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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MARCH 22, 1900.

NOTICE.

The Seventieth 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 F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

"UTAH GOSPEL MISSION."

"The call of 250,000 Western Mormons, almost deprived of Christian light and privilege and enslaved by a heartless heathenism, demands an immediate, effective, and Christ-like answer. The most feasible reply is that undertaken by the Utah Gospel Mission, which will effectively reach every home and settlement from Canada to Mexico. Otherwise it seems probable that almost another whole generation will die in darkness before the gospel reaches this people generally."

The foregoing is being circulated on cards throughout the country, and has been forwarded to the "News" with a request to notice it. Perhaps the "most feasible" way to do so would be to say that the "call" means, please send money to the promoters of the "mission." This is the "call" made to the congregations in the churches where the aims of the agitators are orally set forth.

The "250,000 Western Mormons" spoken of, are able to give pointers to the people who assume the position of instructors in the Gospel. Our Sunday school children, numbering over a hundred and six thousand, could explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ so as to greatly enlighten the egotists who thus proclaim the "darkness" of the "Mormons." That Gospel is more thoroughly taught and understood by the Latter-day Saints, than by any body of the same number to be found in the United States.

"Mormonism" IS the Gospel, as taught by Christ and His Apostles in person. The pretence put forth by the projectors of this plan to collect funds from every part of the country, is deceptive and shameful in the extreme. The Gospel of the Savior is not only preached on Sundays in every "Mormon" settlement from Canada to Mexico, but scarcely an evening in each week passes without some meeting being held, to impress Gospel truth and Gospel practice upon the minds of old or young.

In "Mormon" households, night and morning, prayer is offered in the family circle, to the Eternal Father in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. It is the preaching of the Gospel that has brought together in these valleys the people from various lands, who are said to be in "darkness and heathenism" by the sectaries who presume to malign them for the purpose of collecting cash.

There is, however, a field for the exertions of such persons as desire to spread Christian light and to promote Gospel influence. It can be found right at home, within the view of the men who want funds for a "Utah Gospel Mission." We do not now refer to the millions in this country who care nothing for religion, and who never enter a place of worship. We mean people who are counted as Christians and are connected either by membership or relationship with "Christian" congregations.

We have before us in print an appeal from bishops of one of those churches, for a season of fasting and prayer that the spiritual life of its members may be renewed. It is openly confessed in this official address that:

"There are now unhappily Methodists who lack present knowledge of New Testament salvation."
"In our case it is simply a lack of spiritual power, of personal experience, lack of the witness of the Spirit, lack of the seal of the covenant that makes difficulties so prominent."

"Let us not deceive ourselves. This decline in our membership is not an accident. It comes from a sufficient cause. That cause is the slipping cord in our experience, our lack of spiritual power."

"The moral and spiritual forces of the church necessary for the building of great and Christ-like character seem to be sidetracked."

Might not the same admissions be truthfully made by other churches? Is there not need of active efforts for the removal of the "beams" in the eyes of religious professors, who want help to remove the mote from the eyes of the "Mormons"? And if the truth were plainly told would it not appear that the agitation in religious circles over "Mormonism" is largely due to jealousy and anger over the vigor and success attending "Mormon" proselytism, when contrasted with the debility and decrease in the ranks of the orthodox churches, which is so marked as to not them to fasting and prayer for new vitality?

What would the "Utah Gospel Mission" proclaim to the "Mormons" from Canada to Mexico, if sufficient funds were subscribed to pay for the preaching? Would it be anything different to the pulpit oratory which fails to accomplish the end desired in the great cities of the land? What is the "Christian light" proposed, to dispel the

"darkness" of the alleged "heartless heathenism" of Utah? Is it the declaration that Jesus is the Christ and that He died to save mankind through faith in His name? Well, that lies at the very foundation of "Mormon" doctrine, and enters into the life and being of its devotees.

If our Christian friends have any Gospel truth that is not known to, or believed by, the Latter-day Saints, let them come on and enlighten us. They need not wait for big subscriptions to pay expenses. It will cost them little. We are anxious for more light, more truth, greater inspiration. We welcome that which will increase our sum of religious knowledge. It does not matter where it comes from, nor who is the messenger, so long as it is real information, and is brought in a genuine Christian spirit.

But if the "Utah Gospel Mission" is merely to disseminate the kind of anti-"Mormon" literature which it has circulated in the East, its efforts here will be a failure. Burlesques of the creed and defamation of the character of "Mormon" leaders and their followers, will meet with small favor, even among dissenters from the beliefs of the majority of Utah's citizens.

