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Latter-day Saints

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OUR MATERIAL DESTINY.

Salt Lake City will, in all probability, become a large railroad center. It was a mistake on the part of the then Central Pacific, when the road from the coast met the Union Pacific in Utah, that the route suggested by President Brigham Young was not followed. Instead of the circuitous line now in operation around the north end of the Great Salt Lake, he advised cutting across the country at the south end of the lake.

It appears that the Southern Pacific, as it is now called, has come to understand the blunder that was made, and now proposes to remedy it in part, by building a cut off from Ogden by way of the promontory. That will shorten the line considerably, and bring other advantages, but the plan projected by President Young was the right one, and it is not yet too late to adopt it.

In any case this city will become the connecting point with other roads. The Salt Lake and Los Angeles road will be built at some time, sure. Its Utah terminus will be in this city. The people here will not lose the advantages that are offered them, by refusing the necessary terminal facilities and rights of way. They may differ as to the exact spot for depot grounds, but will doubtless settle upon some plan to secure the terminus of the road, and make such grants as can be legally effected.

The Burlington line is certainly heading in this direction. The letting of a contract for 175 miles westward from Granger, Wyoming, is more than a straw in the wind from the east. Salt Lake City is the objective point. Here connection will be made with the roads running to the Pacific coast. Where the Burlington will find terminal facilities does not yet appear. But it would seem to be good policy on the part of this city, to plan for a centralization of all the railway depots, whether the lines come from the east or the west, the north or the south. The spot most suitable for this we are not prepared to designate. But all the signs point to the destiny of Salt Lake as a railroad center, with trains running in the directions mentioned, and bringing us into direct touch with the great commercial entrepôts, and affording quick transportation to and from the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

To bring about this desirable consummation, all parties and classes here should work in harmony, and reasonable inducements should be held out to the companies engaged in enterprises looking to Salt Lake as the uniting and distributing point for their roads. The possibilities opened in the contemplation of the future of this city are of immense importance and magnitude, and we ought not to close our eyes to our glorious destiny, nor narrow our souls to a niggardly policy in view of the coming greatness and glory.

Welcome to all the railroads, and telegraphs, and telephones and every other improvement of the age! We want them all, and recognize the wonderful working hand of Providence in every development of science and art, and the utilization of the forces of the universe, for they are all in the direction of human progress, and the ushering in of the era of universal brotherhood, intelligence and peace.

A KNOTTY QUESTION.

To the Editor:
Kindly state in columns of the Evening News whether a patient that is quarantined at time of registration, and is not yet released, owing to said quarantine, attends to getting registered at expiration of such time as is required, is there some way in which he or they can have a vote at the polls?

W. J. D.

As the law stands, registration this year is to be performed at the office of each registrar. This is the language of the statute: "It shall be the duty of the registry agents, when called upon to do so at their respective offices, and not elsewhere, . . . to receive and register the names of all persons applying for registration, who, on election day, will be legally qualified and entitled to vote in that election district." etc.

"This, at first sight, would seem conclusive that the registry agent must not register a voter anywhere but in the office of the registrar. But another view of the provision is, that he is simply not required by the law to register anyone elsewhere. It is not made his duty to do so, but of his own volition he might vary from the rule, in case of the sickness of a citizen thus rendered unable to register at the agent's office, but likely to be able to vote at the polls on election day.

"This, however, is a doubtful proposition. It is likely to be submitted to the Attorney-General for his opinion. One grave objection to it is, that a partisan registrar might favor invalids of his own party, and use diligence in registering such persons who failed to come to his office, but neglect to extend the same privilege to his opponents. That is met by the suggestion that

members of committees, on either side, could personally see that no partiality was shown.

The intent of the law, it appears to us, was to confine the registration to office work, and stop the house to house visits for that purpose. However we will be pleased to publish the views of the Attorney-General when they can be obtained.

There are always obstacles to the operations of the laws so as to render them just and fair to every individual. There are persons who, through no fault of their own, will probably be prevented by this new registration from exercising the elective franchise this year. Some through being prevented by illness from going to the registrar's office on the days appointed, others because of removing from one precinct to another within the prescribed period of residence required by the State Constitution. The latter disqualification is a defect that cannot be remedied without a constitutional amendment.

It is scarcely right that a bona fide citizen of long residence in the State and in the county, should be deprived of his vote because he moved from one precinct to another, within sixty days next preceding the election. These discrepancies should receive the attention of our next Legislature, and such amendments of the law and of the Constitution should be provided for, as appear to be salutary and necessary.

A QUEER VERDICT.

