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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, NOV. 6, 1900.

DECEIVING AND DECEIVED.

Dr. Josiah Strong of New York is at the head of the organization called the Social League. It is engaged in circulating anti-"Mormon" literature. We are in possession of some budgets of the stuff, that is being supplied to ministers and congregations throughout the United States. It consists chiefly of gross misrepresentations of "Mormon" tenets, furnished by persons who have by long practice become adepts in the art, and it also roundly abuses the "Mormon" people and their Church leaders.

This kind of literature does some harm for a time. It deceives a great many very good people, and leads them to regard a "Mormon" as a moral monster, and the "Mormon" faith as a mixture of paganism and perdition of Christian doctrine. It tends to promote that kind of agitation which culminates in personal violence, the burning of "Mormon" meeting houses, the mobbing of "Mormon" missionaries, and the desire to annihilate "Mormonism" by law if possible, by force if necessary.

The gentleman who is at the head of this movement is, no doubt, under the impression that he is promoting the cause of Christianity and denouncing dangerous heresy. He is evidently deceived himself while he is deceiving others. He has obtained his information about the "Mormons" from their inveterate enemies, and really knows nothing of the true character of the people whom he is plotting to malign, nor of their real principles and true sentiments.

But when an opportunity opens to show up the falsity and absurdity of the attacks thus made upon our people and their faith, a reaction results. The libels published and spread abroad by the ton, create inquiry. Investigation reaches the truth. The viler the falsehood, the brighter the truth appears by contrast. The eyes of the honest are opened, they see the beauty of the principles of the latter-day Gospel, they feel their force, and so light is spread and converts are the consequence.

Dr. Strong has been using his influence recently in a political direction. That of course he considers eminently proper in an orthodox divine, but shamefully wicked in a "Mormon" Apostle or Elder. His letters to candidates for election to Congress, and to persons whom he wishes to support such as are favorable to the proposed anti-polygamy amendment to the national Constitution, show that the same ignorance displayed in the anti-"Mormon" literature he is circulating, is a prominent feature of his political correspondence. For instance, he says:

"The Mormon leaders teach that every one who opposes their Church will suffer divine retribution. They declare that Lincoln's assassination was the judgment of God because of his opposition to Mormonism, and now claim that the recent destruction of Galveston was due to its rejection of the Mormon Gospel."

Every assertion in the paragraph we have quoted is untrue. The Mormon leaders have made no such statements. They are all manufactured for the purpose of prejudicing the public against the "Mormons." Their repetition by Dr. Strong is complete evidence of his lack of knowledge on this subject, and of his eager readiness to adopt any anti-"Mormon" accusation, however grotesque and untrue.

On these matters he is a blind guide, deceiving and being deceived. He is one of a numerous class, so confident in their own astuteness and clerical position, that they never imagine they may be mistaken. Therefore they take what they hear for granted, do not look before they leap, but jump to conclusions, and fall into just such mud-pools of error as the false charges of the paragraph above.

We have no desire to say or do anything against the eminent preacher, personally. We do warn the public against his assaults on the "Mormon" Church. They are made in the same spirit as that which moved old Rome to malign and libel, and make war upon the early Christians.

The real of his present race is a myth. The light he is waging is against empty space. His great effort, in which he desires to involve national legislators, is wasted upon a phantom. If he succeeds in what he has undertaken, it will have no more effect upon "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" than a puff of wind upon a deep-rooted oak. Without knowing it he is merely acting as the tool of designing knaves in whom he has reposed confidence, but who are playing havoc with his egotism and taking advantage of his verbiage. "Mormonism" is a system of religion, the beauty and strength and purity of which he is not able at present to appreciate, because he is not willing to learn. It is a power in the earth when he is out in the grave. And he

will live at some time, in the next world if not in this, that in fighting it, whether with the carnal weapons of politics or the intellectual weapons of sectarianism, he has not only waged a losing contest, but opposed that which will bring salvation to the living and redemption to the dead. We are sorry for his misapplication of great ability, and he will be much sorer himself when he finds out what he has done.

DECREASE OF POPULATION.

Attention is called to the fact that the State of Nevada, according to the latest census returns again shows a decrease in population. When that State was admitted to the Union, it had a population of over 62,000. The census of 1890 showed a population of not quite 45,000 and the present census gives only 42,354. Nevada, since 1880, has lost inhabitants at the rate of one thousand a year.

At the present rate of representation in Congress of one for each 173,901 inhabitants, Nevada is entitled to one-fourth vote in the national legislature. This is an anomaly which would seem to call for some action by Congress. If the decadence in population continues, there can be no other outcome than the apportionment of Nevada among the neighboring States.

