

The Democrat.

(Formerly known as The News.)

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TENTH YEAR.

ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

ROB WRIGHT, Editor.

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Those of our readers who believe in the theory of evolution as applied to the creation of man will no doubt be interested in the recent discovery of the fragments of three skeletons which seems to confirm the opinions held by scientists that man is descended from the lower order of animals, and, through a gradual process of evolution has become deprived of his caudal appendage and the power to flap his ears. However, there has always been one difficult problem that presented itself in the attempt to trace the history of species and that was the apparent lack of a species or family of animals to supply a connecting link between the human family and the higher order of apes. But the discovery seems to have been made at last according to a forty page publication recently issued from the local press of Batavia. In speaking of this important and interesting discovery a recent issue of Science says:

"This noteworthy essay contains the detailed description of three fragments of three skeletons which have been found in the early Pleistocene strata of Java, and which introduce to us a new species, which is also a new genus and a new family, of the order of primates, placed between the Simiidae and Hominidae—in other words, apparently supplying the 'missing link' between man and the higher apes which has so long and so anxiously been awaited.

The material is sufficient for a close osteological comparison. The cubical capacity of the skull is about two-thirds that of the human average. It is distinctly dolichocephalic, about 70 degrees, and its norma verticalis astonishingly like that of the famous Neanderthal skull. The dental apparatus is still of the simian type, but less markedly so than in other apes. The femora are singularly human. They prove beyond doubt that this creature walked constantly on two legs, and when erect was quite equal in height to the average human male. Of the various differences which separate it from the highest apes and the lowest men, it may be said that they bring it closer to the latter than to the former.

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THE INCOME TAX.

In spite of the fact that the millionaires and the plutocrats fought the income tax tooth and nail it has become a law and will be enforced. It is a just law, inasmuch as it tends to place the rich and the poor on an equal footing in the matter of taxation, at least. It was passed by a Democratic congress and has met with its greatest opposition and its bitterest denunciation from Republicans.

The income tax is not a burdensome tax because it taxes only those who can well afford to pay their just share of the expenses of running the government. Heretofore the owners of government bonds and other millionaires and monopolists have been exempt from taxation while the needs of the poor man have been taxed until the load has become a heavy burden upon his shoulders. If the poor man's needs have been taxed there is no good reason and no just reason why the wealthy should not be compelled to pay their share of the taxes, and all the more so because they obtain their wealth from the products of the toiling masses.

There are a great many who will no doubt attempt to evade the payment of the tax but they should be quickly brought to time. During the strike last summer we noticed that almost all the moneyed men were loud in their demands that the law should be enforced and the mobs suppressed. Uncle Sam should now show these fellows that they, too, must obey the law.

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A KINGDOM ON AN ISLE.

Some Interesting Reminiscences of the Early History of Beaver Island.

The legislature of Michigan has been seriously considering the plan of dissolving the organization of Manistowic county, its population not being sufficient to maintain it. This county is composed of several islands which lie off the Grand Traverse regions in the northern part of Lake Michigan, the largest of which is Beaver Island, at the extreme north of the group, that covers a distance of sixty miles, closing at the south of the Manitowic islands, with the grand and beautiful Fox islands lying between. The total population of these wonderful and picturesque little continents is about 850 souls, 700 of them living on the Beaver, principally at its northern extremity in and closely adjacent to the delightful and historical town of St. James.

Beaver Island is twenty miles from the western shore of the lake, and from the time that navigation closes in the autumn, until the ice breaks up in the spring, the only communication with the mainland is, across the ice, a dangerous trip, performed perhaps once or twice if the conditions are favorable during the winter, but in many seasons, not at all.

This island was once the seat of a modest and unassuming little kingdom, having a king and a castle, and, if the stories that are still afloat in the north country be true, the ruler levied tribute upon the settlements along the mainland, and even upon the shipping that passed that way. James J. Strang was the king of Beaver Island and the people over whom he ruled, Mormons. Mr. Strang was born in the state of New York, and having studied law was admitted to the bar, going west after the completion of this and his marriage, settling at Voree, Wis., and becoming a Mormon. When the main body of Mormons went with Brigham Young, to Utah, after the assassination of Joseph Smith, Strang headed a party of seceders; and, after a few prospecting adventures, led them to Beaver Island, there founding the village of St. James, naming it in honor of himself in the year 1847.

Until two or three years ago, the castle was still standing, when sparks from the pipe of a drunken sailor, kindled a fire, which destroyed it. The Mormons also erected a tabernacle of logs, of which not a trace at present remains to relate of former historical events, but people visiting the site may easily be carried back by imagination.

On July 8, 1850, Mr. Strang summoned the people to the castle, saying that he had been visited by an angel from the Lord, and that the angelic form from the eternal world had directed him to be crowned king of the Mormons, no doubt being quite willing, and had instructed him how to make his subjects happy and contented. When he embraced the Mormon faith he did not believe in polygamy but the angel advised him that he had erred in judgment and told him to take more wives to his bosom. History is silent concerning whether or not these women were good looking, but the writer will

know how the other half lives. The piratical ways of the Mormons excited the hatred of the mainland people, and that the latter did not arise against the misusage sooner was because a favorable opportunity did not offer itself. I think the anger of the Lord was on the side of the Gentiles.

