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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

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FOR FAIR PLAY.

The Deseret News frequently receives compliments from its readers, in all parts of the country, non-Mormons as well as "Mormons," on account of its enterprise, and the fairness with which it treats current questions. Incidentally sincere sympathy is often expressed by intelligent men and women outside the Church, with the cause this paper endeavors to represent, and also contempt for the methods resorted to by the persecutors, whose aims and purposes are as apparent as were those of the old sinner Annas and his tool, Caiaphas, of New Testament fame.

As a sample of many congratulatory letters we quote the following from one received from a prominent lawyer in Zanesville, Ohio, dated Feb. 6. He says in part:

"We find the 'News' to be indeed a magnificent paper, bright, new, interesting, thoroughly alive, and above all, in my humble opinion, absolutely fair and impartial, treating even the questions pertaining to the Smoot investigation in a manner which cannot fail to win the respect and sympathy of all people who are to any extent fair in this matter. I am what you call a 'devil' and probably will remain such, but nevertheless can frankly say that what is known as the 'anti-Mormon' agitation, is one of the most ridiculous farce comedies that ever disgraced the pages of our country's history, and this tempest in a tea pot, founded as it is in misapprehension and ignorance of the real truth of what 'Mormonism' means, would be a comedy pure and simple, if it were not for the alarming fact that there are those who sit in high places, who wish this 'agitation' to take the shape of a persecution of a people who are admitted even by their enemies to be honest, industrious, law-abiding citizens of the state and nation. If the 'fruits' are good and wholesome, why in the name of Almighty God, should we wish to uproot the tree, simply because a few long-haired fanatics say they fail to understand how and why it puts forth its buds, leaves and fruit?"

"Should we persecute our neighbor because he either cannot or will not expose to the vulgar gaze of the world the inner life of his home, or the process of digestion in his stomach? Is it any wonder there is a growing sentiment for fair play in regard to this matter?"

NAVY DESERTIONS.

According to the Army and Navy Journal, no less than 500 men fled from the North Atlantic squadron last fall, while it was being repaired, and of these about 100 deserted from one ship. What, it is asked, is the reason for such wholesale desertions? Secretary Morton is convinced that 2,000 men, in addition to the force now in the service, are needed. In view of that fact an inquiry into the prevailing conditions ought to prove of interest.

In a general way it can be said that militarism will never be an unequalled success in a country with free institutions. Every time the American flag is unfolded to the breeze, a protest is recorded against the curse of the Old World. Militarism means slavery, and barbarism. Wherever it prevails, it kills the freedom of nations.

There are special reasons why American boys must object to naval service. It will be remembered that an admiral, himself the son of a common Irish laborer, a few years ago insulted the enlisted men by objecting to the promotion of a really deserving petty officer, on the silly ground that an enlisted man always lacks the "culture and finish" of sailors who wear the bars. And that tells almost the whole tale. That is, no doubt, the prevailing sentiment among the majority of naval officers. And it is bound to break out on every possible occasion. But American boys are not going to submit to the caprice of snobs. Many of them are the equals in every way of the officers, though they have not had an opportunity of passing through a naval academy. And when they are humiliated, punished and disgraced, as if they were serfs, they desert. How can it otherwise be explained that last

year nearly one-fifth of the enlisted sailors left the service?

The American boys are eager enough, as was proved in the war with Spain, to go to the front and carry the flag to victory, on land and sea, but they want to go as freemen, not as slaves. Give them an equal chance to promotion, on merit, and those most valuable will remain in the service.

"STORM OF CRITICISM."

A number of influential newspapers are taking issue with Judge Taylor on some of his utterances in the argument before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, at the close of the taking of testimony in the case of Senator Reed Smoot. Some of those journals treat the matter in a humorous vein and others discuss it very seriously. The following editorial is taken from the Los Angeles Express, and the criticism which it states is likely to be aroused is already appearing in different circles:

"In arguing against the fitness of Reed Smoot to occupy a seat in the United States senate, Judge W. H. Taylor of counsel for the protestants is reported to have closed his side of the case with the declaration that 'immediate contact with God, through personal revelations, should be sufficient to disqualify any person for the position of senator, no matter what his creed.'"

Of course, the context qualifies this statement to a certain extent, for the judge was thinking of the alleged revelation regarding polygamy, but his inclusion of all creeds is likely to arouse a storm of criticism in which either politics or revelation is likely to suffer. As revelation partakes of the supernatural, it is difficult to define its methods; in certain cases it may be claimed that divine commands are oral; while in others there may be mere impulses from the same source. But the ethical actions of all religious persons are supposed to be based upon commands issued at one time or another through what is called revelation. In fact, Christian nations are supposed to base their laws upon such ultra authority.

But one phase of the argument of Judge Taylor seems to bar those subject to such impulses from a seat in the senate of the United States. Possibly he was using the method of the political economists who observe certain conditions as existent and then formulate laws to fit them. It may be the attorney for the protestants has taken note of the personnel of the upper house at Washington and, disregarding evidences of telepathy between that body and Wall Street, he has jumped at the conclusion that, as no senator ever was known to have a revelation, those who profess to have had such experiences should not be permitted to legislate for the nation.

