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THE CURRENT SCANDAL.

The Deseret News has abstained, hitherto, from taking part in the discussion which has been indulged in by the morning papers, occasioned by an unwise step taken by a young man in the Salt Lake Tabernacle last Sunday. It is due to our readers, perhaps, that some notice should be taken of the affair, since it has stirred up so much commotion.

For a long time there have been rumors in circulation about a supposed plural marriage, said to have been entered into by Judge Henry S. Tanner and a young lady of this city. It was further hinted that another young lady had also contracted plural marriage with Judge Tanner. Pointed and specific denials were made at the time when the reports were first in the air, and the matter was dropped for the time being.

On Sunday last, when the contrary vote, if any, was called for, in placing the names of the home missionaries of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion before its quarterly conference, a young man arose and voted against Henry S. Tanner. He was notified that he could specify his objections to the Presidency of the Stake, and Monday morning was named to him as the time for the interview. There was nothing in the incident to cause any particular stir, but it revived the old rumors to which we have referred.

When the matter came to be investigated, it was found that the young man was not residing in this Stake of Zion, and therefore had no right to make objection in the manner chosen by him. But he was heard by the Stake Presidency concerning it, and it was learned that he had no definite information on which to base a charge against Elder Tanner. He did not mention the term, he said nothing about plural marriage; he did not repeat the story that has been in circulation concerning it. He was shown the impropriety of his action in the Tabernacle, and the proper course for any member of the Church to pursue if he had "ought against a brother." He admitted his indiscretion, and nothing further was done in the matter, as his course was entirely out of order.

It will be observed by careful readers of the Salt Lake papers, which have announced in flaring headlines that a "City Judge is Charged with Polygamy," and that Samuel Russell made that charge, as "part of his ground of opposition," that Mr. Russell did not state anything of the kind, even to the papers that resorted to the clap-net of those sensational headlines. On the contrary, he has denied making such an accusation to them or to any one else.

The statement given by Judge Tanner to those papers in response to their inquiries, ought to be sufficient on his part. The notion that any man, whether holding a public office or occupying a private station, is under obligations to prove his innocence, whenever a newspaper chooses to hold him up to public opprobrium is too childish to need refutation. If there are any charges against Judge Tanner capable of proof, there is all the machinery of the courts at the command of his accusers.

The dragging in of the names of reputable young ladies in the manner resorted to by their contemporaries, is nothing short of shameful, and the attempts to run them down so as to force some statements from them, are to be deprecated and condemned. They are under no obligations to satisfy prurient curiosity, or to submit to reporter's examination. To read the comments of some papers, one would be led to suppose that discreditation to rush into print on private matters was in the nature of a crime.

It ought not to be necessary to repeat the denunciations of the Presidency of the Church in regard to plural marriages. But we will say once more, by authority, that no such marriages are performed by their consent or with their permission. They declare most emphatically that they know nothing of any such cases as those that have been the subject of common rumor. Neither of them has performed or authorized such contracts or ceremonies. If any more direct or emphatic statement on that point is needed, let it be worded as desired and taken for granted. The denial is positive and complete and covers the entire ground.

If any person or persons have violated the law against polygamy, they must abide the consequences. They do so against their own peril. They have not the sanction of the Church in breaking the laws of the land. They do so, if at all, entirely on their own responsibility. No one, however, should be condemned on common rumor. Evidence is required to prove a charge whether in Church or State. There is a regular course of procedure for the investigation of crime. Judges do not condemn without it, nor do they make accusations. There are courts in the Church, governed by its rules, and they

do not take up cases except upon definite charges supported by evidence. Common gossip is not to be taken into serious account.

The scandal-monger deserves punishment rather than the individuals who are slandered. Label is vile business for any person or paper to be engaged in. So is the Paul Pry course which some of them pursue. No home is sacred from their intrusion. Civil suits against them for their alleged disclosures, their exaggerations and their inventions will not meet the evil. Something radical, swift and personal is called for to stamp it out.

Our readers will do well to heed the instructions of the President of the Church and practice the "Mormon" creed: "Mind your own business." It does no good to repeat rumors that cannot be substantiated, or to indulge in any kind of backbiting and evil-speaking, just now, when there is evident intention on the part of certain irreconcilables to draw upon our people undesired odium, and to take advantage of every idle tale or suspicious circumstance, for the purpose of putting the Church in a false light before the world, its members at least ought to be circumspect in their utterances, and to be careful that they are not drawn into the current of that spirit which is and was, and always will be antagonistic to the great latter-day work. Don't seek to ruin any one's reputation. Do not need to ruin any one's reputation. Do not need to ruin any one's reputation. Do not need to ruin any one's reputation.

HOUSE BILL 154.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature as House Bill 154, which at first glance seems to be fair and right, and on close investigation appears of doubtful advantage. It provides that in case of the separation of husband and wife having minor children, the mother is to be entitled to their care, control and custody. But when such children, of sound mind, have reached the age of twelve years, they shall have the privilege of selecting the parent to whom they desire to be attached.