About a month ago a Spanish girl, living in San Francisco, was arrested charged with cruelty to animals, the particular offense being that she was in the habit of killing captured rats by pouring boiling water on them. The jury acquitted her the other day, after ten minutes' deliberation. There is, therefore, judicial decision to the effect that scalding rodents to death is not cruelty, when done by a young lady. What the verdict would be were the defendant a mischievous boy does not appear.

The prosecution in the case told how the Spanish beauty had poured the boiling water over a rat in a cage, the animal squealing in agony as long as life lasted. The defense was that this mode of killing rats was in vogue in Russia and Spain, and the jury took the view that this was sufficient to establish the theory of non-cruelty. All the same, anyone who will inflict needless suffering on even the most humble of the Creator's handiwork needs a lesson in humanity. Man is intended as a ruler over that which lives and exists around him, but he must learn to exercise his authority in accordance with the divine principles, not in accordance with brute instincts. On no other condition will he be entrusted with dominion on a higher and larger scale.

REMARKABLE MANIFESTO.

To a student of Chinese conditions, the cause of the rising in which so many foreigners were massacred, and the actions of the Chinese government, as well as to anyone who looks into the future anxious to find a reply to the question as to the final outcome of the struggle with the dragon, a document issued by a leader of the Boxers and now published in an English translation, is exceedingly interesting.

The author of the manifesto sets forth that anciently China was celebrated for her sacred teachings and moral practices, which spread like an "ornament over river and hill." But lately a terrible change has come over the country. Corruption has taken the place of morality until the entire population is sunk in wretchedness, and the cry of the oppressed ascends to heaven for redress. The manifesto says:

"For the past five or six generations had officials been in trust; bureaus have been opened for the sale of offices, and only those who have had money to pay for them have been allowed to hold positions in the government. The graduation of scholars has become useless, and the members of the college of literature and scholars of the third degree are in obscurity at home. An official position can only be obtained at the price of silver. The emperor covets the riches of his ministers; they, again, extort from the lower ranks of the mandarin, and the lower mandarin in turn, by the necessity of their position, must extort from the people. The whole population is sunk in wretchedness, and all the officials are spoilers of their goods. The condition of the Chinese (mandarin) is a sad one. In every market and every guild nothing can be done except money be spent. The officials must be bribed. In the mandarin courts it is useless to have a clear case, for unless you bribe, you will lose the day. There is none to whom the aggrieved may appeal. The humble hearts are killed with oppression, and their cry goes up to heaven itself and is heard of God. Now in anger the heavenly bodies are sending down multitudes of spirits to earth to make inquiry of all. The emperor himself, the chief offender, has had his succession cut off, and is childless. The whole court, both civil and military, is in an execrable condition. The widows cry out in pain. The members of the court blindly speculate, recanting and learning nothing good."

The cause of all this corruption is traced to the presence of the foreigners in the country. Roman Catholics and Protestants, the manifesto alleges, have attracted the greedy and covetous, and practiced oppression until every good official has become corrupt, and through covetousness of foreign wealth have become their servants. In this way it has been possible for the foreigners to obtain concessions for the building of railroads and telegraph lines, gun factories, and machine shops, and to introduce other "barbarous" inventions.

After this explanation the document goes on to say that God disapproves of these barbarians and is sending them to their destruction, through the patriotic societies whose methods and aims are stated as follows:

"The first of these powers that have descended is the Light of the Red Lamp and the Volunteer Associated Fists, who will fight with the devils. They will burn down the foreign houses and restore the temples. Foreign goods of every kind they will destroy. They will exterminate the evil methods and establish right teachings—the honors and the spirits and the slaves—they will cause to be forgotten. They will cause the purpose of honor to be fixed, and a clean sweep is to be made; within three years all will be accomplished. The bad will not escape the net, and the goodness of God will be seen. The secrets of heaven are not likely to be disclosed. The days of peace to come are yet unknown; but at the last the Yem-mao (1902-1903) must come before the time of long life.

Our little song ends here in a promise of happiness to man, the joy of escape from rapine. This last word is the summary of all. Scholars and gentlemen must by no means condemn this, a right course, and so disregard its warning."

This, then, is the key to the "Boxer" movement. It rose, according to this manifesto, out of a desire to purify the Chinese government, and restore the "sacred" principles, on which, anciently, private and public life in China was founded. It was a revolution against oppression and corruption. But it commenced with an attack on the foreigners who were regarded as the cause of the evil. Its ultimate aim, however, was directed against the Chinese officials themselves. According to this, the Boxer rising was an intense effort for the restoration of an alleged Chinese golden age and attempt to usher in a hoped-for Chinese millennium.

