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Latter-day Saints.
Latter-day Saints.

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NOTICE.

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at ten a. m., on Friday, April 6th, 1900.

LORENZO SNOW,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH P. SMITH,
First Presidency.

"THE PASSING OF THE MORMON"

That is the title of a paper in the Arena for April. It commences with these startling sentences: "Utah is a State. The Mormon is a citizen."

Wonderful! Is not? The reading public have known that Utah is a State for more than four years, and people who are not aware of the well advertised fact, are not very likely to learn it from the pages of the Arena. And so "the Mormon" is a citizen. Is he? Well, the great body of the "Mormons" have been citizens for many more years than the time Utah has been a State. The first "Mormons" and a great many of more recent conversion were native-born, and all who come to Utah from abroad are advised to become naturalized. The counsel has been followed by the bulk of them, and so the "Mormon" may be classed as a "citizen," irrespective of the status of Utah as a State.

The next sentence is also a remarkable utterance; here it is: "As such he [the 'Mormon'] claims certain rights that a proportion of his countrymen are disposed to deny him."

It is a little difficult to discover from the rest of the article what these "rights" are that the "Mormon" citizen "claims," and that are in anywise different from the common and conceded rights of every citizen of the United States. But we gather from other remarks that the writer means the rights of "exclusiveness," and the practice of "polygamy." He attempts to show that this alleged "exclusiveness or separatism," is "radically opposed to the genius of the New World," and that "Polygamy is the one feature of Mormonism that today keeps them a peculiar people."

All this shows that the Arena writer is very much behind the times, and is viewing Utah and her people through the mists of the dim and distant past, and the smoked spectacles usually worn by non-"Mormon" inspectors of Utah affairs. But what it has to do with "the passing of the Mormon" is not made to appear.

It is amusing to see the attempts that are frequently made to philosophize and speculate on the "Mormon problem," and the fate of the "peculiar people" who have founded a new and flourishing western State. While disposed to ridicule the idea that Joseph Smith, or any other modern religious reformer, could be a seer or a prophet, they indulge in flights of fancy, and utter predictions about the "Mormons," which show that they imagine themselves to be gifted with the qualifications of both.

The Latter-day Saints seek no other exclusiveness than that advised by Jesus of Nazareth; that is, to be "of the world." This does not imply the "exclusiveness" supposed to be a feature of "Mormonism"—the separation of its followers from the rest of mankind. They are to be a "peculiar people" in that their religion is practical, not a mere matter of belief, but making them "zealous of good works," and led by the spirit which comes from above.

The "Mormons" are citizens in the fullest sense of the term. They take part in the affairs of the State and of the Nation. Not, however, as members of a Church, but as members of the commonwealth. And they make no "claims" other than to the ordinary rights that belong to citizens who are not of their religious faith. It is a mistake to think they claim the right to practice "plural marriage." The decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States settled that controversy, and the "Mormons" are complying therewith. The Arena premises are incorrect and so the whole argument collapses.

There is no "passing of the Mormon," unless it be to a larger and more active sphere of usefulness and life and power, as a citizen of this great country, endowed with the full rights of an American sovereign. These he claims and will maintain. They are perfectly compatible with his religion and its aims and spirit. And if he appears "peculiar," it will be because he is influenced by that religion in his home, his business, his politics and in all positions in life, to the extent of serving God and doing his duty to his neighbor, and aiding in the diffusion of light and truth as he understands the right, making worldly things subordinate to the interests of the heavenly Kingdom.

"The passing of the Mormon" is a corresponding phrase to "The death-knell of Mormonism," which has been

loudly sounded at frequent intervals, for more than half a century. It is not passing away, but moving upward and onward. It is a living thing and animates its followers without cessation. "The passing of the Mormon," therefore, is not his disappearance, but his immanence and recognition among the people of the nations as the representative of a vital religious force, and at the same time as a progressive and active factor in social and civil affairs, for the betterment of mankind and the promotion of all that tends to unify and elevate the race.

THAT LYNCHING.

The latest lynching in West Virginia appears to have been a specially cold-blooded, savage and unjustifiable affair. The colored victim was sure to have been punished by due process of law, and there was absolutely no need of resorting to murder. But after the deed had been committed, the mob, it seems, was wild with bloodthirst, and demanded one more victim. One was not enough to appease the craving for blood. And so a white prisoner was killed, who now is believed to have been innocent.

The withdrawing of the troops at the request of the frantic mob was about the most discouraging feature of the entire proceeding, because that proved the existence of a condition which makes further outrages possible. When the executive power of a State can be enlisted in the service of a mob, there is little prospect of the prevalence of civilized conditions.