We must confess to doubts of anything practical growing out of this alleged "mission." It has been talked of so long with nothing visible here as to its effects, that we place little reliance on the actual intention of its promoters to invade the State, either secretly as at first announced, or openly as later declared, with "sheep wagons and organs," or with movable chapels and tents. In any event, and in any manner the crusade is to be conducted, only let us know and the "News" will announce its advent, and if it brings any true light we will aid in making it shine.

HYLSOP'S EXPERIMENT.

Much has been said recently of Prof. Hyslop, of the Columbian University, on account of his so-called experiments for the purpose of proving scientifically the existence of an unseen world. The next report of the Society for Psychical Research is to be devoted largely to his "researches" on this field.

The report will show, it is alleged, that the professor, through the medium of Mrs. Piper and under conditions that rendered fraud impossible, entered into communication with his father, who has been dead for many years. From this source he obtained a mass of information on private matters of which he knew nothing, but which were afterwards amply verified by people who knew the deceased.

Professor Hyslop is not the first who has endeavored by "scientific" investigation to solve some of the mysteries of the beyond, but generally it has turned out that the "investigators" have been either deceived or deceivers. Unseen powers have sometimes taken hold of them and led them astray, blinding their judgment and making them believe falsehoods. In other instances the fraud has been exposed to the public disgrace of its perpetrators.

The existence of a world beyond the veil can hardly be doubted by rational beings. But to establish communication with that world, in any other way than that which has been appointed by the Ruler of the universe, must be condemned as dangerous. There is a tendency to overestimate the "scientific proof" of the existence after death. The proofs that have been given are quite as strong as any that can be conceived of. They rest on testimony. And what proof can be stronger? The fact remains that "if they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

A STRANGE STORY.

A remarkable story is printed by the New York Herald and other papers. It is the story of a French Canadian, Joseph Zotique la Jole, concerning his alleged adventures in an extreme northern latitude. The gentleman himself believes, it is said, that he has been at the North Pole, among a strange race of people, and scientists are said to listen with attention to his marvelous tale.

According to the Herald La Jole first appeared in this country about five months ago. First in Boston, then in New York, and later in Washington, he met and conversed with celebrated Arctic explorers and men of science. At present he is in Washington at the request of Professor McGee of the Smithsonian Institution, and he is being subjected to a most rigid examination for the purpose of ascertaining his credibility.

La Jole, it seems, is a son of the frontier from the province of Quebec. He was raised to the life of a hunter and mired to the hardships of the northern regions. In 1886, he says, he started with his father from Montreal for Battleford, Northwest Territory. He left his father there and pushed on through British Columbia and Alaska, and in 1889 arrived at Great Bear Lake. But game being scarce, he determined to go on in company with a partner named George Walte.

Then the story goes on as follows: "Leaving the mainland, they crossed Union Straits to Wollaston Island. With fields and dogs they pushed across the following three years to Grant Land. Toward the spring of 1892 they found themselves near Cape Brainerd. Hunting in this vicinity, they learned from the natives of an iron post left by some explorer. On this they found the following marks:

"Eighty-two degrees of latitude north, 53 degrees longitude west."
To the north of this a few miles they made their camp in May, 1892. This camp was established at the junction of two immense icebergs, and White proved that they separate and each take a ten days' journey on these diverging points of ice to find the best hunting. La Jole, while returning, fell on the seventh day a tremendous shock, like an earthquake. It meant that the ice had parted and that he was adrift. Admiral Melville the other day in Washington agreed that La Jole's description of this phenomenon was accurate.

"The berg drifted to the north. For three days he lived on fish, hoping against hope that a wind that had sprung up from the south would drive him back to the mainland. For a period of three days he was adrift, he says, amid terrible storms of snow, hail and sleet.

"Land was sighted on several occasions, but he was unable to get

ashore. On the morning of the thirty-seventh day, having eaten six of his dogs and suffered many torments, La Jole found that the berg on which he had drifted had touched land. He got ashore with the remaining dogs. He says that the farther north the berg drifted the milder became the climate. "That night La Jole was awakened by the barking of his dogs. He jumped to his feet and found that he was surrounded by a tribe of copper-colored natives, who were shooting at him with bows and arrows. La Jole was armed only with a knife and club, but his double suit of skin protected him from the arrows.

"The next day they were willing to treat for peace. La Jole held two wounded natives as hostages, and the fact that he treated them kindly allowed him to put himself, through a little diplomacy, on good terms with the remainder of the party, which consisted of about forty-five.

"He describes the men whom he joined as belonging to a strange race, speaking a tongue entirely unlike that of the other natives whom he had met on his travels. Their complexion, he states, was of a reddish brown hue and their eyes and hair were either black or brown. The men were very large, averaging more than 6 feet in height. Their clothes were made of skins and shaped after a strange fashion.