PLENTY OF ROOM.

People are sometimes talking about the over-population of this country. The most thickly populated regions of the United States are Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with respectively 395 and 443 people to the square mile, but the average is, according to the figures published, only 22 to the square mile.

This is not much of a crowded country, when compared to Belgium with 593 and Holland with 408 inhabitants to each square mile. But the record for dense population is held by the West Indies, with 1,145 inhabitants to each square mile.

It will take many more years before this country is over-crowded. If the land surface of the United States, exclusive of Alaska and newly acquired islands, is placed at 2,970,000 square miles, and it had the density of population that Holland has, there would be room for the enormous total 1,211,760,000 souls under the Stars and Stripes. But the United States with its mountain regions and arid belt may not admit of anything like the population of the Netherlands. Yet the calculation is sufficient to show that the nation, with its 76,000,000 souls is yet an infant in size, as compared to what it may become when all its resources shall have been developed to their full extent. There seems to be plenty of room for all the civilized nations of the earth within the confines of this magnificent country.

LOOKING FOR METEORS.

Last year, in November, a great meteor shower was expected, and many were watching to catch a glimpse of the predicted celestial phenomenon. But they were disappointed. Now Professor Frederick L. Chase, of the Yale Observatory, in a letter to the New York Mail and Express, says there is a good prospect of witnessing this month the shower that failed to appear a year ago.

Two explanations are offered for the failure of the astronomical prediction to come true last year. One is that since the shower in 1899-1900, the planet Jupiter has passed close to the portion of the orbit containing the meteors due in 1899 and has, according to calculations, so perturbed their path as to make them cross the plane of the earth's orbit several hundred thousand miles inside that orbit.

Another is, that there was a dearth of meteors in the portion of the swarm encountered in 1899. It is possible, says Dr. Chase, that the portion of the stream due at the intersection of the earth's orbit this year, has not been disturbed by the influence of Jupiter in the same way as that of last year.

With the possibility in view of the appearance of the meteors this year, the Yale astronomers have made extensive preparations for their observation. The general public will also once more watch for the brilliant phenomenon, which is supposed to be due to the passing before mortal view of the remains of an exploded world.

WAR AND PEACE.

Adverse criticism continues to appear in the press on the alleged brutal conduct of some European soldiers in China. It is pointed out that in some instances no quarter was given, but the Chinese were hunted down, captured and massacred.

The facts related, if true, are highly deplorable, but they are hardly surprising. War itself is brutality. It is not true that by it the many virtues and qualities are brought out strengthened. On the contrary, it destroys the existing belief in the sanctity of human life and the sacredness of property rights, and when this belief is gone, there is nothing to prevent the depraved human nature from breaking through the veneer of civilization that has been applied in times of peace and to show itself in its most revolting features.

History records only the few deeds of heroism and sacrifice that occur in war; it throws the mantle of forgetfulness over the hundreds of cases of wrong-doing that accompany it, but it is nevertheless a fact that in every war acts are committed that would make civilization blush. Every crime in the Decalogue is committed under the cloak of war. It has always been so, and it is difficult to see how it can be otherwise.

It is a well established principle that those who draw the sword, except in a righteous cause, finally perish by the sword.

The old world empires that won supremacy by conquests are all gone. Both Greece and Rome had highly developed civilizations, but the spirit of conquest undermined the moral status of the people, and finally the structures fell. How different might not the world have been today, had the Greek republics, instead of mutually weakening and destroying one another, settled all their differences by arbitration, and given their wonderful intellectual powers to

the development of literature and the arts in which at one time they were the masters! How different would not the moral status of the civilized world have been today, had not the Napoleonic wars with which the century opened given their color to national life!

One of the most encouraging features of the close of the century is that the masses of the people, both here and in Europe, are commencing to realize the curse of war, and if the doings of civilized armies in China can serve to still further illustrate this truth, the outrages, though deplorable, will not be entirely without good results. The spirit of peace is, notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, at present striving with the spirit of militarism for supremacy over the world, and the victory is not uncertain, though the struggle may be long and hard.

RUSSIA ADOPTS THE METR.

Russia having adopted the metric system of weights and measures, the United States and Great Britain are the only two countries left where the people still adhere to the older systems. France and Germany have long used the meter. Belgium has fallen into line after forty years of hesitation. Austria and Hungary have adopted it. Bulgaria, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, and even Spain, have introduced the modern mode of measuring, and it is the system in general use in Latin America.