The fact that the press of West Virginia condemns the outrage committed is a good sign. But after all, the question is, will the perpetrators of the crime be hanged down and treated according to law? Protesters are all right as far as they go, but vigorous action is needed, not words. Why do not the very tender-hearted, conscience-haunted, "Christian" people of the United States commence a "crusade" against murder and other evils that threaten the very fundamental institutions of the country?

TROUBLE IN CHINA.

From the occasional reports that reach the outside world from the Chinese empire, it is supposed that a crisis may be near at hand, which may culminate in anarchy and perhaps foreign interference.

There are at least two political parties in China. One stands for official corruption, and the conservation of the old system, which makes it possible for dishonest officials to flourish and grow rich. That party hates the "foreign devil," and all manner of innovations.

The other party stands for reform along the lines suggested by the foreigners and which have been followed by Japan to the salvation of that country. This party aims at the establishment of a strong central government and the union of the scattered forces of the vast realm. Since the war with Japan the reform party has increased very much in strength. It is composed of the most intelligent and patriotic of the Chinese population.

The young emperor seems to be influenced by the Reform party, to judge from the sensational reform measures he proclaimed some time ago, and on account of which he was said to be insane. The emperor, his aunt and the real ruler in China, promptly annulled the imperial edicts and continued in power the corrupt officers that profit by the suicidal policy of the empire. But this was not all. When German missionaries had been killed in one of the provinces, the provincial officials responsible for the crime, not only were not punished, but they were actually promoted to more remunerative offices. And this was a clue to other provincial governors. They understood by this, that the central government would look with favor upon attacks upon foreigners.

Russia is believed to be at the bottom of this policy of the empire. That country has a large armed force near the Chinese border, and hopes, if any disturbances occur, to be called upon to restore peace and order, which would be equivalent to the annexation of territory. Russia would regret the unification of the empire under a strong government, as that would mean no more concessions to St. Petersburg. Her statesmen are therefore believed to be intriguing at Peking for the purpose of maintaining the empire in power, and with her the policy of robbery of which she is said to be the head.

As a consequence, the anti-foreign party has been growing bold lately. It is believed a society exists, with branches throughout the empire, for the purpose of exterminating the foreigners. Should this prove true, we shall probably hear of attacks upon missionary stations, or upon foreign consulates, with destruction of property and the taking of life. The consequences would be retaliation by the powers, whose citizens were the objects of the attack. There would be more land-grabbing and perhaps quarrels about the distribution of the spoils. There are thus possibilities of international complications.

The United States can hardly be a disinterested spectator of events in China. Anarchy there, would call for foreign intervention, and the question would always arise to what extent this country would feel justified in taking any part in the program. Our government spoke with emphasis on the question of the "open door." It might speak again should complications arise.

In the meantime it should be noted that much of the trouble in China is brought about by the missionaries that persist in traveling where foreigners have no legal right to be, and where they are not wanted. It is sometimes the result of undue meddling with private and domestic affairs. The Chinese, particularly in the interior, are as much prejudiced against foreigners as foreigners are against them, and no one has any business to force themselves upon their fellowmen. To do so is contrary to the spirit of Christian missions, which first of all is regard for the rights of others, and courtesy. Missionary societies should teach their emissaries to work according to the golden rule. If they did, there would be better results in far away lands.

WARNS AGAINST CAPE NOME.

A great deal has been written lately about the fabulous riches of Cape Nome. For that reason the following extract from a communication to the Denver Post may be without interest. The writer claims to have visited the country and found it everywhere but a paradise for gold hunters. He says:

"Now, before I close, I will say a few words about the latest hump and swindle—Cape Nome (pronounced Noma, from the Indian word hope). I have been over every yard of that Cape Nome beach, and I could not find even colors in my gold pan, let alone nuggets and fabulous strikes of placer gold, such as we have seen published from time to time in the papers throughout the land. There never has been one ounce of gold, either fine gold or nuggets, found on that Cape Nome beach, unless they have been put there by parties directly connected with this great transportation swindle that will rob thousands of poor, hard-working, honest people of the few dollars they have saved after years of toil."

"My advice to all who go there is to be sure and take enough money to bring them back to God's country, for they will find, when it is too late, that they have been swindled, and there will be no redress for them only to come back and start all over again to save every penny to make up for the time lost in the wild chase after wealth which did not exist."

Those alleged Kentucky confessions are coming too fast to be trusted. They are sure to be followed by a lot of denials.