It is evident casuists are to be led far afield in adjusting religion to politics, or vice versa, if they take the contention of the Ohio jurist seriously.

LINCOLN OR BARNUM?

Barnum, not Lincoln, is now said to be the author of the famous epigram: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but not all the people all the time." Representative Smoot, at the request of a constituent, for information, submitted the question of authorship to the librarian of Congress, whereupon the assistant librarian, Mr. Spofford, sent him a note, saying that the sentence does not occur in any of Lincoln's writings, and that Mr. Nicholas, Lincoln's secretary, told him (Spofford) that they are spurious. Mr. Spofford says Barnum was the author of the popular sentence.

This, we confess, looks more reasonable. For Barnum, certainly had lifelong experience in "fooling" people, and he would be just the man to embody his experience in some such epigram, reminding one of some of the sayings of the wisest man who ever lived, Lincoln, on the contrary, never tried to "fool" anybody.

It is easy to understand why stump-speakers should transfer the famous saying to the lips of Lincoln. As coming from him it was spier. If campaign material. As the philosophy of Barnum it had no particular weight in a political contest. And so, some orator endeavored to fool all the people all the time by substituting Lincoln for Barnum—the prince of presidents for the prince of fakirs.

MODERN ALCHEMY.

The story that gold can be extracted from sea water at an extremely low cost, now comes from London, and is, apparently, well endorsed. In fact, Sir William Ramsay, the discoverer of argon, is quoted as having said that there is no doubt Mr. Snell—the name of the new alchemist—has proved that gold can profitably be obtained from sea water on a large scale. Consequently, two companies have been formed, one of which is said to be backed by the Rothschilds.

Newspaper readers have, probably, not forgotten the swindlers, who a few years ago, claimed to have discovered the same secret. They interested capitalists in their plan, and obtained some money and then disappeared as effectually as if they had been swallowed up by an avalanche. Their alleged plan was to send a current into a pan of mercury held within a box, the receptacle then being sunk to the bottom of the sea and drawn up after several hours, when it would be found that the mercury had absorbed gold from the ocean. When the night for the experiment came the box was prepared, two chemists, friends of the capitalists, bringing their own mercury with them. The box was released and permitted to fall till it touched bottom. Soon after daylight the inventor announced that it was time to draw the box up. This was done, and the chemists set to work at once to find out whether any gold had been secured. When they announced that gold to the value of \$14 was found mixed with quicksilver, all were stunned by the discovery and realized at once the marvelous possibilities in more extensive operations. A company was soon organized and stock was sold, but no more gold was extracted. The fact was that a friend of the promoter, a diver, had gone out from the shore in his suit, opened the box, and taking out the mercury that had been brought by the chemists, substituted a vial of his own that had been strongly impregnated with gold.

The question naturally arises, whether the London story is not based on some similar scheme. It may become possible, some time, to gather up the

gold contained in sea water, and the forecasts of the future that represent streets of cities as paved with the precious metal, would indicate a practically unlimited supply. But, the general public should be cautious when asked to invest in schemes that even the alchemists of old would have thought startling.

A LATIN UNION.

They are still talking of a union of all the Latin nations. A contributor to the Nuova Antologia, quoted in Literary Digest, says that pan-Latinism is now among the ideals of some practical statesmen. A committee has been formed in Paris, we are told, for the purpose of "uniting the men, on both sides of the Atlantic, who feel the need of strengthening the bonds which exist today between the Latin countries."

Another writer expresses the opinion that "recent events justify the conclusion that the time is ripe for this union. The arbitration agreement," he says, "between France and Italy of the 25th of December, 1909, and the Franco-Italian labor treaty are the prelude to practical events. Another agreement has been drawn up between Spain and France. In South America," he claims, "notwithstanding the attitude of the United States, the sympathy of the Latin countries for Europe is preponderant. An Ibero-American union is constantly working for the success of the propaganda, and it was this union which called together the Ibero-American congress in Madrid in 1906."

It is but natural that nations with a common language, or biodescentricity, should gravitate toward one another, forgetting the injustice of the past. In all probability the human family will have to be reunited on such lines, before the great unification under one divine Head can take place. But such union, to be lasting, must be built upon the foundations of peace and good will. The past has seen mighty empires spring up and grow on the ruins of smaller nations. They have not been lasting, because they have absorbed, from the beginning, the poisonous elements of injustice and oppression. Upon the basis of freedom, righteousness and truth, the human family can be gathered together in an everlasting union.

"Tomorrow is St. Valentine's day, all in the morning be true."

It was Hoch's duplicity that made so many women his dupes.

The strikers in Russia do not down more readily than did Banquo's ghost.

Congress seems bent on making two states grow where four territories grew before.

On the arbitration treaties the President and the Senate are not in "agreement."

Look out for the startling and important news that the Delaware peach crop has been ruined.

Married life on an average lasts twenty-eight years. This does not hold in South Dakota and Chicago.

