to keep within those who have it in their power to secure affiliations more natural to them.

## The Interior.

The injury which contradictory propositions embodied in a creed do to Christian belief is that they cast doubt and suspicion upon all the other creedal affirmations, and such has always been their effect. As a curiosity or a puzzle a paradox may be stated, and solved; but if no solution be offered, or if possible, then the paradox becomes an absurdity, which the mind must reject if it would preserve its regard for truth. If the opposing columns of a balance sheet do not harmonize, the accountant knows that he has reasoned wrongly at some point in his process—usually by failure to put some page of his journal. He admits at once that the sheet is in error, and he begins to recalculate, and begins to search for the missing factor. As we are not employed to keep the books of eternal life, we will only blot and deface them by our ignorant intermeddling.

## RUGS FOR CHRISTMAS

We don't make much display, but OUR PRICES TALK. Our Special Offering in the Carpet Department for the Holiday Trade is in our Rug Department. We are offering

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Call and see us before purchasing elsewhere.

Dress Goods Sale Continues Till Christmas.

Z. C. M. I. T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Women of the Bible is the self-explanatory title of a handsome little book, containing a series of stories and character sketches of women prominent in the sacred history. The author is Professor Willard Dore, for years the popular principal of the Latter-day Saints' college in this city, and the author of the prize story that appeared in the Christmas number of the Deseret News. The theme of the little volume is of correcting the false impression that the Bible does not give due prominence to the character and influence of the gentler sex, and we think Prof. Dore has succeeded well. In his sketches of Sarah and Hagar, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel, Miriam, Rahab, Deborah, Jephthah's daughter, Delilah, Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah, Hannah and Peninah, and a number of other women of the Old and New Testaments, he shows plainly the tender regard of the inspired authors for the virtues of women, as well as their acknowledgment of womanly influence, for good or for evil, upon the affairs of the Church and the world. Prof. Dore has evidently given much thought and study to this subject, and in his "Women of the Bible," the reader is given the benefit of his research. It is a little book that can be recommended to the youth of Zion particularly. It would be a handsome and valuable Christmas present to friends of a literary turn of mind.

The Christmas number of Harper's Bazar is a very handsome cover, and for frontispiece a charming drawing, by Sarah S. Stilwell, "Bringing Home the Christmas Tree." Much of its contents is devoted to subjects suggestive of the season, such as "New York's 'Christmas Atmosphere,'" "A Christmas Carol," words and music; "Homemade Christmas Gifts," etc. There is a poem by Edwin Markham, "The Song of the Shepherd," "Holiday Fashions from Paris," "Christmas Decoration," and "Men's Roles as Played by Women," by Sarah Bernhardt. It is an excellent number.—Harper & Bros., New York.

Harper's Weekly for Dec. 14 has for cover picture a portrait of Mark Twain, and on its first page a reproduction of a photograph of the Aldine Club Dinner, given in honor of the distinguished humorist. There is also a humorous description by William Dean Howells, of a "surprise party" tendered by the characters of Mark Twain to the author. The event is illustrated by V. A. Rogers. There are a number of other superb illustrations.—Harper & Bros., New York.

The January number of Pearson's is in all probability the first magazine to appear with the date of 1901 imprinted on it. As a harbinger of the twentieth century, it starts out with a poem by W. J. Lampton, on the new century. Then comes an interesting article by George Giffiths on the question, "Where Does the Twentieth Century Begin—What People on Earth Will First Welcome Its Dawn?" The end of the nineteenth century has witnessed some remarkable feats in Arctic and Antarctic exploration, and this fact gives a special timeliness to the new series of short stories by Cutcliffe Hyne, which commences in this number under the title, "McTold in the Arctic." The first story is called "The Cold Water Prophet." "Why the Indian Paints His Face" is the title of an illustrated article by Theodore Dreiser, and the same author contributes a short story entitled, "When the Old Century Was New." Pearson's has already published a series of articles under the title of "Historic Mysteries." This is now continued, the first of the new series being a number of revelations in connection with the crime of Joanna of Naples, who was accused of the murder of her own husband and tried by Pope Clement VI. The different methods of defending oneself with a walking stick or umbrella when attacked under unequal conditions, are described and illustrated by E. Barton-Wright. An illustrated description of the mud-baths of Europe; an account of how the government is fighting the inroads of drifting sand on some parts of the coast by vast plantations of certain grasses; an article on the secret house of correction, where the unruly sons of the richest and noblest families of France are kept in solitary confinement; and a large number of other features and short stories complete the number.—New York.

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Ladies' L. D. S. Knit Garments.....\$1.25  
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## GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS:



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Just reminders of the things we sell for man or boy: Suspenders 25c to \$3.00; Neckwear 25c to \$1.50. Bath Robes \$2.50 to \$10.00. Gloves 50c to \$2.50. House Coats \$4.00 to \$18.00; Night Shirts 50c. to \$5.00; Other Shirts 50c. to \$3.00; Boys' Waists 25c up; Hose 10c to 50c; Mullers 25c to \$3.00; Caps 25c up. Little bits of Jewelry that men need. Handkerchiefs, silk 25c to \$1.50; other kinds 10c to 50c.

Then we're selling lots of Clothes too for man and boy. Suits and Overcoats; for men \$6.00 up; for boys \$1.50 up. And Hats for men, \$1.00 up to \$5.00; for boys, 50c to \$1.50.

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