"They took him to their camp, in which was a big tent framed of whale-bones and covered with whale skin. He remained in the camp five months and learned a few words of their language. "I lived two years among the natives," said La Jole, "and learned in that time their language and how to read their hieroglyphics. I then determined to return to civilization. I ordered the people to build me a boat. This was constructed of whale skin. It was thirty feet long, five wide and four deep."

"I set upon the return journey with two of the natives. To go over and detail my hardships during the subsequent period of five months would be merely to repeat in lesser degree the sufferings of the trip to the island. The great change of climate as we came south so affected the two faithful fellows who were with me that both died before I reached the mainland."

"I reached Nekalek, Alaska, in the fall of 1894. I there sold my boat for a train of dogs and journeyed overland through Alaska and British Columbia to Ottawa."

About a quarter of a century ago a similar story circulated through the papers. Its true origin was never discovered. But it had some effect of keeping alive the interest in Arctic explorations, and the present story may have a similar effect, even if it is proved to be a fiction.

BLOCH AND ROBERTS.

M. Bloch, the eminent Russian writer on military topics, thinks that wars will, in the future, be impossible. He thinks that troops not able to hide under the smoke of their own artillery, exposing themselves to the accurate fire of modern cannon and guns will run the risk of annihilation.

He emphasizes the impossibility of conquering, because the efficiency of the defense is so great that a besieged force may hold out indefinitely, and he thinks the Boers may not be overcome if they entrench themselves in their strongholds. He sees no end of the South African war except by arbitration.

It is a pity the belligerents themselves should not see the war from a similar point of view. Lord Roberts seems confident of bringing the struggle to an end with the complete subjugation of the enemy. But then it is one thing to write theoretically about a great movement, and another thing to take a practical part in it. Bloch is doing the former and Roberts the latter. Bloch could not foresee the surrender of Cronde. There is where Roberts had the best of the Russian author.

A SALT LAKE GIRL.

The Paris correspondent of the New York World cables that a young Chicago girl has taken charge of the advertising bureau of the American commission, at the French capital during the World's Fair. The purpose of the bureau is to induce foreign journalists to notice the American exhibits and to develop the foreign trade of the United States.

The newspaper presses, the railway locomotives and appliances, and the agricultural implements to be on exhibition at the Fair are largely American, and are expected to outrank all others. Some of the big New York papers will print daily issues on the grounds. The United States will cut a big figure at the great exposition.

The statement that the bright young lady who is to take charge of the American advertising bureau is "a Chicago girl," is a mistake, unless her recent brief residence in that city gives it a claim upon her. She is counted here as a Salt Lake girl. Her name is Miss Elsie Reasoner, daughter of Mr. Calvin Reasoner. It is here where she made her first mark in public, and she is well known to many of the people of Utah, who will be pleased to learn of her promotion, and those of them who contemplate a trip to Paris will be gratified to meet her there.

Montana reports another outbreak of smallpox. It is hoped there will be no more importations from that district to this part of the country.

Messrs. Carnegie and Frick have consented to settle their difficulties. Two hundred millions in cash ought to settle almost anything, when operated as are the interests of those steel kings.

The Filipino representative in Paris claims a victory over an American force. The infrequency of such imaginary claims now indicates that even the Filipino junta has almost reached its last gasp.

The Cleveland machinists have decided to strike for an hour a day less work. How regrettable it is that arbitration could not have settled the dispute which now is referred to a measure of force that may work indescribable grief before the end is reached.

The congressman who would be really frightened if Great Britain had a complete chain of fortifications along the Canadian border probably does not exist, but if the ordinary New York M. C. could not be ridiculous sometimes the end of his election would not be attained.

Evidently the barber accused of killing the late Mr. Goebel in Kentucky is able to prove a safe alibi, so far as the court's action is concerned; but it would seem dangerous to a man in

the Blue Grass State to have such a rumor started, because of the imminent peril from someone seeking personal vengeance.

Persia, it is announced, is about to send a minister to the United States. The last representative of the Shah left this country because the newspapers printed jokes about his name. Persian dignitaries are not trained to put up with the eccentricities of the funny editor.

The New Jersey Assembly has passed a bill giving juries, in finding a verdict of murder in the first degree, the power to say whether the punishment shall be death or imprisonment for life. That seems to be a compromise between the advocates of the death penalty and its opponents.

When public improvements are decided on upon a basis of official estimate it is well to know sometimes whether that estimate is based on an exceptionally stingy or an excessively liberal motive. The people have been disappointed frequently enough in having their money expended far in excess of anticipations, and all because of deceptive estimates at the outset.