On this showing the missionaries in China, of whom so much has been said lately, should be friends and advisors of the Boxers. If the latter aim at the moral education of the people, their cause is, so far, identical with that of the representatives of missionary societies. Is it possible that the latter have been blind to a grand opportunity? Have they neglected to use the mighty forces at work in the empire for the furtherance of the cause of Christ? To one looking at the situation from a distance, it appears, that if it is true that the Chinese millions themselves are struggling for freedom and morality, these efforts should waken wonder when guided by "Christian" wisdom and love. But the majority of so-called "missionaries" are as blind to the good that is to be found among the nations of the earth, as they are to the evils in their own churches. If they cannot dispose of salvation of their particular brand, and at their special denominational conditions, they have nothing to offer but damnation.

It is exceedingly difficult for western nations to understand and to judge correctly the Orientals, whose history, training, moral ideals and modes of thought are so different from ours; but there seems to be reason to believe that the masses of eastern Asia have problems of their own, with which the soldiers of Europe should not meddle.

THE LATEST ANDREAE RUMOR.

The latest rumor about the fate of Andrea comes from Minneapolis. It is claimed that a newspaper man, whose name is given, learned while on an expedition into the Hudson bay, that a "sky boat" had come to the region on the extreme northeast shore of the bay about two years ago. The Eskimoes, who told him of this, added that the white men who came in the "boat" had been killed by the savages roaming about there. The gentleman who brought this report from the north, thinks this "sky boat" may have been the Andrea balloon, and that he and companions were murdered by savages. If this is true, the explorer may actually have crossed the Pole, only to perish without being permitted to tell the story to the world. An expedition to search for journals and other relics should be in order now, unless the story of the Minnesota newspaperman lacks all foundation in fact.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

California papers are paying some attention to the subject of initiative and referendum. The San Francisco Chronicle says:

"The advocates of the charter who voted for the initiative and the referendum, and championed so complacently over the triumph of 'progressive' methods of government when the instrument carried by doubtless be some, what astonished when they discovered that the first use made of the precious privileges, is to propose a law for the reopening of poolrooms which have been closed up by an ordinance enacted by the ordinary methods of representative government. That there are occasions when the use of the referendum is desirable is unquestionably true, and it is in constant employment in municipal affairs, and in the adoption of State constitutions. The initiative is a method whose main value is in the possibilities which it offers to the people to vote on projects to which the great majority are opposed, but which stand a very fair chance of getting through by a still hunt for the votes of the silly or the depraved, and the neglect of substantial people. If the proposed ordinance is submitted every citizen in the city will vote for it, every man whose business is largely with criminals, and a great many who are very far from being criminals, but who have some habits and tastes in common with the criminal class. The absence of a great effort in behalf of public morality the chances are good that the majority of good citizens will forget all about it, and not vote either way. Should this happen the proposed law would be adopted."

The Los Angeles Express treats the matter thus:

"Stripped of the confusion which verbiage so often adds to actions and things, our presidential electors are practically working under a system of initiative and referendum. They do not have to think and deliberate as our original constitution framers perhaps intended they should. The people have given them all the necessary instructions in advance. They are not expected to meet and draw large drafts upon their wisdom in making a selection of some fit person to act as President of the United States. Their work is all cut out for them and the recall system is in such vigorous operation that there isn't the least doubt that they will fail in following their instructions. In the present state of affairs the recall for dissolution of duty isn't a mere removal from office by petition. It is far worse than that. The recall for an unfaithful presidential elector has in it a frightful apparition of social and political ostracism, with a possible dim background of an excited mob and a mingling of the juice of the pie with the downy covering of the hen. The illustration may or may not move much, but there is some moral connected with it. The initiative, referendum and recall works very nicely under another name, and it is very pleasing and effective after trying it nearly a hundred years and getting thoroughly used to it."

Proscription is not the proper prescription for China's ills.

The powers occupy Peking, and China occupies the powers' attention.

"Shin plasters" seem to mend more broken hearts than anything else.

Any party that relies on strikes must expect to receive some heavy blows.

William Dean Howells will occupy "The Easy Chair" of Harper's magazine.

And yet it has been unoccupied since George William Curtis' death, so hard has it been to fill it.

If Sir Thomas Lipton cannot control America's cup, he is determined to control America's pork.

The demands of the anthracite coal mines strikers have been formulated, but they have not been granted as yet.

It is always well to look before you leap, even when it comes to criticizing newspapers. This applies to politicians as well as to others.

