

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 23, 1910.

THE CONFERENCE POSTPONED.

Salt Lake stake conference, adjourned to be held March 6, has been postponed to March 20.

JOSEPH F. SMITH.

FEAR OF COMETS.

The fear that a comet colliding with our planet might do injury to the earth or its inhabitants seems to be the last remnant of a fear that has pervaded the minds of men from very early times.

That many still have apprehensions of such a catastrophe is not improbable, though all rational cause for fear has long since become untenable.

In addition to these conclusions of astronomers, we have the testimony of experience. In 1770 Levelle's comet was seen to pass through the satellites of Jupiter without deranging them in the least, while the comet was itself thrown entirely out of its path.

The most remarkable case of a popular panic from the fear of a collision with a comet occurred in Paris, in the year 1773, when La Lande offered a paper to the Academy of Sciences, tending to show that a comet was approaching the earth, and might possibly cause its destruction.

In 1832 people became similarly excited in respect to Biela's comet. Damoiseau had calculated that it would pass the earth's orbit on the 29th of October, and the papers, confounding this crossing of the orbit with an inevitable collision, began to intimate that the end of the world was at hand.

Even as lately as 1872 a similar end of the world was announced for the 12th of August of that year, based upon a misconstruction of the words of a professor at Geneva about the path of a comet.

The thought that the earth might finally be subjected to a second deluge from collision has found some support from the fact that the cool seasons, autumn and winter, in the southern hemisphere last longer (186 days) than they do in the northern half of the globe (179 days).

The belief that the earth will be destroyed by fire was held by ancient nations; and that it will be baptized in, or renewed, by fire is a conclusion from the words of Scripture. And this occurrence of the future has been speculatively associated with comet collisions.

French astronomer, as worded by Blake of England, are simply that we know nothing of the origin, so we know nothing of the end of the world; that while some stars may be fading, others may be rising into their place; and that as man need not be identified with one earth alone, he "may rest content in the idea that the life universal is eternal."

Other interesting facts and theories about comets will be found elsewhere on this page, from data furnished by Prof. Gibson of the State University.

NOT ACCEPTED.

Fifteen members of the local Unitarian society, at a meeting on Monday night, declined to grant the application of Mr. John P. Meakin for ordination to the ministry in that church.

It is not for an outsider to find fault with that decision. The Unitarians, it must be presumed, voted in accordance with the rules of the Society and the promptings of their conscience.

The anti-"Mormon" sheet, of course, in its highly colored account, tries to make it appear that the Unitarians simply turned his application down because of his "former condition of servitude," alluding, as is apparent from the context, to his supposed connection with the "Mormon" Church.

If there is any general characteristic of the Unitarian societies, it is the tendency to "liberalism" in religious opinion. As we understand it, they are not bound by any statement of doctrine as a condition of membership, and they assert that character and conduct, not opinion, is the true test of Christianity.

If, as the anti-"Mormon" sheet intimates, Mr. Meakin was turned down because of his alleged connection with the "Mormon" Church, he was the victim of gross injustice, for the simple reason that he has not for a great many years been identified with the Church, if he ever was an active Church member.

The Latter-day Saints appreciate that which is good wherever found and, although he never made a secret of the fact that he is not a Church member, they have opened their meetings to him.

That Mr. Meakin would have done a good work among the soldiers as a chaplain is not doubted by anyone who knows him.

Incidentally, the episode reminds us of the fact that some modern churches do not get their ministers in the way the first Christian congregations were supplied. In our day it is a matter of "application" and examination and balloting, just as if it were an office that were sought for a livelihood.

TRUTH FROM MRS. BESANT.

We cannot say that we believe greatly in the efficacy of some of the doctrines of theosophy. Many of them we fall to grasp; some of them are philosophical facts pushed to extremes where they fall to apply; but some of them are truly excellent.

"How shall a man build himself into purity? By, in his morning meditation, taking purity as part of the subject on which he thinks, realizing what it means. No impurity of thought must ever touch him; no impurity of action must stain him; he must be pure in the three-fold thread of action, word and thought.

These truths from Mrs. Besant merit special attention from all the guardians of youth in our city today. In view of the alliance between the City authorities and the legalized vice centered on the west side, every man should bear such thoughts as these in memory.

What's in a name? Philadelphia is called the City of Brotherly Love. Everybody observed Washington's birthday except Washington himself. It is hard to tell which is the more dangerous, a tip or an unloaded gun.

GIVE IT UP.

"To the Editor—In the Tribune account of the story of John P. Meakin and the Unitarians, the following occurs:

"The name of Mr. Meakin had been sent to the president, so it is stated, when the discovery was made at the executive mansion that John P. was not a minister. Then a consultation of the apostle, the elder and the jack-mormon and of the Utah congressional delegation was held to devise ways and means to set this obstacle aside.

When Senator Tillman fully recovers and is able to read all the press comments on his illness, he will be surprised at the many kindly things said of him by the papers of all sections of the country.

Is the water power in stocks to be conserved?

