

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sunday Excepted).Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
(In Advance).

One Year\$3.00
Six Months2.25
Three Months1.50
One Month50
Saturday Edition, per year2.00
Semi-Weekly, per year1.00

Correspondence and other reading matter
for publication should be addressed
to the EDITOR.Address all business communications
and all remittances to:
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.Entered at the postoffice of Salt Lake
City, as second class matter according
to Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 24, 1908.

THE NATIVITY.

"There were in the same country
shepherds keeping watch over their
flock by night, when, lo, the angel
of the Lord came upon them, and the
glory of the Lord shone round about
them."

And suddenly there
was with the angel a multitude of the
heavenly host, praising God, and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men."

If the salvation of the world had been
left to human ingenuity a plan very
much different from God's would, with-
out doubt, have been devised. The
Savior would have been born in a palace.
His lineage would have been
through a family on the height of power
and glory. Or, His coming would,
at least, have attracted the attention
of the entire world, through wonderful
manifestations.

As a matter of fact, the apocrypha
tell wonderful stories about the nativity,
proving what human wisdom would
have suggested, had Divine wisdom
consulted it. They tell how, at the
moment of the entrance of the Savior
into the world, "the pole of the heaven"
stood motionless, and the birds were
still, and everything in creation sus-
pended motion. "Everything which was
being propelled forward was intercept-
ed in its course." Animals fell down
in worship, and the infant was given
speech and told of His divine origin.

But none of these wonders happened.
The Almighty works through perfectly
natural channels—no less wonderful,
since all nature is His miracle. "The
unfathomable depths of the divine
counsel were moved; the fountains of
the great deep were broken up; the
healing of the nations was issuing
forth; but nothing was seen on the sur-
face of human society but this slight
rippling of the water; the course of
human things went on as usual, while
each was taken up with little projects
of his own."

The shepherds who went into the city
of Bethlehem, directed by heavenly
messengers, found none of the imagin-
ary signs of glory with which
painters and poets have adorned
the manger and the cave. There was
no silver star to mark the place, no
visible angels hovering in the light
above the infant. What they saw
with the outward eye was a Galilean
workman well up in years, and a young
mother with an infant child whom,
since there was none to help her, she
herself had wrapped in swaddling
clothes. What they saw was so far
from divine manifestations, as gen-
erally understood, that the entire scene
must have caused them to doubt the
heavenly origin of their vision in the
field. But to the eye of faith the di-
vine light shone radiant.

In all ages men are apt to be mis-
taken concerning the message and the
messengers of the Lord, unless their
eyes are opened to see beyond outward
appearances. Everyone of the apostles
of our Lord was rejected by the ma-
jority of their fellowmen; they were
treated as criminals, and slain. The
past bids the present not to fall into
its error, but to examine in humility
and honestly the message that now
is being delivered in all parts of the
world, preparatory to the second ad-
vent of the Messiah. The message is
true. The messengers may be frail,
and very human, but yet the instru-
ments in the hand of the Almighty ac-
complish His purposes in the earth.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

Some good people have again made
the proposition that the Christmas tree
be abolished. It is urged that all who
believe that the natural resources of
the country are worth saving should
refrain from decorating their homes
and churches with the traditional
green. It would seem, though, that
the remedy ought to be some rational
method in the cutting of the trees, by
which the supply is saved from undue
waste, and not the abolishment of the
joy a Christmas tree brings to the
hearts of children! No doubt there
are many abuses in the cutting of
trees, and these should be abolished.

The Christmas tree trade has become
quite important in some parts of the
country. According to the story, many
years ago a party of hunters returning
on a yacht from a caribou hunt in
Newfoundland, called at Sargentville,
on the eastern shore of Penobscot bay,
and took a ride inland to visit some
abandoned copper and lead mines in
Blue Hill, Maine. The leaves had fallen
from deciduous trees, causing the
dark evergreens to stand out in bold
relief against the neutral background
of browns and grays. Stretching back
from the roadside and sweeping over
hill and valley were tens of thousands
of young firs in the full vigor of
growth. The owner of the yacht came
to the conclusion they would make
ideal Christmas trees. He hired some

men and horses and loaded the deck of
the yacht with about 500 trees, and then
took them to Boston. When the cargo
was taken up in front of Faneuil hall
the marketmen fell over one another in
their greed to get the new trees. They
sold out the entire lot at an enormous
profit, and clamored for more.

