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NEGROES AND HEAVEN.

"The funeral of a negro was being held in the First Baptist church at Salt Lake City when a prominent Mormon named Minor went into the pulpit and interrupted the ceremony, declaring that the dead man could not enter heaven. He said that an Ethiopian could not reach the state of exaltation necessary to entrance into heaven. His soul was doomed before his birth. There was only one negro in heaven, said he, and that was Joseph Smith's servant."

We have already explained the subject referred to in the foregoing paragraph, which is taken from The Pathfinder, a religious paper published in Washington, D. C. It is not strange that the religious publications in the United States never call attention to the truths set forth in "Mormon" addresses and writings, but whenever there is an opportunity to vilify and misrepresent, they copy and repeat the falsehood till it is circulated throughout the land. And, no matter how clearly and positively such statements are refuted, they never have the fairness to correct the errors into which they have fallen or that they have wilfully invented.

Now as to the paragraph from The Pathfinder: Elder Minor did NOT "interrupt" the funeral ceremony, he was requested to make some remarks which he did; he did NOT declare "the dead man could not enter heaven"; he did NOT say that "an Ethiopian could not reach the state necessary to entrance into heaven"; he did NOT say "his soul was doomed before his birth"; he did not say "there was only one negro in heaven." Every one of those assertions of The Pathfinder is untrue.

Its story is like the description given by another religious journal of the crab; that is, "A red fish that travels backward." The criticism of a noted scientist was: "The crab is not red, it is not a fish and it does not travel backward." With these exceptions the description was pronounced correct. And so with the quotations we have made to The Pathfinder's negro story. But of course that paper is too religious to announce its mistake, and tell the public that the "Mormons" do not believe any such rubbish as that which it attributed to them.

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE?

According to advices from Colombia over Paris, the South American republic is considering the advisability of taking some action against both the French Panama Canal company and the United States. The claim is that the company, by selling out to the United States, is violating an article of the concession which forbids the transfer of its rights to any other nation. In the case of the United States it is proposed to appeal to the permanent tribunal of arbitration at The Hague against America for her alleged violation of neutrality. Colombia on this ground will claim damages from the United States, based on the calculation that the earnings of the canal would be \$4,000,000 per year.

Colombia can, of course, not bring the case before The Hague tribunal, any more than the Boers could compel Great Britain to settle the African dispute before that tribunal. The Hague court only hears cases that are brought before it by agreement between the parties. It, however, Colombia insists on having the case investigated, this country would, perhaps, not object. A thorough investigation would bring light upon the entire transaction and that would not be to the detriment of the American people.

The silly charge has been made by government critics that the Panama plot was hatched among a group of speculators in the United States; that money was furnished from New York to bribe the soldiery to turn renegades; and that one second-rate personage in the employ of this government was privy of the scheme, and helped deceive the administration into the belief that everything was fair and straightforward. These, and similar charges, were it thought necessary to refute them,

might effectively be silenced by a judicial verdict.

Investigation would also throw light upon the motives by which the Bogota statesmen were actuated in rejecting the Hay-Herran treaty. And that is a matter upon which more light is needed. Recent reports from Bogota indicate that the critics who assume that Colombia is a much injured innocent, are mistaken. As stated by the New York Tribune on "the highest Colombian authority," the Colombian plan was "to delay matters until, by hook or crook, Colombia could confiscate the French canal company's property and then sell it to the United States for a round price. The decision of the United States to pay the French company \$40,000,000 for its property was too much for the cupidity of the Colombians. The thrifty patriots at Bogota wanted that \$40,000,000 themselves. They needed it in their business. It would be maddening to see it go to a parcel of Frenchmen. So they proposed to have their congress pass upon the validity—that is to say, deny the validity—of the extension of franchise which was granted to the French company in 1900 until 1906. There was all the more provocation to do this since the Colombians are believed to have got none of the large sum paid in 1900 for such extension—some of their creditors in Paris were so shrewd to let that round million escape. If, then, the franchise could be forfeited at once, Colombia would become owner of the French company's property without paying a cent for it, and would be able to say to the United States: "You were willing to pay the company \$40,000,000 for this. Now what will you pay us for it?" Clearly a judicial investigation would place the Colombians right before the world in this matter, and why should the privilege be denied them?

But the center of contention concerns the ownership of the Isthmus. The American view is that it belongs to the Panamanians, and that its affairs are in the hands of any de facto government of Panama. The contention is that Panama had a constitutional right to withdraw and set up a government of its own, and history is appealed to in proof of this. It is pointed out that the republic of New Granada was a confederation of sovereign states, bound together by the loosest of ties. As such a state, Panama, in 1857, took advantage of its constitutional rights, and peacefully withdrew from the confederation. When, in 1861, New Granada resolved itself into the United States of Colombia, Panama voluntarily resumed its former ties and became one of the states, reserving, however, the right of secession. But when, under the constitution of 1886, the United States of Colombia abandoned the federal principle and became the "republic of Colombia," the states were transformed into "departments," and state sovereignty was abrogated. Panama and Cundinamarca were against their will reduced to territorial dependencies, governed solely by officials appointed from Bogota. Panama, however, so it is declared, had never renounced the right of withdrawal.

