

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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STRONGLY COLORED GLASSES

There are some people who do not seem to understand that a newspaper is published, not simply to please a few of its readers, but for the benefit of the general public. Of course, when it is the organ of a political party, it will have a bias in favor of that party, but at the same time it will, of necessity, give the general news and comment upon current events, according to the best information and the clearest light at its command. No person and no paper can reasonably expect to please everybody and offend nobody.

On Saturday morning the editor of the Deseret News was accosted by an esteemed friend from the North, who objected to the strong British sentiment of the "News" as against the "naughty abused Boers" of South Africa. He stated that he had intended several times to express his dissent by letter. A short time afterwards, on the same day, a Salt Lake reader of this paper denounced what he called the pro-Boer attitude of the Deseret News, and was quite vehement in his few words of disapprobation. These two dissentients illustrated the difficulty of writing so as to suit persons of different views and temperaments.

This morning we received a communication from the last-mentioned gentleman, in which he criticizes, in not very temperate terms, the attitude of the "News" on the question of the war in South Africa, and particularly some remarks in our columns on Wednesday last, relative to the interview between General Cronje and Lord Roberts after the surrender of the Boer chief and his command. The comment referred to was based on a dispatch received that day, and was qualified by our introductory remarks. The matter was fully explained in an editorial on Thursday, and any one who has read the two articles with ordinary care will have obtained a fair and correct comprehension of the incident.

Our critic indulges in much commendation of General Roberts, but there is not a sentence in his letter on that subject that has not already appeared substantially in the Deseret News. Further, we have made no comment on the conduct of the war in South Africa, whether as relating to the Boers or to the British, that has not been warranted by the dispatches which have conveyed the news of the progress of the conflict and the course of the troops and their commanders on either side.

In touching on these and other public questions, our friends who take opposite views must not expect the Deseret News to put on Boer binoculars or British eye-glasses. Nor should they desire us to wear the variously colored spectacles worn by partisans on either side. It is quite futile to note the comments of different persons with strong prejudices, as to what they read in public prints. The subject appears to them as looked at from their own point of view, and imagination also frequently plays a very vivid part.

Just as it is in relation to the South African war, so it has been in regard to matters political. Democrats have complained about the evident Republican leaning of the "News," and Republicans have protested against the Democratic bias of this paper. This is vastly amusing to one who is not a partisan. Although it is sometimes a trifle annoying, it furnishes food for reflection, and shows the tendency of the human mind to cast a tint from its own peculiar color upon that which comes before its observation. The habit too, of some people, to add to what is written that which they "read between the lines," and which rises up in their own imagination, or which they think they discern in the motive of the writer, renders their criticism usually incorrect and frequently unjust and absolutely worthless.

We have to repeat that which we have stated before: The Deseret News is not published for the special gratification of any particular class of readers. It does not desire to offend, nor can it attempt to please those who do not agree with its conclusions. It is growing in favor with the public, as is evidenced by its increasing circulation and the interest it arouses among people of various views on current questions. This shows that the "News" is exercising an influence for good. It stirs up thought, and causes discussion, and contributes to the streams of light and information which are continually flowing from the press, the greatest agency for the promotion of truth and the spread of intelligence that the world has ever seen.

A WORD TO STUDENTS.

The Denver Post congratulates Bishop Vincent for telling the students of the Denver university not to enter the ministry, unless they have a special call and special talents for the profession. These are, indeed, wise words. It has become quite a custom among some young men to choose a theological course, as the easiest through which to reach a position in life. Many, too

poor or not properly equipped mentally for the calling of a lawyer, a doctor, or some other profession, turn to the pulpit. Some become preachers as a last resort. They have failed in everything else and conclude that preaching is their proper calling, whereas the truth is that the successful preacher probably would make his mark in any line of activity he would see fit to choose.

The bishop's warning should be sounded to all young men in the various institutions of learning in this country: "Don't become ministers unless you have a special call and special talents for that profession." And it should be added that a "special call" is one given by divine authority. A preacher is, or should be, an "ambassador." As such he must have the proper credentials, or be classed as an impostor. From this there is no escape.

