

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's office No. 74, 3 rings.

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CHANGE OF FAST DAY.

The Saints of Pioneer, Liberty, Salt Lake, and Ensign stakes, will please notice that the next Fast day, by order of the First Presidency, will be observed in those stakes on the last Sunday of this month, May 29, instead of the first Sunday of June, owing to the fact that the conference of the Mutual Improvement Associations convenes on the latter date.

PRESBYTERIANS AND DIVORCE

The Presbyterian general assembly at Buffalo has rejected the report of the committee on marriage and divorce, which recommended that ministers refuse to marry persons who cannot be married except in violation of the rules of their own church. This recommendation was adopted, it will be remembered, a short time ago, by an inter-ecumenical conference, on the divorce problem. The churches represented at that conference were the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Methodist south, Dutch Reformed, German Reformed, United Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Congregational, Universalist, Unitarian, Reformed Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, and the Alliance of Reformed Churches. The speakers at that conference pleaded for a general recognition of the sanctity of the marriage. They emphasized the fact that conditions now prevail which threaten the most sacred things. Manhood, womanhood, and childhood, the home and the family, are involved, and neither civil legislation nor ecclesiastical discipline can save them until and unless the conscience of Christian humanity is reached. The belief was, further expressed that the hope of curing and crushing the horrible tendencies to facile and frequent divorce rests upon impressing and inculcating such an intense conviction of what marriage is, and of what marriage means, that it will cease to be entered into "unadvisedly or lightly"; that the festivity which accompanies it shall be sobered and consecrated by the conscious presence of Him "Who adorned and beautified the marriage at Cana in Galilee by His presence and first miracle that He wrought;" that neither man nor woman shall dare to enter the precincts of betrothal without the tested certainty of love; without the full recognition of the mutual duty of service, forbearance, and faithfulness which it involves.

These convictions were generally held; and it was thought necessary to suggest some common course of action by all the churches represented. Nothing more practical, however, could be agreed on than the proposition that a clergyman of one denomination should not officiate for a couple who, according to the rules of their own church, were barred from marriage. It seemed, to the members of the conference, possible to reach a common ground on that recommendation, but now it appears that the Presbyterian general assembly refuses to adopt even that rule. The committee, however, is continued, and it may yet make an acceptable suggestion.

But there is the great difficulty of the present age. The leaders of churches see the evils, but their energy is so much wasted in the strife and competition engendered by the division of Christendom into so many factions, that they are almost powerless in the face of the common foe. Were there unity of faith and purpose, there would be more good work done.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

According to advices from Rome, there is much anxiety in Vatican circles on account of the conflict with the French government. Several months ago the friction became noticeable when the law against associations was passed, which affected several religious orders. Then, when President Loubet went to Rome and ignored the Vatican, the pope protested against the visit. The French representative at the Vatican was next recalled. When the French government replies to the protest against the visit of President Loubet to Rome, it will be known whether the aim of the government is the complete separation between church and

state in France. There is a strong radical element, as it is called, that desires this consummation. But it has found that to force an entire people away from their sympathies and modes of thinking, formed during thousands of years, is not the work of a moment. If the struggle is forced, either the church or the republic may succumb. Which will it be in this case? That is the inevitable question, as the opponents seem to marshal their forces for combat. A Paris paper expresses the opinion that, although the pope is a stranger to politics, he is under the necessity of interfering occasionally, as he has just done in the matter of the French laws dealing with the religious orders, and that he will honestly and from sentiment make serious mistakes. It is he, that paper thinks, who will bring about the separation of church and state in France. He will bring it about under circumstances harmful alike to church and to state. If, however, no other result follows than a complete separation between church and state, the outcome will be beneficial to France. Perfect religious liberty can never be secured where the two are joined together. And without perfect religious liberty, no country can progress to the full extent of its powers. Church and state would never be at odds, if each understood its own interests. The two are divine institutions for the benefit of man, and they should always work together in harmony, to attain the best results.

ORIGINAL AND FUNNY.