Finally, great trouble arose, on Mrs. Bedford refusing to wear bloomers, and her husband was publicly whipped. He and a man by the name of Wentworth, who also had a grievance, shot Mr. Strang fatally and were acquitted. The news of the shooting reached the mainland very early the next morning, and the king being as good as dead, the fishermen along the shore organized to complete the work. Bands were formed at Charlevoix, East Jordan, Harbors Springs, and Cross Village and a time fully understood by all, a raw was made on the island. No resistance was offered by the disheartened Islanders, the attacking party first visiting the tabernacle which they threw to the ground. The next place to be cleared was the harem, where the wives of the king resided and a day nothing remains save the structure where it once reposed on a low back of the castle. The village itself then received attention and everything of value was carried away. Warning was served on the Mormons to depart within a specified time which they promptly obeyed, taking with them such household goods they could conveniently carry. They roamed to different places, some going to Charlevoix where they live, but not as Mormons. Others went to Chicago and the remainder to Milwaukee. Alas! for James J. Strang. F. A. Rogers

It is a grand thing to see Protestants and Catholics uniting at City and holding public meetings where priest and minister have tended to each other the right of goodfellowship and united in pleading for harmony and unity in a common cause. This is true Christianity the same that was taught by humble Nazarene who trod the streets of Galilee and preached the gospel to the fishermen.

The senate is a great success. It comes to obstructing legislation. It is about as much in sympathy with the toiling masses as is the fish house of lords.

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A KING

Some Interest

The legislature of Beaver Island has been seriously considering dissolving the organization of Manitou county, its population is sufficient to maintain a government of its own which lie off the Grand Traverse in the northern Michigan, the large Beaver Island, at the head of the group, that covers an area of sixty miles, closing the Manitou island from the mainland, a grand and beautiful view being between. The population of these wonderful islands is a little continent is about 700 of them living principally at its north end and closely adjacent to the mainland and historic James.

Beaver Island is situated on the western shore of Lake Superior and from the time it was discovered closes in the autumn months breaks up in the spring communication with the mainland, a dangerous passage across the ice, a danger which perhaps once in a while conditions are favorable for winter, but in most years all.

This island was discovered by a modest and unassuming man, having a king and a queen if the stories that are told of the north country be true. He levied tribute upon the people along the mainland, and the shipping that passed by. James J. Strang was born in Beaver Island and the name of whom he ruled, Mormon was born in the state of New York and having studied law to the bar, going west to seek his fortune. Completion of this and his return to Utah, after the death of Joseph Smith, Strang led a party of seceders; and, after a long and adventurous life, he came to Beaver Island, there founding St. James, naming it in honor of himself in the year 1847.

Until two or three years ago the castle was still standing, sparks from the pipe of a sailor, kindled a fire, which it. The Mormons also had a storehouse of logs, of which at present remains to be seen. For historical events, being the site may easily be traced back by imagination.

On July 8, 1850, Mormonism moved the people to the island, claiming that he had been directed from the Lord in angelic form from the heavens to had directed him to be the king of the Mormons, no matter how willing, and how he would make him a king. He was contented. When the Mormon faith he did not believe in polygamy but the angels told him that he had erred in not taking a second bosom. History is silent whether or not these good looking, but the venture to predict that otherwise in all probability Strang would not have been the fair partners of his life, but the spirit of the age

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It would be a good thing if presidential elections did not come oftener than once in every six or eight years. The country would then have a chance to get down to some kind of a business basis. As it is now, new laws are enacted every few years and the country has to adapt itself to the new conditions as often as the laws are changed and things do not get to running smoothly before everything is turned topsy-turvy by a change of administration. However, it may be best that this reform be delayed until other abuses are corrected and the nation is out of the clutch of the money power.

MORE bonds! "Ye have made my house a den of thieves!" If Christ came to New York the first thing he would do would be to scourge the money-changers of Wall street.

WHAT a great amount of respect the millionaires and plutocrats have for the th commandment: "Thou shalt not steal!"

SATAN rebuking sin: Republicans denouncing the administration for issuing bonds.

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Having addressed the people, Mr. Strang repaired to the spacious chamber in the castle, formally being crowned king and placed upon a throne. He was robed by a couple of young ladies, and a crown was placed upon his bigoted and conceited head, his raiment being of the color of scarlet. It is presumed that he felt exceedingly gay, as the great ceremonies closed amid rapturous and exhilarating music.

Not much time elapsed after the coronation before the king began to marry, in the succeeding five years forming a collection of six wives, not mentioning his first wife who, sensible being that she was, soon deserted him when he began to acquire the marrying habit. He steadfastly urged the deacons and other high (?) churchmen to do likewise, but they were noticeably debarred by the scarcity of women, the chief monk monopolizing the supply. He must have been a very fascinating man in personal appearance, and withal, possessing a facile tongue. By the laws as expounded by the official potentate, the highest duty of man was to be the father of many children.

The great premier's reign was abruptly brief. The peculiar religion of the Mormons, even with their many wives, did not seriously affect the sailors and fishermen who resided in small towns along the mainland, but the sect had a habit of looking upon the property of the Gentiles as something which they had a right to add to their own stores if they could do so without being caught. They made frequent raids to the main shores from Beaver Island, going even to Milwaukee and Chicago on their marauding excursions. If an unlucky vessel was thrown upon the shore of Beaver Island or sought shelter in the harbor of St. James, the islanders levied a heavy tribute. The plunder thus obtained was divided among the faithful, always reserving a tenth for the church, thereby substantiating the statement that one half of the world does not