Nothing but divine authority can make the career of a minister successful. Hard study and energy may compensate to some extent for the lack of natural gifts in other callings. A man may study hard and become an acceptable actor, a good writer, a lecturer, a lawyer, or even a musician, but no hard study, no training, no energy can make a minister of the Gospel of one who has no divine authority to preach and to administer in the ordinances, any more than study and training alone, without credentials, can make anyone an ambassador of the United States to the British court. If young men generally had a proper understanding of this subject, there would be fewer misdirected lives in this world, less disappointed audiences and less hypocrisy and error. It is a good thing to train for the ministry, if the opportunity is offered, but it is sacrilege to pretend to be a minister until called by God.

IS THE END IN VIEW?

As the details of the operations that resulted in the surrender of Gen. Cronje become fully known, Lord Roberts' generalship appears to great advantage. It also appears probable that the effects of the capitulation will be more far-reaching than at first supposed.

The British general first drew off part of Cronje's army and then flanked his left with a mounted force, followed by strong divisions of infantry. The movements were so rapid that the Boer commander, notwithstanding his vigilance, was taken by surprise, and commenced his retreat too late. Cronje did all in his power to get outside the reach of the pursuers. His forced march of thirty-four miles was an extremely dangerous undertaking, but of no avail. The British infantry followed closely, and General French's cavalry kept ahead of the Boers, and they were finally surrounded. The success of the brilliantly conceived plan leaves no doubt of the great military genius of the British commander.

The effects of the victory must be disastrous to the Boer cause. Even the friends of the South African Republics believe that it marks the beginning of the end of the campaign. Cronje's army constituted at the outset about one-third of the entire Boer force, and now that it has been scattered in all directions, the power of resistance of the burghers is that much reduced. The Boer generals have no source from which to draw recruits and replenish their armies. At the outset they put their entire available strength into the field. They seem to have counted on a general rising in British South Africa. But so far this hope has not been realized to any notable extent. Cape Colony and Natal remain loyal to Great Britain, with few exceptions. The Boers are now reduced to the necessity of self-defense. Their own territory is invaded, and many of its defenders are captives.

This is the present status of the South African war, one of the most remarkable in history. That the end is drawing near is confidently expected. And everyone interested in the cause of civilization and humanity must fervently pray that the end may speedily come. The Boer leaders are intelligent men. They must know now that by prolonging the struggle, they can only multiply the sacrifices that must be offered up on the altar of war. As far as human foresight can perceive, the fate of the Boers is decided; the decree has gone forth irrevocably. The only question is as to how much more blood is to be shed in a vain effort to break the seal and tear the edict to pieces. We believe the sentiment throughout the civilized world is that the sooner the end now comes, the better.

CO-EDUCATION.

There seems to be an impression in many minds that our age is peculiar in the educational and other privileges extended to women. The question has again been brought to the front by comments on the now famous utterance of Prof. Sumner relative to unhappy marriages. It is argued that there are fewer unions of this class now than there were formerly, because now women are more generally taught to be self-reliant. "Co-education, or equal educational advantages," it is argued, "which now so largely obtain, have made the difference."

It is certainly true that there are greater opportunities now for the education of women than there were formerly, but it would be an injustice to the past and to our ancestors to suppose that the women of that time were neglected, to any greater extent than were the men. Neither boys nor girls a hundred years ago, and more, had the educational opportunities enjoyed today. Co-education, such as it was, has existed before now. It is not the distinguishing product of the closing years of this century.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the noble ladies of England were generally educated together with their brothers. Many of them were learned and highly accomplished. They often knew how to dance, ride, shoot with a bow, play musical instruments and so on. Some of them were able over their embroidery to compare and converse intelligently about the style of Isaacates and Lysias. The mother of Francis Bacon was a distinguished linguist and a theologian. She corresponded in Greek with a prelate friend and translated from the Latin

and from Italian. One of her sisters wrote Latin hexameters and pentameters, and another sister is described as the best Greek scholar among the ladies, Lady Jane Grey excepted. It is only justice to the past to remember the many gifted and accomplished women who adorned it. True learning among them, at a time when literature was accessible only in the dead languages, was by no means general. But was it any more general among the men? Popular education is one of the distinguishing marks of this age, but co-education is as old as education itself.