The next year about 50,000 trees were
taken to Boston from the shores of
Hancock county, chiefly from Castine,
Orland and Blue Hill. The third sea-
son trees were sent to New York and
captured the hearts of the dwellers in
the American metropolis. At the end
of four years the average shipment of
Maine's firs was 700,000 trees a year. It
soon increased to more than 1,200,000,
and then to 1,500,000.

This means quite a sum of money to
those engaged in the trade. Allow-
ing only seven and one-half cents for
the average price on Christmas trees
delivered at the station, and placing
the number at 1,500,000, the revenue
from trees alone will be \$112,500. Add-
ed to this, say, \$10,000 for berries and
trailing evergreens to be made into
wreaths. This means 20,000 barrels of
flour, or 10,000 cloaks for the women,
or as many overcoats for the men. It
means joy in many homes, and that is
best of all.

SANTA CLAUS LETTERS.

A few days ago an order was issued
that all letters addressed to Santa
Claus, finding their way into the post-
office, were to be sent to the dead-
letter office.

There was a reason for this. At first
an occasional letter addressed to the
good Saint was found, and the pa-
thetic story was told in the newspapers,
with the details of benevolent giving
added. As a result letters to Santa
Claus multiplied all over the country,
and the postoffice officials, on in-
vestigation, found that most of the let-
ters were penned by professional beg-
gars and frauds. To protect well-
meaning philanthropists against im-
position, the order was issued.

And so the dear public has had an-
other much needed lesson in the neces-
sity of adding wisdom to benevolence.
There are reliable agencies through
which to distribute gifts to those who
are needy, and anyone who has more
to distribute than he can attend to per-
sonally, should select such organiza-
tions. Personal investigation and
personal giving are the very best forms
of charity, for nothing softens the heart
as much as personal contact with
those who suffer. There is really no
other way of joining heart to heart.
The rich man who only permits Laz-
arus to feed on the crumbs that fall
from the table cannot feel, as a brother
should for a brother, for the sufferer.
The Master went, personally, among
the poor and afflicted and healed them
and fed them, and that is the very best
form of charity. But those who cannot do
that can select responsible organizations
and institutions through which to dis-
pense their bounty.

We do not want to offend anyone,
but as an illustration we wish to state
that the New York Evening Post claims
that, according to the testimony of the
General of the Salvation Army before
the Supreme Court, of the funds col-
lected by that organization, 40 per cent
go to the officers for salaries and 50
per cent the solicitors keep for com-
mission. Now, we do not know what
the facts exactly are, but it is evident
that charity that costs anything like
90 per cent to distribute, is misplaced.
There are bishops in the wards and
ministers of churches, who will be
pleased to place gifts where they are
really needed and to do so without
remuneration. We should be wise as
well as benevolent.

FEATURES OF OUR LORD.

No authentic record has preserved to
the world the features of our Lord. His
spiritual and mental characteristics are
delineated in the Gospels with unmis-
takeable clearness. They are pre-
sented to us for imitation. But the precise
outlines of the bodily tabernacle are not
made part of the Gospel story.

The following has often been pub-
lished as a report from a Roman official,
Publius Lentulus, to the Emperor and
senate in Rome. It may be interesting
reading even though not genuine:

"There appeared in these our days a
man of great virtue named Jesus Christ
who is yet living amongst us, and of
the Gentiles is accepted for a prophet
of truth, but his own disciples call
him the Son of God. He raiseth the
dead, and cureth all manner of dis-
eases; a man of stature somewhat tall
and comely, with a very reverend
countenance, such as the boys and
men may both love and fear; his hair
of the color of a chestnut fully ripe, plain
to the ears, hence downwards it is more
erect, curling and waving about his
shoulders; in the middle of his head is a
seam or partition of his hair, after the
manner of the Nazarenes; his forehead
plain and very delicate; his face with-
out spot or wrinkle, beautified with a
lovely red; his nose and mouth so
formed as nothing can be reproached;
his beard thickish, in color like his hair,
not very long, but forked; his look, in-
nocent and mature; his eyes grey, clear
and quick; in reproving, he is terrible;
in admonishing, courteous and fair-
spoken; pleasant in conversation, mixed
with gravity; it cannot be remembered
that any have seen him laugh, but
many have seen him weep; in propor-
tion of body, most excellent; his hands
and arms, most delectable to behold;
in speaking, very temperate, modest
and wise; a man for his singular beauty
surpassing the children of men."