At Fort Wayne hoodlums stoned Gov. Roosevelt; at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, students hoisted and jeered at Mr. Bryan. There seems to be no great difference between hoodlums and some students after all.

The trial trip of the battleship Wisconsin was not only successful, it was remarkable, far surpassing contract requirements. She was built by the Union Iron works of San Francisco, the firm that built the famous Oregon and the Olympia. In the building of battleships the West has surpassed the East.

The police scored another success yesterday in the capture of a sneak thief in the act of trying to dispose of his plunder. Good. Now the officers run down those two remaining daylight burglars and it is quite likely the city will have a rest for a while. Go for 'em.

That was good advice President Mitchell gave the miners in convention at Scranton, "to consider the question in all its phases, to measure carefully the chances of success and the possibilities of defeat, should the strike be continued. You must not reach conclusions hastily." If that advice is followed there will not be much trouble in the strike region.

The Chinese situation does not become satisfactory. Had the powers followed the example of the United States in withdrawing their forces it is probable that peace negotiations would now be under way. But they did not and the negotiations are not under way. It will be a miracle if a war by Europe against China, to be followed by international dissensions, does not result from the present chaotic condition of affairs.

All the Boers have not been conquered, as the recent capture of a train bearing army engineers shows. Yet no possible good can now come from such sporadic attacks; they result in the wanton sacrifice of human life and further no cause. They are to be deprecated, still they are not to be wondered at. After the surrender at Appomattox court house just such attacks continued for a long time. They go with all wars and thus far no cure for them has been found, save that of time.

The readers of the Ogden Standard were treated to something interesting and instructive last evening. That paper copied, verbatim, an editorial from the Deseret News, giving due credit, which we are pleased to say in our contemporary's favor, is customary with it when quoting from other journals. The hoodlum question is one that needs serious treatment and, our neighbor's jesting apart, deserves all the efforts of papers in this city and in Ogden for its suppression wherever it is rampant. From what we know and what the Standard admits, there is ample room for work in the direction of reform in the Junction City as well as in Salt Lake.

WILHELM AND KWANG SU.

Chicago Times-Herald.
The exchange of notes between the Emperor of China and the Emperor of Germany reads like some historic play of the olden ages. Kwang Su, in anticipation of the sudden appearance of a monster, a sudden slide step and points forth two libations. He does not say that the libations are all that he has to offer, but William starts with this assumption and retorts with several very imperative imperial egos, some of which may help to clarify the Chinese mind for the benefit of the world at large.

Chicago Record.
At no time in the world's recent history has there been a more striking illustration of the nature of the barrier which divides east and west than that afforded by the diplomatic correspondence passing between the Chinaman, Emperor Kwang Hsu, and the aggressive modern German, Emperor William. The two letters being something far more than a difference of opinion; they disclose the radical difference which lies between occidental and oriental points of view and baffles all attempts to bring them into harmony. Considering the circumstances, the Chinaman's serious suggestion of an antique ceremonial as an atonement for the Boxer outrages seems like something taken from comic opera. Yet it is not improbable that Kwang Hsu's proposal to atone for the assassination of the German minister, Baron von Ketteler, by offering libations to the Chinese gods and making a sacrifice upon the altar was made in all seriousness and good faith.

New York Mail and Express.
When Kwang Hsu wrote Wilhelm he was sure of getting a prompt reply, for letter writing is one of the Kaiser's most valued specialties, while the world was sure of getting something interesting, for whatever the Kaiser says makes good reading. The correspondence of the two emperors sets forth in piquant contrast the characteristics of the bland young pagan chief of a bland old pagan people on the one side, and the energetic, controversial, pushing chief of an aggressive European state on the other. When the amiable brother to the Sun and Moon remarks "Germany has always maintained the friendliest relations with China," he chooses to ignore the Kiaochow bay incident, and his imperial correspondent graphically indicates the comprehensive and masterful quality of his friendship by suggesting that he return to Peking and place himself under the protection of Waldersee.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
China may really be getting ready to act in good faith. The United States has for the first time shaped its policy as to ensure the protection of its interests and also the preservation of its diplomatic prestige, whether the Chinese government proceeds in good faith or not.

Boston Herald.
We have read with some interest the article contributed by Minister Wu Ting Fang on the Chinese recent defangs. In the October number of the Century magazine. It is well written, and there is matter in it which appeals to the American public somewhat convincingly, as far as it goes. The trouble we find with it, however, is that it does not go far enough. It proves that the Chi-

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ness have been misconceived and misrepresented in being charged with over-coming and massing the foreign legations. That we knew before. But it does not prove that they did not attack those legations, and it is in this attack that their serious offense consisted.

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