Ordinarily this would seem to be proper. Usually the mother is better qualified than any one else to take care and have control of her little ones, at least until they are old enough to make choice as to their future. The father, no matter how affectionate and worthy, generally speaking, is not so well adapted to such duties as are involved in the care of little children. So the mother would appear to be the proper custodian, if there is a big "if"—she is morally and in other respects worthy of that sacred charge.

The law as it now stands vests authority in the court, in cases of divorce, to order the disposition of the minor children up to the age of ten years. But this bill does not affect divorce cases. It relates to cases of separation of the husband and wife. The law, however, in relation to separate maintenance, places the power also in the court to determine which of the parents shall have the custody of the minor children.

It appears to us that this is the safer plan. There are cases in which the mother, undoubtedly, should have the custody of the young children. There are others, only occasionally we admit, in which the mother is totally unfit for the task, and it would be a wrong to the children and to society to place them under her influence and control.

We believe the court will exercise the proper discretion under such circumstances, and that it would be better to leave the decision to a court than to fix the law so that the mother, however unworthy, could claim the custody of the little ones, who should be brought up under proper auspices. The father, if made their custodian could, when necessary, obtain such aid as only a woman can render in the care of his small children left under his parental protection. We cannot conscientiously endorse the proposed measure.

THE BUFFALO MYSTERY.

Buffalo has again been brought prominently before the American people, by a crime committed within its limits. The victim of the murder this time was a wealthy if not socially prominent man, and the circumstances of the killing are enveloped in mystery—two reasons why the crime is the subject of much talk and newspaper comment. A poor man might have lost his life, and the matter would have been forgotten in a day or two.

A number of women seem to have been suspected, and some of them have been subjected to rather more strenuous examination than compatible with the rights of Americans to be considered innocent until proved otherwise. The rule is too often violated by officials who jump at conclusions and then try to find proofs for the conclusion already formed. This procedure is fatal to all search for truth, although it is common, particularly in theological fields of investigation. But it should not be followed when the question is of finding criminals. Then, if ever, all the evidence should first be brought in, in order that no conclusion be formed except that which is forced by the evidence. The opposite mode may lead to the conviction of innocent persons; it generally results in the escape of the guilty, while the servants of the law are following a wrong clue.

ENGLAND FEARS GERMANY.

The establishment of a naval station on the Firth of Forth, Scotland, is supposed to mean, virtually, a notice to Germany that Great Britain does not propose to take any chance of an invasion from that side. One would hardly believe, from the recent union of action in Venezuela, that Great Britain distrusts German plans, but that seems to be the fact, nevertheless, and it is thought that the present stationing of Germany for the possession of a large navy, has suggested the necessity of a new naval station in Great Britain, and a North Sea squadron. The British sentiment was expressed in a letter by George Meredith, read at a conference of members of Parliament. The writer said in part:

"Germany, once foremost among the nations for her intellectual achievements, now spouts pan-Germanism over Europe and seeks to command the North Sea. For our part, we have only to take

the warning they give us and be armed, stationed and alert. That is the way to preserve the peace. For pan-Germanism challenges many foes, and a power ambitious to be predominant in a great navy as well as a great army will find its adversary within, besides those that press around it. A slumbering England will offer it the chance it craves before the inevitable financial strain brings it to the ground. A watchful England may look on calmly for that certain issue."

It is quite possible that this and similar talk about Germany is indulged in for the purpose of stirring up the country and obtaining large appropriations for ship-building. European statesmen sometimes resort to the expediency of painting demons on the wall, when they desire money for pet schemes. But the fact remains that much of the mistrust that has existed against France and which prompted the special lookout over the Channel has been transferred to the neighbor across the North Sea.

In connection with this subject, the question of food supply for Great Britain, in case of war, is discussed by the British people. Not long ago influential citizens of London took up that question at a public meeting, and sent a strong deputation to the prime minister, urging the appointment of a royal commission to investigate that matter.

In the Times the situation was recently set forth. It was pointed out that the people were dependent for more than three-fourths of the food supply on imports, and that at no time was there wheat on hand for more than three weeks at a time. A great number of the people are poor, depending on low wages for a living. Many would lose their employment in any disturbance of the labor market, due to a great foreign war. With war prices for bread and meat, the kingdom might find its internal problem of feeding the masses impossible of solution. If the pressure on the poor were continued, any length of time, disaster would be certain.

Great Britain cannot afford to risk a war with a great European power, capable of disturbing her grain routes, and as matters now are, it seems that the only way of insuring peace is by being prepared for war. On that theory the English policy of building warships and founding new naval stations is correct. But it is to be hoped that the time will come when the court of arbitration can deal with all international disputes. Then it will not be necessary for the nations to hold the sword in one hand while they wield the trowel with the other.

Secretary Loeb has the President's ear and the President's ear has a job.

A challenge to wrestle is an invitation to gamble for everything depends upon a throw.

Secretary of Commerce Cortelyou has secured quarters. After awhile he may secure dollars.

The rules of the Senate to be re-examined and possibly changed? Wonders will never cease.

Manila is soon to have rapid transit. Changes in Manila have been rapid these past five years.

Duelists are pardoned in Germany with the same promptness that bank wreckers are in this country.