In this country, too, it is used much more extensively than many people imagine. It is used exclusively by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in computations, although their charts still show soundings in feet accompanied by a metric scale to which the measurements may readily be transferred. In the scientific bureaus of the Agricultural Department, as elsewhere, the metric system is employed. The Post Office Department uses it in connection with foreign countries, but not in any work applying to our own country exclusively. In the surgeon general's office all contracts for medical supplies are expressed in metric terms; the supplies are packed in metric packages, and the army-post physicians and apothecaries are required to use this system in ordering and filling prescriptions. In the same way the surgeon general's office of the navy uses the new system, even manufacturing its own bottles and packages in accordance with it. In Cuba and Porto Rico it is exclusively used in all official and domestic work.

In all probability it will become popular in the United States at no distant date. Bills have often been introduced in Congress for making it compulsory after a certain time of probation, but so far they have reached no farther than the committee. There are many private persons who favor it, though, and we believe the circle of its friends is ever widening.

It should be said, however, that the chief point in favor of the metric—not speaking of the decimal system, which has everything in its favor—is its all but universal adoption by the civilized world. From a strictly scientific point of view the meter is by no means a more correct unit than the yard.

It is a French invention dating from the time of the first revolution, when the nation was seized with a mania for making "all things new." They took of measurement. Besides, it is believed at the meridian of Paris, divided it into ten million parts and said the result was 39.371 inches, and this they called a meter. The objection is that no part of a curved line on the earth's surface can furnish a truly scientific standard of measurement. Besides, it is believed that the calculations made were not strictly correct, and it has been pronounced "the newest and worst measure in the world." It has been suggested that the earth's axis would form a better basis of calculation, as that is a straight line and the only straight line afforded by terrestrial nature, being the base line round which the earth is constructed. Whether it will be possible to measure this line with unerring exactitude is another question. At present it is supposed to be in round numbers 25,000,000 of our inches. A meter of 39.371 inches has therefore been suggested as the correct one, and this would come wonderfully close to the sacred cubit of the Moslem law.

The polls will close at 7 o'clock this eve.

Look out for the 9 o'clock edition of the Deseret News tonight.

The political candidate who expects a landslide may be buried in snow.

If you haven't voted, you can do so up to 7 p. m. if you have, that's enough.

The disgrace of bloody conflicts at elections seems to have been transferred from Kentucky to Colorado.

Whichever side wins, the other side must lose; let the defeated take their disappointment as good-naturedly as possible.

The Chinese fear the collection of foreign gunboats at Canton. Fearing them, the heathen may respect the prowess of their owners.

"Oom Paul" continues to oppose the persistent fighting of the Boers. He now does it at a safe distance from both parties to the conflict.

Russia will observe China's territorial integrity, provided other nations do the same. Now who will be the first to invite a change in Russia's policy?

Wyoming has increased 72.4 in population the past ten years. The next decade should see our sister State's inhabitants double this year's figures.

Let there be no bitterness after the vote is counted. And remember, this nation is too securely founded to fall or be shattered by the effects of one election.

An indication of an unusually vigorous campaign in the presidential election this year is that the early vote today has been heavier than ever known before.

For a place where the residents, though American citizens, are not allowed to vote, the nation's capital city seems to have a wonderfully intense interest in the political struggle.

More revolver accidents are reported

through careless handling of the weapons. At least those who are hurt learn the danger, whether or no others realize it in time.

It is said that Chile is selling off her warships in order to reduce her naval strength. Perhaps so—till some newer and more modern vessels can be purchased.

There are lots of mistaken claims today, to say the least, since both great parties claim a majority in the electoral college. The one with the poorest judgment and foresight will surely get left.

Russia is going to have five more battleships built in America. The reason given for placing the order in this country is that American-made battleships are "honest goods," being according to contract.

London is going to gamble all night on the American election. The presidential campaign here seems of much greater financial interest to the people of Great Britain than does an election in their own country.

Thousands of Japs and Chinese are becoming British subjects in British Columbia. They or their descendants may come in handy some time, to aid in promoting British colonization of newly-acquired territory.

THE TRANSVAAL SITUATION.

San Francisco Chronicle.
Whether the burghers still in arms against British authority in South Africa are many or few, they are causing considerable apprehension among the British colonists, because of their extraordinary activity. It is even suspected by some that the disbandment of volunteers has been premature. If so, the act will cast a reflection on Lord Roberts, who has been a model of cautiousness and discretion. This suspicion seems to be confirmed by General Brabant's appeal to the men of Cape Colony to enlist in the irregular forces, the recruiting of which has been entrusted to him. Brabant explains that the return of refugees to the disturbed districts is as yet impossible. Another unfavorable sign is found in the repressive measures adopted by the British.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
The Cape Colony people who are alarmed over the withdrawal of British troops are better judges of Boer character than the officers who have been in South Africa only a year, and Lord Roberts may have occasion to doubt that he had experienced the same doubt as to the motives of the burghers in quieting down.