There is nothing desirable about bubonic plague in a financial way. The recent experience at Honolulu cost the Hawaiians \$2,000,000.

Ex-Alderman Joy of Leadville, Col., was fatally shot by his wife today. The cause seems to have been a case of Joy-fall whisky drinking.

The leading lime manufacturers of the South have formed a combine. They hope to control the lime business, outside of the lynching division.

Russia comes a long way for coal in applying to Pennsylvania; but in case of a European war the supply there is safer than closer at home.

From the description given of Uncle Sam's new cruisers, they are likely to be quite ornamental so far as relates to any desire of a foreign power to engage them in combat.

The population of this country is said to increase at the rate of 7,000 every day, and the greatest number of immigrants, by far, have nothing to pay duty on when they arrive.

The French have won a decided victory over the Arabs southwest of Algeria, and the trouble there seems ended. The triumph over the semi-civilized force seems to have been easily accomplished.

The imminence of war between Costa Rica and Nicaragua suggests the possibility of intervention by the United States in a way to require no Hay-Pauncefote treaty affecting the Nicaragua canal route.

The graceful action of Queen Victoria in extending sympathy to the widow of General Joubert cannot fail to have a good effect. If the general had fallen in battle it might have been different, but under the circumstances the queen's message is eminently proper.

An American expedition exploring and surveying in Africa has been welcomed warmly by the ruler of Abyssinia. From the account of the expedition's experiences, African exploration is being relieved of the danger of hostile natives which attended former efforts to pierce the dark continent.

Great Britain is not satisfied with the award in the Delagoa Bay railway matter. As the London Standard puts it, Portugal probably will be able to pay "without alienating any of her colonial possessions." Some other method must be followed to secure Portuguese East Africa to the British.

It is said that on one train recently arrived at Sioux Falls, S. D., were twenty-eight sacks of mail franked by Senator Pettigrew, consisting principally of speeches delivered by him in the Senate in reference to the sultan of Sulu. Nothing like working the government pony when you've got him in harness.

If the correspondent of the London Times would tell where and how those 150,000 foreign troops, now said to be ready to fight for the African Republics, were landed, his story would have a color of probability. It would take a fleet of about 75 vessels to transport those troops, and as no power is known to have a transport fleet consisting of Flying Dutchman, it is inconceivable how they could be landed in Africa without having been seen or heard of somewhere.

British papers think the award in the Delagoa Bay case practically kills international arbitration. Probably not. In private litigation, too, nearly always one party, and sometimes both, are disappointed. They frequently feel as if it would be more satisfactory to fight it out. But that does not render private arbitration unimportant. International arbitration will be the demand of civilization, notwithstanding Great Britain did not in this case obtain all some of the editors expected.

Gov. Steunenberg of Idaho says he did not call on U. S. troops in the Coeur d'Alene troubles to destroy labor organizations but to suppress outbreaks on the part of persons who engaged in lawless violence. Whatever may be the views of some of the committee before whom he is testifying, the bulk of Idaho's people understand that their chief executive is stating the precise fact. It was the violence of rioters that brought the call for troops and martial law.

NEW YORK'S MORALITY.

New York Sun.

It is safe to assume that every regular practitioner of crime and every professional purveyor of vicious tastes and appetites in New York is known to the police, and also all the habitual patrons of the criminal and immoral. Why, then, are they suffered to exist? Why are they not all rooted out of the life of all great towns in civilization? Actually, as we see, they exist; as fea-

ture of every capital, as they always have existed, side by side with the progress of civilization.

New York Times.

It is not even a question of "wide-openness" which is now before us, not a question whether vice shall be flaunted or "suppressed" and made to keep quiet. It is a question whether the city government shall go into partnership with it and blackmail it. It has been shown that there exists in this city, as an organ of the municipal government, a gambling commission, composed with one exception, of holders of public office, whose function is to blackmail lawbreakers in the interest of the officials and to make the law, at tariff rates, is assured of protection.

Brooklyn Eagle.

A better tone is in the air. A more refined and dignified attitude of confession and of cowardice marks the official protectors of unspeakable abominations. There can be no canvass comparable with the duty to clean house, to abolish the alliance between rule and vice and to destroy the connections between the powers of government and the sale of decency to despisers of innocence, by officials as worthy decorated as are their criminal partners with the blazoned grossness of syndicated sin and of shameless shame.

Chicago Journal.