Chicago's Bluebeard is getting so blue that the police expect him to break down almost any time.

What's the good of an accumulated excess of temperature if it cannot be utilized when a cold wave comes?

Ambassador McCormick goes from St. Petersburg to Paris. This is proof that he has been very diplomatic.

Andrew Carnegie is going to Cleveland to testify against Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick. His evidence will be noteworthy.

The President has read the riot act to the senators on the amendment of arbitration treaties. Now will they be good?

Thomas Gleason, the negro murderer, has had the death warrant read to him twelve times. It must be very monotonous.

Mr. J. P. Morgan is going to make another cruise in his Corsair in European waters. He should be careful to avoid Ascoli.

What was the good of a unanimous decision by the United States Supreme Court against the Beef trust? The price of meat is in statu quo ante.

Divorce may be an evidence of a desire to reach a higher and better plane of life but if it is a very bad, difficult and discouraging way to attain it.

"There is no history in the Bible, because the Hebrews never wrote history," says President J. G. Schurman of Cornell. Well, there is something equally good and better, in it.

The rate on oil shipped to Tonopah has been doubled. With government control of freight rates such arbitrary action could not be taken without people having due notice of intention to increase the rate.

It is rumored that a subcommittee of the Senate committee of privileges and elections may come to Utah this summer to continue investigations in the Smoot case. Is the Smoot investigation to be made a continuous performance for the entertainment of the anti-Mormon radicals?

AGAINST FOOTBALL.

New York World.
By far the ablest contribution to the intermittent controversy over modern college football is contained in President Eliot's annual report. The distinguished head of Harvard university is a friend of college athletics. There is no prejudice in his report. His criticisms are founded solely in the ethics of manhood and the age. The main objection to football as it is played lies against the moral quality. It is an evil that in the immature desire to win games ill-feeling is created between colleges. Then again, the mass play affords temptation to foul play, since violation of the rules may be hid-

den. Finally, the game has become assimilated to war, as to its struggles, stratagems and deceptions.

New York Evening Sun.
President Eliot of Harvard university has condemned football methods before, but in his annual report he goes further in attacking its bad features than anybody has ever done, and there will be consternation in the coaching camp. President Eliot declares that the game as now played "has become seriously injurious to the rational academic life in American schools and colleges."

New York Evening Post.

President Eliot concludes: "Civilization has long been in possession of higher ethics than those of war, and experience has abundantly proved that the highest efficiency for service and the finest sort of courage in individual men may be accompanied by, and, indeed, spring from, unvarying generosity, gentleness and good will. We shall be disappointed indeed if the calm but incisive description of the evils of football, by the head of Harvard, does not produce a great effect, not only upon the public, but upon college faculties as well."

Springfield Republican.

President Eliot's attack upon college football in his annual report cannot be waved aside by the devotees of the sport because it comes from a man who has always been critical of it. It is true that President Eliot over 20 years ago began criticizing this game and for at least one season he banished the intercollegiate contests from Harvard sports. The serious point to consider is that he can now return to the attack and win the approval of so many people who have grown up with the game. The time was when it could be said that people were unused to the sport, and easily gathered false impressions of it. But nowadays the novelty of football has utterly disappeared, and the people are as familiar with it as they are with any sport in the calendar of outdoor recreation and entertainment. The country is full of men who played it in their school days. Why, then, does it fall to disclaim the criticism which has become chronic and to have lost none of its force? According to present appearances, even the perpetuation of the game seems sure to be accompanied by a perpetual fact finding. It is a pity if a game having so many good and robust qualities cannot be purged of its most objectionable features and finally put into a form that will leave it as free from harsh criticism as the other outdoor sports of college students.

New York Mail.

According to President Eliot of Harvard, an article on the "Ethics of Football" would not be like the essay on the snakes of Ireland. Football really has ethics. They consist, in brief, of this maxim: "Always hit a man when he is down." The time-honored principle of mainly sport and mainly fighting is exactly reversed. In a game of football it is legitimate to put men out of the game, if possible, by kicking, kicking in the abdomen, and blows about the eyes, nose and jaw; and the man who is first of all to be selected for these attentions is the one most recently injured. The brunt of the assault is directed against the man who has had the hardest knocks, and who is consequently nearest the verge of giving up, but such a man is brave and plucky, insists upon staying in the game.

GENERAL OKU ON THE FIELD.

Scribner's Magazine.
I watched Oku keenly. Though I had seen him coming for twenty years I recalled suddenly that I saw nothing but his face until he was quite near. It was and with something of Lincoln's sadness. In profile it was kindly, especially when he smiled; full faced there were proofs that he could be iron and relentless. But his eyes! Big, black, glittering, fanciful, ever moving they were and you caught them never but for a moment, but when you did, they made you think of lightning and thunderstorms. He was dressed simply in olive green serge, with one star on his cap and three stripes on his sleeve. His boots were good. His sword hung in his left hand—uncolored. His other hand looked nerveless. Not once did he shift his weight from his right foot—only the sole of his left ever touching the stone flagging. He is the most remarkable looking man I've seen thus far among the Japanese.

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