People live but they do not necessarily learn.

The students of Shakespeare are few, the talkers many.

The price of hogs couldn't be much higher if pigs flew.

The church bell is the only thing that ever does as it is tolled.

None are so illudged as they who think they are disillusioned.

Premier Asquith is not in a position to say, "No Irish need apply."

"Write me down an A. C." said Dogberry. "Me, too," echoes T. C. I.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

ROSCOE CONKLING AND THE FIRST NEGRO SENATOR.

By J. E. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders.

As the first negro to serve in the United States senate—his election thereto from Mississippi occurring in reconstruction days—the late Blanche K. Bruce occupies a unique position in American political history.

IF EARTH LIFE WERE ENDLESS.

Alexander Smith. If we were to live here always, with no other care than how to feed, clothe and house ourselves, life would be a very sorry business. It is immeasurably heightened by the solemnity of death. The brute die even as we but it is our knowledge that we have to die which makes us human.

JUST FOR FUN

Daughter—Did you have to fish much, mamma, before you caught papa? Mother—Fish, my dear, fish? I was bear hunting.—M. A. P.

"Where is your office in New York?" "In the tower of the highest skyscraper. If you ever go to the top drop off and see me."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mistress—Anna, you've been wearing my patent leather shoes again. Anna—So sorry, ma'am, but I always mistake them for my rubbers.—Meggendorfer Blaetter.

Hotel Clerk (pleasantly)—What! Not leaving us? Young Man—Yes; I've seen all the sights and become engaged to all the girls.—Town and Country.

"I've never been offered a bribe," bragged the eloquent politician. "Cheer up, old man," shouted a piker in the front row, "your luck may change."—Buffalo Express.

"I should like very much to know how you made that \$25 the other day." "Can you keep a secret?" "Oh, yes!" "So can I. Good-night!"—Comic Cuts.

Salt Lake Theatre

Back to Regular Prices and a Hearty Laugh.

MAINE TODAY 2:15 TONIGHT, Wednesday, Thursday, W. P. Cullen offers the New All Laughter, Musical Comedy, THE ALASKAN

Richard F. Carroll, Gus Weinburg and the Tainty, Saucy, Peppy Chorus of City Girls. See the train of Eskimo dogs. A Regular Snowball Battle. Prices—Eve., 25 to \$1.50; Matinee, 25c to \$1.00.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. The Musical and Society Event of the Season.

Mme. Schumann-Heink

The World's Foremost Queen of Song, MONDAY, MARCH 14. Seat Sale Begins Tomorrow Morning at 10. Prices—75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50. Box seats, \$3.00.

COLONIAL

ALL NEXT WEEK

MR. JOHN COBT, Presents Max Figman in his greatest success, "Mary Jane's Pa."

"If the weather is depressing, if the chimney won't draw, if the potatoes are underdone, if the children have been disrespectful, and if everything but the sky seems blue, my prescription, as dramatic doctor, is an evening with Max Figman as 'Mary Jane's Pa.' You'll chuckle it off."—"Ralph E. Renaud, San Francisco Chronicle, January 24, 1910.

The Grand

Salt Lake's Popular Priced Playhouse. Direction Lorch & Sutton. A. B. JENSEN, MANAGER.

ALL WEEK. With Wednesday and Saturday Matinees. THEODORE LORCH and his company Presents the Great Play of the West, The Lieutenant and the Cowboy

Prices—10c, 20, 30 and 50c. All seats reserved. Next Attraction: The Greatest Play of the Season, a laugh every minute. "COLLEGE CHUMS."

MISSION THE THEATRE DIFFERENT

IMPERIAL VAUDEVILLE. Week commencing Thursday. Matinee, Feb. 17.

Matinee every afternoon at 2:30. Two Shows—Evening, 7:30 and 9:15. Le Brun Grand Opera Trio. Nar Nazaro & Co. Les Junids. Lola Yverri. Louise Taylor. Leon Rogge. Jimmy Wall.

Matinee Prices—10c, 20c, 30c, 50c. Matinee—50c, 75c. Next WEEK, "ALL OF A SUDDEN PEGGY."

Z.C.M.I. There's Snap and Style to These Clothes. Notice the fit—the hang—every detail bearing on style, character and worth has been carefully attended to. Think of the confidence they will give you and the good impression made on those with whom you associate. Equal to the best tailored garments they cost considerably less. Prices range from \$15 to \$45. An elegant variety of New Topcoats, in chevots and Bedford Cord—convert colors and gray. All the New Hat Styles in the prevailing colors from \$1.50 to \$5.00. OUR DRUG STORE IS AT 112-114 SOUTH MAIN ST.

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS MAIL ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED Partly Cloudy Tonight and Thursday. Ten Dollars Will Buy a Stylish Substantial Suit True, they are winter suits, but many of them none too heavy in weight to be worn until well along in the summer. If ever one dollar had the purchasing power of two, it is during this sale. Regular \$15, \$18, \$20 and \$25 suits, Now \$10.00 "It Pays to Buy at Gardner's."

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