Here it is [a "sermon"] as preached by the keeper of a resort in which the habitués regularly rob the patrons and where a patrolman who called to "see about" a particularly flagrant case was refused admittance. "Sure, I snapped my fingers in the keeper's face and sent my regards to Chief Devery. What do I care for him? I'm running inside the law, ain't I? Besides, I pay enough for protection. The men who are behind me are big enough to put Devery and York out of office at the same time. I care for none of them. Men come here to spend their money. If they are robbed, they will be ready to come to their families all the earlier, won't they? So much the better, then. Men should stay at home, where they belong, or not kick if they are robbed."

New York Evening Post.

People must be aroused to a realizing sense of the disgrace that it is to live in a city where three million dollars a year are collected from one class of criminals as the price of non-interference with their nefarious business. Every such revelation as the Times made helps to this end. Journalism can do no better work in New York than to expose the shameful misgovernment of the city.

New York Herald.

There is no reason why New York should not be a fairly clean city. We grant the resort-keepers all the rights to which they are entitled, but we have an impression that the rest of our citizens also have rights. Chief Devery can't understand that statement, and hence the trouble which has come upon us. His retirement would make real reform possible, but nothing else will.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A paper, entitled Moody as a Boy and Business Man, will appear in the April number of the Saturday Evening Post. Mr. W. R. Moody is the author of it, and it is the first of a series to appear in that periodical.—Philadelphia.

The opening article in The Living Age for April 7 will be an affectionate yet discriminating consideration of Mr. Ruskin on his personal side by Julia Wedgwood, who knew him well. Mr. Haskett Derby of Boston translates for The Living Age a two-part story from the German of H. Heilmann, called "Rube," the first part of which will appear in the number for March 31. It is a story which dog-lovers will appreciate, and it gets its title from the name of a faithful dog.—Boston.

In the current number of Harper's Weekly Mr. Haskett Derby has an article on "The Way They Feel in England." The author is an American living in England, and being in a position to observe closely the current of opinion, he has written a valuable feature of the magazine. The article is "Field Intrenchments." The cartoon frontispiece is an example of Mr. W. A. Rogers' work. Lord Salisbury and President Kruger are depicted sitting on the edge of the precipice of international complications, while Uncle Sam sits smilingly by with his telescope of "Foresight" clasped idly across his knee.—New York.

The frontispiece of Harper's Bazar March 24 is an excellent full page portrait of Madame Sada Yacco, Japan's great emotional actress. Japanese dramatic art is illustrated in six photographs of the leading scenes in Mme. Yacco's favorite play, "The Geisha and the Knight." "Miriam" is the subject of the Bible women series. The home-story "The Girl in the Rain" by Randolph Churchill's Arrival at Capetown," and "The Care of Cage Birds" are other special features of the number.—New York.

The first place in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly is given to an article by Rt. Rev. Monsignor Seton on "Papal Elections." It is timely and interesting on account of the great age of the present pontiff. This is followed by a paper on Easter Celebrations in Roumania. "The Bath Comedy" is continued. There is a short story by Stephen Crane, entitled "Moonlight on the Snow," by Hermann in Boston, by Joaquin Miller, deals with questions of interest to students of natural history. "Below the Boilers" introduces the reader to the men and machines that make the ocean races go. There are some of the features of a very interesting magazine.—New York.

In the April number of Ainslie's Magazine the reader is offered four articles of peculiar interest. They are: "The Islands of the Pacific," by Arthur I. Street, "Net Results in Alaska," by Warren Cheney, "The Indian Congress," by Wade Montfort, and "Our Congressional President," by George Leiland Hunter. Among other articles are: "The World's Telegraph," by Earl W. Mayo; "Phoebe A. Hearst," by Mabel C. Craft, and "Topics of the Theater." The place of honor in fiction is given to a new writer, Norman Duncan.—Street & Smith, Publishers, New York.

The current number of Collier's Weekly is a "South African number." It contains articles on the Boer war, and in addition a story by Egerton Castle. The story is called "Eudymion in Barrocco," and is a piece of character analysis with a military setting.—New York.

The Puerto Rican tariff question is editorially discussed in the Review of Reviews for April, and in the same magazine there is an exposition of the relations of the United States Constitution to the Territories, by Prof. Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago. "The Great Steel Makers of Pittsburgh and the First-Carnegie Suit" is the subject of an illustrated article by Julius Moritzen. Prof. James Howard Gore writes on the proposed Panama canal, and a feature of German politics, Mr. R. van Bergen describes the disadvantages of foreigners in Japan under the revised treaties, and Mr. William M. Brewster, an American Scientist in China, outlines "The Warlike Policy of the Empire Dowager," warning the United States that only the utmost vigilance can secure for this government the benefits of the Panama canal. The Review of Reviews describes some of the wasteful methods

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