John Merritt Driver of Chicago, if reports are true, has entertained his highly intelligent audience in the "People's Church," with some talk on the "Mormons." No church would be up to date, we presume, without an occasional sermon on that subject. But Mr. Merritt Driver seems to have the merit of being original in his drivel. He is reported to have said that the world-famous senate investigation was a "Mormon trick," the object being to gain publicity. That certainly is original. It is also funny. After a while that gentleman will, no doubt, maintain that the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and his noble brother Hyrum at Carthage was a "Mormon trick;" that the exodus, with its untold sufferings was another "trick;" and that the contest between truth and error along the entire line, is but a "trick," for advertising purposes. We almost feel under obligation to apologize for noticing such an unreasonable statement, but the fact is that to a close observer it almost appears as if the Church could best flourish under opposition. That is an ancient observation. Where there are many adversaries there is sure to be a wide door open. Truth, like the mighty oak, the more the storms blow around it and the tempests rage, the deeper it sends its roots into the nourishing soil, and the stronger its branches become, until it seems almost indestructible, and abides for centuries. That is the effect of opposition upon the true church. Not that persecution is courted. It has its fearful disadvantages, as exemplified in the history of the post-apostolic church, when the disciples were scattered, education could not be attended to properly, and many errors came in, because of the prevalent ignorance. But it is certain that if opposition must come, it can be accepted philosophically, no matter of what nature it is, for it will but serve a good purpose. The divine Pilot, who is at the helm, knows how to utilize every roaring wave that breaks against the ship, and every seemingly adverse wind, as well as every current, for the progress of the ship toward the harbor.

RUSSIAN PEACE TERMS.

A rumor from Berlin has it that the Russians are considering the advisability of offering peace on the basis of a protectorate over Korea by Japan, and the restoration of Manchuria to China. There is hardly any need of saying that this rumor cannot have originated in Russia. It may be considered a German suggestion to Russia to end the war now, at any cost, because of the probability that the final peace terms will be still more humiliating.

The sentiment in Russia is entirely opposed to any offer of peace at present, if the Moscow Viedomosti correctly interprets that sentiment. That paper is quoted as having said that Russia must insist upon the following peace terms:

"First—Korea should for once and all be annexed to Russia.

"Second—The island of Kin-siu should be occupied and fortified as an advance post of the new Russian coast, which is extensive and for the most part without defense.

"Third—Formosa should be given back to its legitimate proprietor, China, and Russia shall retain on it only a port convenient for a coaling station and a fortified shelter for its fleet.

"Fourth—Japan should have imposed on it such a war indemnity (comprising if it be desirable) that for decades this troublesome neighbor might be deprived of all thoughts of military adventure. It is of no consequence that Japan has not much money; Russia can take from it its state bonds. Let the Japanese pay for at least half a century and be reminded of a war which they and not Russia began."

That, we presume, is at present the Russian sentiment. The government censor would not have passed it, had he not known that it would be pleasing to the government. Evidently it is too soon to suggest peace terms.

In politics "trade" doesn't always follow the flag.

Like the worm, the Russians seem to have turned.

The soda water man sees more hopeful signs than anybody.

High explosives come high, but the nations must have them.

Compared with the hurry and bustle of war the peace movement is a snail's pace.

Maude Adams' loving cup was filled to overflowing with tears and happiness.

In the Standard Oil trust contracts

Mr. Rockefeller is always the party of the first part.

Political conventions would do well to consider the advantages of the moving platform.

The handsome young woman dislikes to be stared at, but has no objection to being admired.

In Paris there are 91,458 trees growing. No wonder that life in Paris is somewhat shady.

"Is Hearst crazy?" asks the Worcester Spy. If so there seems to be method in his madness.

The politician who wants to railroad a nomination through always objects to allowing a stopover.

Colonel Henry Watterson has come out for Mr. Cleveland. Heretofore the Colonel has come out after him.

If any one doubts that the young men are coming to the front just let that person look at Cy Young, the foremost baseball player of the day.

"Can an aristocracy grow in America?" asks a magazine. If it can't American heiresses are rich enough to buy one.

The sealer of weights and measures, in his pursuit of dishonest dealers, should remember that it is only their little weight.

If Mr. Hill, who is seventy years of age, is not too old for Vice President, why is not Mr. Olney, who is but sixty-nine, young enough for President?

To edit the Christian Apologist, the Methodist conference has elected A. J. Nast. The name suggests that it is to be a caricature rather than anything else.

The Interstate Commerce commission is after the secrets of steamship rates. Will the I. C. C. please find out what the secret of success is and let the people know?