The early Fathers were, by no
means, agreed on this question. Some
of them taking the ancient prophecies
for their guide, depicted Him as a
patient sufferer, a "smitten" outcast.
Clement of Alexandria says His
beauty was in His soul and His ac-
tions, not in His body. Justin Mar-
tyr takes the same view. Origen says
His body was small and mis-shapen.
Tertullian says He had no human
handsomeness, much less any celestial
splendor. Celsus, the infidel, accepted
this tradition and argued against His
divine origin on that ground. On the
other hand, St. Jerome and Augustine
held that He was "fairer than the
children of men," and this view has
found expression in Christian art. But
the very fact that so diverse opinions
were held in the early ages on the
physical features of our Savior proves
that the Lord did not consider this

essential. That, however, the beauty
of the indwelling soul was reflected
in His features, there can be no doubt.

AGAINST HAZING.

President E. J. James, of the Uni-
versity of Illinois, a short time ago, is-
sued an address to the students of
that institution, against hazing. This
awful custom prevails more or less in
American colleges and universities, and
it certainly calls for some energetic ef-
forts to stamp it out. In his address
President James says, in part:

"There should be no misunder-
standing on the part of the student body or
the general public as to the attitude
of authorities of the University of Illi-
nois on the subject of hazing. It is a
rule of the board of trustees that stu-
dents found guilty of hazing shall be
dismissed from the university. Since
this rule went into effect, all students
who have been clearly proven guilty
of hazing have been dismissed.
"Hazing is a violation of good man-
ners and of the right of individual lib-
erty. It is a provocative of public dis-
order. Public opinion throughout the
state has very properly set its seal of
condemnation upon it. On all counts it
must be put under the ban of the uni-
versity."

"In its milder forms it is a nonsensical
and almost idiotic form of amuse-
ment, unworthy of the support or
favor of any sensible university stu-
dent. It was looked upon as a compar-
atively slight offense, perhaps, twenty
years ago in small institutions. It is
today altogether unworthy of the tradi-
tions and reputation of a national in-
stitution such as this has become."

In its coarser forms hazing is a
vulgar, brutal, always demoralizing,
and sometimes dangerous form of sport
which the university cannot counten-
ance or tolerate. It naturally leads to
reprisals and may thus become a source
of serious disorder within and without
the university. In its worst forms,
which fortunately have not prevailed
here, it may, not inaptly, be compared
with night-riding, white capping, and
other similar forms of outrageous inter-
ference with public rights.

"Surely there are reasons enough not
only to forbid its existence at the uni-
versity, but to use every legitimate
means to stamp it out.
"All loyal and law-abiding students
are especially requested to co-operate
with the authorities in putting an ab-
solute end to this custom which in ad-
dition to the evil it does within the
university brings dishonor upon the
fair name of our alma mater through-
out the state and country and natu-
rally begets a prejudice against us which
influences unfavorably the prosperity
of the institution."

The hazing craze very often breaks
out at the beginning of the year and
rages for a time, like a fever. It is,
as President James, in a letter to the
"News," says, difficult to eradicate,
owing to the sentiment of parents and
public officials on the subject, who,
while condemning the thing in the ab-
stract, in a mild sort of way, practi-
cally support it by a refusal to regard it
as anything more than a bit of harm-
less horse play which will take care
of itself in the long run.

"This view," our correspondent adds,
"is, of course, justified in regard to
certain phases of it, but other more
serious phases, which show themselves
now and then in different institutions,
are really the outcropping of the same
spirit that shows itself in such an
alarming way in the frequency of mob
action of various kinds in different
parts of the United States."

This, we think, is true. The colleges
and universities of this Republic ought
to be institutions in which young men
and women learn to honor duly con-
stituted authority and to respect the
rights and privileges of others as much
as their own. If they are not trained
in the exercise of this principle of pa-
triotism they are likely to go astray as
citizens and become the supporters and
promoters of mob rule in the state. In
view of the hazing incidents that have
disgraced some of our schools, and the
awful lawlessness that makes some of
our states no better than the regions
terrorized by bandits and outlaws, it is
high time for our colleges, universities
and the public press to unite in an
earnest effort to abate this menace to
our free institutions.