In the Burdick murder case it becomes more and more plain that the Buffalo police have been buffaloed.

At the state oratorical contest at Aachen on the other evening there was a big riot. A fitting culmination to a war of words.

A will cat belonging to a local fur dealer escaped from its cage last night. It will probably be found among the mining stocks.

There are several countries in Europe that the Monroe doctrine does not suit. But when they lay claim to American territory (North, Central or South) it non-suits them every time.

"There is talk again of effecting the release of Mrs. Maybrick. As far as known, however, this talk doesn't emanate from England's king," says the Plain-Dealer. Substitute "home secretary" for "king" and the item will be all right.

Where one can kill a noxious weed it is well to do so, but to compel farmers and others to destroy all such weeds growing along ditches and fences would be to compel them to spend all their time for the public to the neglect of their own affairs. While doing that work their own lands would become veritable hotbeds for noxious plants.

The case of Isabella Gonzales now before the United States Supreme Court is a peculiar and interesting one. She is a Porto Rican by birth. She came to New York and was detained at Ellis Island, and not allowed to land, it being held that she is an alien. She owes allegiance to the United States yet she is not permitted to set foot on the land to which allegiance is owed. There is something radically wrong in such a condition of affairs. Under the British system of government every subject of the King may visit England, may even become a member of parliament. There are some things that they do better in England, as well as in France, than we do in this country.

Next Tuesday the Senate will vote on the Panama canal treaty. In the interests of an isthmian canal it is to be hoped that the treaty will be ratified. It has been fought long and hard, and at times there has been an impression abroad that the fight has been made for ulterior purposes. The impression may have been wrong, it is to be hoped that it has, but it is existed. With the treaty ratified, and it probably will be, there need be no undue delay in beginning the construction of the canal right away. It will be a great work and will influence the course of commerce almost as much as did the rounding of Cape of Good Hope by Vasco da Gama.

Representative Blumie of Cameron county, Pa., must be a man after President Roosevelt's own heart. He is the father of eleven children and has introduced a bill in the Pennsylvania house to "subsidize large families and

to provide for gold medals for mothers of large families." The bill provides prizes ranging from \$100 and a medal to cost \$10 to \$50, a \$50 gold medal to mothers of families ranging from nine to 15 children. The seventh son or daughter born within the state shall be educated at an expense to the state not to exceed \$500. The designs of the medals are to be furnished by the governor. The act shall not apply to any woman who has been legally divorced or separated from her husband." Mr. Blumie certainly deserves recognition at the hands of the President either by way of a federal appointment or an autograph letter of thanks.

THE RACE QUESTION.

New York Evening Post.
President Roosevelt's prompt renewal of the nomination of Dr. Crum will compel the new Senate, with a Republican majority of 24, to face a question which the last Senate endeavored to shirk. That question is whether the colored man of education and character is to be recognized and encouraged, and through him his race encouraged. Behind this individual case there lies, of course, the large principle at stake. Is the attack on the negro's political rights to include an assault upon his personal rights? Is his disqualification for office to go hand in hand with his disfranchisement? Is he to be thrust back, instead of helped, when he tries to rise?

Boston Transcript.
The Senate has shrunk from sticking its toes into cold water in connection with the appointment of Dr. Crum to be collector of the Port of Charleston, S. C. It lacks the President's courage in this matter.

Binghamton Leader.
President Roosevelt is not likely to adopt Senator Tillman's suggestion that he vindicate his negro policy by making Booker T. Washington a cabinet minister and sending negroes to West Point and Annapolis to be trained into officers. Mr. Roosevelt isn't "monkeying" with this question for the express purpose of burning his fingers.

New Orleans Picayune.

President Roosevelt may say as much as well that he is not in favor of social equality with negroes, and he may think he is in earnest when he says so, but the fact remains that he has performed the acts by which he has acquired such equality. He has entertained a negro at dinner in the White House. He has entertained at his public social receptions negro women in evening dress who were not officials or employees of the government, and who could be present in no official capacity, but only as social visitors, the social equals of the white callers. Here is the cause of the outcry.

Louisville Herald.
President Roosevelt's latest declaration of policy in reference to federal appointments in the south has met with no return. Writing to Clark Howell of Atlanta, he said: "I certainly cannot treat color as a permanent bar to holding office, any more than I would so treat creed or birthplace—always provided that in other respects the applicant or incumbent is a worthy and well-behaved American citizen. Just as little will I treat it as concerning a right to hold office." So far the Democratic editors have found no Jeffersonian quotation to oppose to the President's manful American declaration.

New York Mail and Express.

Booker T. Washington's suggestion, that a conference of representative black and white men be called to discuss the race question, has a prompt echo in a joint resolution introduced in the Wisconsin legislature, authorizing the governor to call upon the governors of other states to appoint ten delegates each to a convention to be held in Atlanta, beginning July 4. The suggestion, and the resolution which it has called forth, seem to us to be well taken. A conference held in Atlanta, to represent the southern city, the metropolis of a state with a large negro population than any other, would not be open to the charge of unfriendliness to the south, or of impracticability because of moral or geographical aloofness.

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