Baltimore Sun.
Notwithstanding the "many successful Boer raids" reported by General Buller, the British persist in regarding the war as virtually ended and are preparing for the future administration of the country. General Buller's return to England is regarded as a preliminary to General Roberts' return and the proposed return of Kitchener to be General Roberts' successor. There are several generals in South Africa who outrank General Kitchener, but they will, it is thought, be recalled to make way for Kitchener, or he will be advanced over their heads. The victor of Khartoum is supposed to be free from that "soft-hearted leniency" which is attributed to General Roberts and which is supposed to explain the continuance of fighting after organized armies have disappeared from the field.

Chicago Record.
The president of the Transvaal republic followed Gen. Buller out of Africa by about a week. The date of his departure was a little more than a year subsequent to the beginning of the war. The large events of the intervening twelve months are quite familiar to the public. Gen. Buller returns a victor. Oom Paul goes away vanquished. But he is largely owing to the fact that the Boer had nobody to do his press work for him. There was no good-natured superior to pass upon his acts and grant a certificate of heroism.

Boston Transcript.
If the report is true that Sir Alfred Milner has selected Mr. Rose-Innes for the task of recasting the judiciary, the selection is evidence that Cecil Rhodes's power must be waning, for Mr. Rose-Innes is not acceptable to him. To smoothe down the Dutch while supporting the British, to set the two elements at work so busily that they will have little leisure for recalling old grudges, to substitute civilian magistrates for the improvised military judiciary Lord Roberts has been compelled to set up, are some of the things the high commissioner must do.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The North American Review for November opens with an article by Captain A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., on "Asiatic Conditions and International Policies," in which he endeavors to show what the United States must do to maintain its influence in the councils of the nations under the new conditions created by the recent crises. Gabriele D'Annunzio, the Italian novelist and poet, has a paper entitled "The Third Life of Italy." Baroness Bertha von Suttner tells what are the "Present Status and Prospects of the Peace Movement." G. Leveson Gower contributes a sonnet in praise of peace entitled "In Terra Pax." O. P. Austin, chief of the bureau of statistics, in "A Century of International Commerce," shows the vast increase which has taken place within the past hundred years in the volume of trade between the nations. Count Okuma, formerly prime minister of the Mikado, gives an account of "The Industrial Revolution in Japan." Signor E. Orsini, formerly prime minister of Italy, discusses the relations between "China and the Western Nations." The distinguished artist, J. J. Benjamin Constant, describes some of the prehistoric works of art contained in the Wallace Collection. John W. Hales, professor of English literature in King's College, London, on the occasion of the five hundredth anniversary of the death of Chaucer, writes appreciatively of the character and work of the father of English poetry. Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, in the first installment of a paper on "New York and Its Historians," points out that the story of the Empire State and its principal city has never been adequately told. Prof. J. H. Hyslop, of Columbia University, reviews M. Flournoy's recent work, "From India to the Planet Mars." Mrs. Flora McDonald Thompson reflects a "Retrospect of the American Woman." In the contrast presented between the life and the ambitions of the American woman of today and those of her grandmother, as described by De Tocqueville, and Oak Mann contributes to the series on "The Great Religions of the World," a study of "Mohammedanism."—New York.

The Thanksgiving number of Table Talk is illustrated with half-tone cuts of plain and fancy garnished dishes. The November number is full of choice articles on topics that will interest the housekeeper. Among them is "How Shall We Feed the Young Ravens?" "Concerning Christmas Gifts" by Mrs. Burton Kingsland, is an article which will help you out on things and ideas for Christmas gifts. "The Chaffing Dish Candy-Bee" will mention other good articles are features of the number.—Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

These are some of the subjects treated on in Guntion's Magazine for

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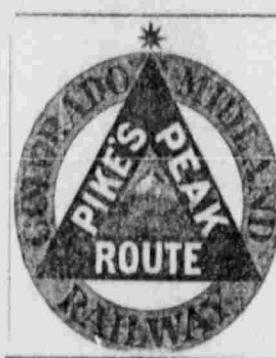
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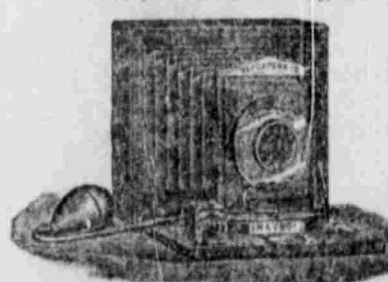
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