The Kansas City chief of police who offers a reward for killing highwaymen seems to have little faith in his own ability to perform the official duty of capturing them. Besides, if it should be shown that any one were killed to secure the reward, and possibly in mistake for a highwayman, that police officer would be in a bad fix through his foolishness.

A couple charged with being religious fanatics have been tarred and feathered in Nebraska. The mob of "aged prominent citizens" who would indulge in such lawlessness would better grace the interior of a jail than have the privilege of liberty. In this case, if the allegations against the persecuted couple are true, the remedy is worse than the alleged crime, because of its barbarous lawlessness.

There is talk of Canada becoming an integral part of the British empire, in the sense of being consolidated into the body of the monarchical institution instead of a colonial dependency, as at present. No doubt there are many people who would have it so, but the stronger probability is that the majority of Canadians are quite willing to have the present status remain, and will successfully resist any proposition to lessen actual self-government in any degree from existing conditions.

The present condition of France is thus described by a Madrid paper:

"At present the Exposition engages every one's attention uniting all social and political factions; but there is certainly much material for combustion. Militarism has raised its head in a manner hardly expected a short time ago. The Monarchists reveal an activity of which they were not thought capable and the agitation of the Socialists and Anarchists tends to produce disturbances in another direction. If to all this is added a struggle with the church, the French government may well fear the end of the Exposition."

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION.

Springfield, Republican.
Lord Roberts has entered Bloemfontein, but the Free State capital has meanwhile, been moved to Kroonstad, which is a hundred-mile chase to the north. This looks a little as if Messrs. Kruger and Steyn meant it when they wrote to Lord Salisbury that the Boer independence was to be destroyed, the war must go on to the bitter end.

Sacramento Bee.
The British soldiers are finding many women among the Boer dead on every battlefield, women who fought side by side with their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sweethearts in defense of their homes and liberties. The great womanly heart of Queen Victoria should do a little pulsating in the way of Christian sympathy for these dead and murdered women of the Transvaal.

Kansas City Star.
The present facts appear to be that Lord Roberts has abundantly restored the prestige of the British army, which with a great preponderance in numbers is advanced to the invasion of the Transvaal, and that the Orange Free State is practically out of the fight, except as individual Free States may keep up the contest in connection with the Boers of the Transvaal. It would seem then in view of this situation the opponents of war who have heretofore condemned the British for waging battle, but have said nothing about the Boers, should now join in condemning the latter for their protracted a strategy which can only be worse than useless.

New York Evening Post.
Lord Roberts' formal occupation of Bloemfontein is also intended, evidently, as the formal annexation of the Orange Free State to the British crown. That there is at least a faction of the burghers to whom this result will not be welcome, is clear from the reception of the British troops. It is to be remembered that the Free State did, in fact, have the Boers in the latter day troubles, make official application to the British government to be annexed.

New York Mail and Express.
The destruction of Johannesburg would mean the direct loss of something like \$10,000,000; but the ultimate loss to the far from the utter party, says for a long time of the mining industries, with their output of fabulous wealth. The only justification for such an act of war is the hope of turning back the invader. It was this that made the destruction of Moscow against Napoleon a stroke of genius. But in the case of the Transvaal no such hope can exist.

Boston Transcript.
Lord Roberts, in his report of the occupation of Bloemfontein, refers to Steyn as "late president" of the Orange Free State. This may be the handwriting on the wall in obedience to Lord Salisbury's order, for the latter's reply to the Boer appeal for peace is a plain declaration that the Free State and the Transvaal will be "assimilated," benevolently or otherwise. Bloemfontein appears to be easily reconciled to its fate, for business has been resumed with the British soldiers, who pay as they go, for customers.

San Francisco Chronicle.
Even the vigorous mobilization of the armies of France and Russia, which might have been construed as a protest by indirection, is stripped of that character by the announcement made by the French minister of foreign affairs that France has no desire to intervene because the British government has declared that it was not disposed to consent to the independence of the two South African republics. When Roberts begins to move north, it is claimed that he will have 50,000 men under him and Buller will co-operate with

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T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

an army of 40,000. Clearly the brave Boers are overwhelmingly handicapped and the end seems to be approaching with nothing in sight to prevent or delay it.

Chicago Record.
It was a foregone conclusion when the British should have assembled a sufficient number of troops in the Orange Free State that the Boers would have to retire to the Vaal river and beyond. It does not necessarily follow that the fighting is nearly finished. From all that can be learned about the Boers it appears probable that the hardest battles of the war are yet to be fought.

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