A reverend gentleman writes in a Chicago paper that young married folk should leave the parental home. This is to advise them to give up the substance for the shadow.

Perhaps when Bishop Turner announced his startling discovery that God never created a white man he meant to declare his acceptance of the Darwinian theory.

The "News" acknowledges the receipt of the Report of the Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1903. It includes a report on copyright legislation.

The Methodists are really modest in asking for but two amendments to the Constitution. Jefferson, who had no such grace as the Methodists, secured ten amendments to the Constitution.

Much as Mr. Perdicaris, the naturalized American kidnapped by Moors, is attached to Morocco there is reason to believe that he would willingly change his present residence for a domicile in America.

Have not our Methodist brethren undertaken a pretty big job in resolving to have Congress "enact" two amendments to the Constitution, one affecting the "Mormon" Church, the other the Roman Catholic?

"If white people would adopt the method of the Indians, strapping their babies to cradle boards, we should see fewer round-shouldered people," says Professor Starr of the University of Chicago. Then it would insure a race of strapping fellows.

THE WISDOM OF WATTERSON.

New York Evening Mail.

When Henry Watterson has anything to say on a subject of public interest the people generally listen, whether he says it in an editorial in the Louisville Courier-Journal or elsewhere, because he says it in such a plain and forcible way. It does not make any particular difference whether he says it wisely or not. He can say a foolish thing in the same taking and pungent way that he says an occasional wise one. But it is always Watterson who is talking. It is not his paper that people look to; it is Watterson. It may be Watterson's best business to be Watterson, but it would not be good business wisdom for newspapers in general to try to be Watterson.

San Francisco Call.

Mr. Watterson has great and deserved fame as an editorial writer. But we venture to say that the inspection of his best leaders will show them capable of dissection into the pert paragraphs which he decries. His process is merely a collection of paragraphs putting in the form of epigram the illustrations of his subject. Everybody remembers his often quoted leader against Mr. Cleveland, opposing his renomination in 1892. But it is remembered for this very quality. When he said that "Mr. Cleveland will lead his party through a slaughterhouse into a graveyard," what was it but a pert paragraph?

Los Angeles Times.

Col. Henry Watterson makes what is termed an "unqualified" assertion to the effect that he is for Grover Cleveland, provided developments indicate that Cleveland can win. If the colonel means win in the convention, his declaration may be significant.

Boston Herald.

It's sad to see Col. Watterson pitching into the editorial page of the modern newspaper as a useless appendage, save when its satire is kept within bounds and its invective is shorn of subjective and adverse. It looks like a case of Watterson rebuking the editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

MISS CLARA BARTON.

Kansas City World.

Miss Clara Barton has retired from the presidency of the American Red Cross society to be succeeded by Mrs. John A. Logan. This heroic woman is 62 years of age. It is noted that she became the idol of the Union soldiers. She was only 18 years of age in 1860. It is pathetic to realize that in her old age, after more than four decades of work for humanity, Clara Barton should have passed the last two years of her life under a cloud—a cloud which happily, has been dispersed.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is a pity to see Miss Barton retire under such circumstances from the

society with which she has been so closely identified, but her day of usefulness was over long ago. It is now unprofitable to inquire how far she was high wrecked the society in public estimation, but the mere existence of such discussions made her further tenure of the presidency inadvisable. She will be remembered, however, not for the troubles for which her advanced age was responsible, but for the devoted service which began on the battlefields of the Civil war and never thereafter ceased until the Red Cross and Clara Barton had become almost synonymous. Hers was a grand life work.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"The Hayfield Mower and Scythe of Progress" is the striking title of a quaint volume just published by an author who prefers to be anonymous. It is supposed to be twenty-six numbers of a typical rural paper, but its field is moral, not physical. It has a serial story, and a number of epigrammatic sayings of great force, reminding one of the late G. H. Spurgeon of London, when he appeared before the public as John Ploughman. The volume is printed on heavy paper and is substantially bound.—P. O. Box 1765, Boston, Mass.

The energy and tact exhibited by American business men in pushing the sale of their wares in the Old World have created consternation among their European competitors in trade. In various parts of the continent desperate efforts are being made to check the "American invasion." The opposition encountered by our commercial pioneers in Germany and the triumphant efforts are being made to check the "American invasion" series prepared by the writer. The number also contains articles appropriate to Memorial day, and other valuable features.—New York.

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