FOOD ADULTERATIONS.

The investigations by the Senate committee on manufactures have clearly disclosed the fact that there are hardly any food products on the general market, which are not adulterated in one way or another. Some of the adulterations are dangerous to the health of the consumers, while others are not so considered. Yet they are made for the purpose of obtaining a higher price for an article that, but for such treatment, would have to be sold cheap, perhaps have no market at all. In either case the fraud is apparent.

The committee recommends that there be created in the agricultural department a bureau which shall fix a standard for all foods and drinks, as well as drugs. A severe penalty is recommended for persons dealing in an article not corresponding to this standard, unless the goods are so marked that the purchaser may know what is the actual composition of the article he buys.

If this suggestion becomes law, some adulterations will undoubtedly be driven from the market, as the consumer would not buy them, knowing what he obtains for his money. In other cases the responsibility for the possible evil consequences would fall on the consumer himself.

In addition to this it would seem necessary that each State be empowered to seize and destroy any adulterated food offered for sale within its limits. If such adulteration is beyond a doubt dangerous to the health, that a doubt dangerous to health. That manufacturers would not care to take the risk such a measure would subject them to. The matter is of much importance. There should be some way of dealing with a problem in which the entire nation is vitally interested.

The dispute with Colorado capitalists over the question, "Are bees taxable?" appears to have reached the stinging stage.

Another scale of prices for paper has been made by an eastern paper makers' association. As usual, the scale is considerably higher than before.

Prices for good horses are considerably higher now than a year ago. The "passing of the horse" does not seem to have a basis in the cash value put on the animal.

"Wires down" was the announcement that came at noon today, and cut off the usual supply of telegraphic information from various parts of the globe.

"Don't mind me; get papa and mamma out first," were the words of a girl fatally injured in the recent railway wreck near Kansas City, Mo. Such heroism is sublime indeed.

Mexico is making a start as a sugar-producing country. The amount of refined sugar made in 1899 was 50,000 tons, with prospects for a considerable increase this year.

A Berlin editor has been sentenced to jail for making "exaggerated statements" in his paper. An American political editor wouldn't have a show outside of the jail yard in the German capital.

The fact that Kentucky is practically without a State government seems to have made things so quiet down there as to cause a suspicion that the military censor has taken the whole thing to himself.

Long Ray Ting, a foremost Chinese reformer who is opposed to the methods of the dowager empress, is at Victoria, B. C. That is about as near the front as the Mongolian reform leaders feel safe nowadays.

According to the notions of some people, the most pronounced pro-Boers are the British officers who have come out frankly in praise of the courage and military ability shown by the foe they are contending against. Yet it is only narrowminded persons who cannot see the virtues of a people whom the uncertain fortunes of war have made an antagonist.

It is claimed the Yaqui Indians are headed toward the United States, and that the military officers have orders to head them off. If they come as an armed or hostile force, they will meet with trouble, but otherwise there is not likely to be any difficulty. It is not sure, however, that the Yaquis have made up their minds to run away from the Mexicans.

It is said that 60 per cent of the native Cubans are disfranchised by the order requiring an elector to be able to write. There is time yet for many of them to learn to make their mark with a pencil, but if they try it with the machete or the rifle, it will be a costly experiment. Carrying into effect the threatened trouble on this account will not do Cuba any good.

Regarding the charges of drunkenness preferred against the officers of the cruiser Charleston, wrecked in the Philippines, it is said in a Washington dispatch that the accusations are made by a clergyman, and that the Secretary of the Navy believes they are without foundation. What is Mr. Long thinking of, to assume that a clergyman would make accusations that were without foundation?