Compliments of the season!
No "News" on Christmas day.
Fine feathers make fine hats.
Hang up a big stocking tonight!
"We don't patronize" but we do com-
plain.

The name of the grand old man is
Santa Claus.

Castro was the Old Man of the Sea
on Venezuela's back.

It is seven against Pittsburg instead
of seven against Thebes.

If kept up too long sowing wild oats
makes a man look seedy.

To miss an opportunity doesn't al-
ways mean to miss a good thing.

The joys of Christmas shopping are
largely offset by the January bills.

The child who has always been a pet
is usually quite subject to "pets."

Pennsylvania's output of graft scan-
dals almost rivals her output of coal.

Preserve the forests if for nothing
else that we may have Christmas trees.

Perhaps the watery vapors of Mars
are but the vaporizing of an astronomer.

Anyhow, the Mayor can tell that
"third party" that he tried to keep his
word.

Those desiring to experience frenzied
finance have but to finance their
friends.

These are the days when the jani-
tor tries to palm off "hot air" for
steam.

Even in educational matters it is
much easier to know what to do than
how to do.

It was just as mean as mean could
be for the court to blockade the
Mayor's stockade plans.

With food prices so high the world

cannot afford to pay any man a living
though it does owe it to him.

"What is a sausage?" asks the Oma-
ha Bee. John Phoenix's definition of
hush describes it exactly. It is "no
sabe."

By saying he was "tepid" on the
woman suffrage question, Mr. Roose-
velt came very near getting into hot
water.

If as strongly suspected Mr. Carnegie
is back again in the steel business it
is nothing but a return to his first
love.

"India is now buying many American
windmills," says an exchange. Has
this any connection with the widespread
agitation over there?

Of late many eulogies have been pro-
nounced on Milton and his great fame
as a poet and controversialist sung, and
yet great as his was success and high
his aim, he went it blind.

By finding Gompers, Mitchell and
Morrison guilty of contempt of court
and sentencing them to terms of im-
prisonment, Judge Wright has made
himself almost as famous as Judge
Landis did in fining the Standard Oil
company.

A Chicago lecturer says that it is
the sacred duty of every woman to
become a Venus. But a woman who
sacredly attends to her household du-
ties will scarcely have time to attend
to this "sacred duty" of becoming a
Venus.

Already it is evident that Mr. Taft
is going to make great efforts to win
the affections of the South, and it will
be worth any effort he may make.
They are a brave and gallant people
down there and anything that can draw
them and the people of the North closer
together is to be encouraged.

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Next Week: Henry W. Savage's Ver-
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Something New. VAUDEVILLE AND DRAMA

The Geo. W. Scott Co., Presenting
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THE ROCKIES!"
A Splendid Story of the West, and
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BIG SPECIAL CAST OF PEOPLE.
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AND STAGE PICTURES.

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ups, etc. Our Blue ribbon re-
medy has no equal. A chest
preparation will assist by keeping
the throat moist and the lungs
warm. Our remedies cure both the old
and young, both "phones 457; remem-
ber the number.

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service means anything to you,
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ing Wraps
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13 Pounds Sugar, \$1 with order.
6 Spools Coats Cotton, 25c.
3 Packages Raisins, 25c.
3 Cans Royal Blue Corn, 25c.
Swift Premium Hams, per
pound 15c.
Breakfast bacon, per pound 15c.
8 Bars D. C. Soap, 25c.
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Our inducement for next Sat-
urday will be a hummer on lad-
ies' "Misses' coats. Don't miss
the opportunity to purchase your-
self a coat on this date.
Our Christmas trade has been
a record breaker. Order with us
now. Our line is still complete.
Call and make selection and we
will make delivery any time you
specify.

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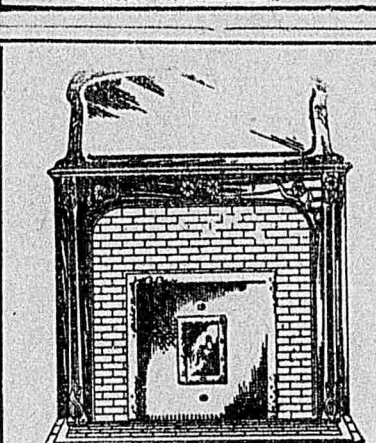
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to get the ordinary grade which
costs just as much.
If quality of goods and prompt
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