The Massachusetts supreme court has made a decision that will be appreciated by wealthy widows, and likewise disappointing to fortune hunters. A man named Walker married a widow, under promise of half of her estate of \$500,000, and then got a divorce and sued for the property. The court held that the promise was made to him as a husband, and while he fulfilled that posi-

tion satisfactorily he was entitled to half the estate, but by getting a divorce he changed his status and thus forfeited his title to the property.

An agricultural exchange, on being taken to task with the charge that farming in the West does not pay, comes back with the reply that "the binders, mowers, rakes, plows, cultivators, planters and harrows left in the open field or to the shelter of weeds each winter is evidence not only that farming in the West pays the farmer, but that he has so much he must waste considerable in order to help out the millionaire agricultural machine manufacturer." How many western farmers see the point of the argument, to their own advantage?

From a consumption-curing State, Colorado has become a consumption-producing locality, according to the State board of health, which says that during the past ten years the number of cases of the disease originating in the State has increased to an alarming extent. The cause is no doubt due largely to the influx of consumptive persons to the State, though it is materially aided by the crowding of people in thickly settled residence districts, where the tainted air renders them less susceptible of resisting disease.

SURRENDER OF CRONJE

Chicago News.
What the effect of this reverse will be upon the Boers remains to be seen. They were evidently surprised by Lord Roberts' brilliant and successful move of invasion, and demoralization possibly may result. The probability, however, is that the war, after the termination of the siege of Ladysmith either by its relief or the withdrawal of the Boer forces, will revert to the defensive stage. Every day that Cronje held Roberts at bay was invaluable to the Boers if it has been used wisely in massing their troops and preparing to resist the advance of the British upon Bloemfontein. There is reason to believe that the secret of the heroic resistance at Paardeberg drift was Cronje's determination to give his countrymen the added time to effect this change in the plans of the campaign. There does not seem to have been any determined effort to cut through the British lines and re-enforce the gallant little band in the bed of the Modder river.

San Francisco Call.
There is hardly a parallel in the history of campaigns to the address and endurance, the courage and spirit, of Cronje and his men. His retreat from Kimberley was begun with ox teams. The pursuit was with cavalry and mounted infantry and the best horse troops. Yet his rearguard held back 45,000 men until he had covered more than half the distance to Bloemfontein, and when he was brought to bay at last the pursuit was checked until he built such defenses that the fire of a hundred cannon, incessantly maintained day and night, caused but little damage. Its sole military utility to the British was that it prevented a further uncovered movement forward. While he sheltered his force from British shells Lord Roberts' force kept well away from range of the rifles in the hands of the Boer sharpshooters, and made no approach to the Modder bed except in the burrows bored by the sappers and miners.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.
The theory is fanciful that Cronje had to sacrifice his army to enable other Boer forces to rally. The Boer general ought to have slipped away in season and hurried to the prearranged rendezvous. Presumably, the retiring movement had been carefully planned out, and a strong position and well constructed entrenchments were awaiting him, and in these his army of 7,000 or 8,000 men could have stood off any force that Roberts could have brought hastily against him. Cronje permitted himself to be outgeneraled. He was caught in a trap, and forced to turn at bay from a position of strategic weakness.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
There are few who imagine, however, that the recent success of the British will do more than bring the end of the war somewhat nearer. Kruger is not like the chess player who-matched with an opponent stronger than himself, and having exchanged a knight and castle for two or three pawns-sees defeat to be inevitable in eight or ten moves, and gracefully surrenders. He must play the game through to the end, and a strong position must be "suggested" a good deal more, and brave men must be sacrificed in numbers on both sides before the issue shall be decided. "Is South Africa to be all British or all Boer?"

Chicago Record.
Great Britain is justified in feeling that the victory marks a turning point in the war and opens an outlook toward ultimate peace. It is regrettable, in view of Great Britain's position as one of the foremost of civilized powers, that the first expression of British gratification should be an expression of appeased vengeance and exultation at the paying off of an old score.

Superior Wisconsin.
The surrender is unconditional and will exert a vast moral influence in South Africa. His force is estimated to be from 4,000 to 5,000 men. It was thought that he held an impregnable position and had plenty of provisions. This success, following so soon after the relief of Kimberley, has put the British upon their feet, and the conviction is now becoming general that the war will be ended in the month of March. Perhaps one pitched battle will have to be fought near Bloemfontein before the Boers will sue for peace.

San Francisco Chronicle.
It is too soon to speculate as to the effects of the surrender on the course of the war. Naturally, it will depress the Boers temporarily, but it may also stimulate them to offer more determined resistance to British invasion of their territory. The rapid formation of a second line of defense in the Free State, with Bloemfontein as the base, is being reported. Still, there are persistent rumors that President Kruger is being urged to sue for peace. President Steyn of the Orange Free State is said to be among those urging this course. Perhaps Europe will attempt to intervene. It may be accepted as a foregone conclusion that all the Boer commands in Cape Colony will be withdrawn as quickly as possible, otherwise those at Colesberg and Stormberg are liable to be caught between the armies of Gatacre and Roberts, as the major part of the command of the latter will be free now to operate anywhere he desires.

Peoria Journal.
The memory of Majuba Hill will never die as long as there is a Britishman in South Africa, but increasingly connected with it will be the sorrowful memory of the surrender of Cronje at Paardeberg.

WOMEN AND THE THEATRE.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
The agitation over the play of "Sappho" took on a strange coloring the other day, and one quite unique in the history of the stage. The church has thundered against the theater, art has attacked it through the caricaturist, printers' ink has been freely used to

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Z. C. M. I. T. G. Webber, Supt.

wash it clean. But never has the same sort of attack been made as that of a long list of representative women of New York who appealed to Miss Sutherland to cast "Sappho" aside for the fair fame of the sex and for the general moral good of the community. It is hard to understand how the actress can put herself in antagonism to this gentle request, because such action would once range her against the appreciation and the sympathies of the country.

Boston Commercial Bulletin.
"It is a great winter at the theaters for the 'Sappho' and the 'Zana.' Also for the people who are fond of 'strong' plays that as they like decomposing game or ambulant cheese. We've no quarrel with them-but there are so much cleaner and more inspiring things within reach." This wholesale paragraph was in the Boston Evening Record. It is not necessary to be prudent or a prude to feel utter disgust at the nauseous nastiness to which the American stage has fallen. It is frankly adopted French lubricity but not French wit.

Omaha World Herald.
A certain play now being presented in New York City is said to be immoral to the degree of obscenity, and the newspapers of the city have denounced it in unmeasured terms. The result is that the theater where this immoral drama is presented is packed to the doors every night, and a majority of the spectators are women who would quickly resent the imputation that they were pandering to indecency. They are attracted by curiosity, while the men are perhaps attracted by the idea that they are to see something suggestive and "spicy." The advertising has been worth thousands of dollars to the management presenting this drama. The best way to kill the indecent and immoral drama is to ignore it.

New York World.
We regret that there was no way of applying the remedy of publicity to this evil, and thus stopping it without apparently advertising the play. But to arrest the general and deplorable tendency toward a degradation of the stage it was necessary to do this. The example of one vile play suppressed by the law in obedience to an aroused and indignant public sentiment, will do more to check this increasing tendency than all the merely sensational denunciation which such performances invite.

Chicago News.
According to the opinions of well-informed and honest theatrical critics in New York, Mrs. Langtry's play of "The Desires" is of such a bad character that no self-respecting woman can sit through it. There is no doubt as to the reliability of this verdict, and when the Langtry comes to Chicago self-respecting women-and men, too, for that matter-cannot plead ignorance of the fact if they go to see this play and are shocked. However, the public that swallowed detestable "Sappho" may not see reason to quibble at its companion piece of impudent and gross immorality.

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