All these points would be elucidated by an impartial investigation of facts, and it seems to us that a verdict based on real facts would silence foolish criticism forever.

A MORO STORY.

A Manila paper is quoted to the effect that the latest uprising of the Moros was due principally to American contempt for the religion of the natives. A Moro, it is alleged, who was regarded as a murderous fanatic was killed by our soldiers. As a warning to his fellow-tribesmen his body was smeared with pig's blood and buried in a grave beside the remains of the pig. Mohammedans abhor the hog. When the Moros heard that the body of one of their race and faith had been defiled they resented it bitterly and declared war.

It is much to be hoped that this story is not true. And yet, such is the influence of militarism upon even the best of men, that it will create no surprise if it is found that they at times deviate from the paths of rectitude and commit acts that must cause civilization to blush. The stories that were told of Germans during the war in France are still remembered. The atrocities attributed to the European soldiers in China are still in fresh memory. Such is the curse of war. It too often wears off the veneer of civilization and lays bare the "bete noir" underneath.

It is a great mistake, though, for military leaders to permit their followers to show contempt for the religious prejudices of the people they are sent to benefit. Such contempt has cost thousands of lives and untold misery. If Uncle Sam is to get along in the Philippines he cannot afford to outrage the religious susceptibilities of the Mohammedans. They are entitled to the same protection there, as they would be entitled to in this country. Let the American flag everywhere stand for the most perfect religious liberty.

ARE THEY DEMONIACS?

A strange case of alleged dual personality is reported from Ulica to the New York World. It is, if true, a veritable Jekyll and Hyde romance in real life.

The heroine of the story is one Mrs. Martha Owens, who is described as an earnest and active member of a religious association. Or such she was until she became sick and was given medicine containing opium. The drug, it is asserted, transformed her into another being, and under its influence she tried to besmirch reputations, including her own. She wrote reeking letters. She seemed to take delight in their contents, but when she recovered from the effects of the poison, she was not conscious of what she had done. Her story, as told by herself, is:

"Several months ago a physician of this city prescribed for me a powder which he thought would relieve my indigestion. These powders, it appears, were composed of a mixture of opium, peccan and potash. I took the powders about once in three or four weeks, and they seemed to help me. I never told any one that I was taking the medicine, and I do not know it.

"I tell you solemnly I never remembered doing the strange things during the intervals that are lost to me which I am told I did."

Mrs. Owens spoke with the sincerest emphasis, then burst into tears. Calming herself, she continued:

"Yet I am willing to believe, after thoroughly considering the matter, that I wrote the letters which have caused so much trouble and sorrow. But if they were written by me it was while I was laboring under the delusion that I was some one else. From what I am told now of my actions during these strange intervals it appears that I considered myself my own enemy."

The letters she wrote during her trances contained charges against herself and a male member of the congregation, which Mrs. Owens declares are untrue. She says she thought she was sleeping off the effects of the opiate, but she had come to the conclusion that she must have been writing the mysterious letters when she thought she was asleep.

A still more remarkable case of plurality of personalities in one body is reported by Dr. Albert Wilson in The Journal of Mental Science and quoted in The Lancet of Nov. 14.—According to this a young girl exhibited between her thirteenth and eighteenth year no less than a dozen different "personalities" as the doctor calls them. When about sixteen years of age, he says, her normal character was gone, and she seemed to be another person. The trouble commenced with influenza and cerebral meningitis. She was twelve years old. In the sixth week of her sickness she became another person. She commenced to talk and act like a baby, used wrong words, and seemed conscious of the fact that her former self had left her. Several times she changed characteristics. At one time she was deaf and dumb. At another time she was able to learn French with ease. Still at another time she was afflicted with blindness, imbecility and paraplegia. At this time, however, she exhibited remarkable skill in drawing.

Such is the remarkable story told about this patient. It reminds one of the New Testament cases of "possession." Such demoniac persons were supposed to be under the influence of demons, so that what they said, or did, was ascribed to the invader. Later psychologists have denied this, and even ridiculed the theory of possession. They have ascribed the New Testament cases to insanity, epilepsy, or hysteria. The question now is, whether science is inclined toward the New Testament distinction between sick persons and demoniacs. The reports of the cases of dual, or plural, personalities seem to indicate that this is the case.

Boston stood Pat for General Collins for mayor.

The ten millions to be paid Panama won't be a drop in the canal.

Is Senator Hoar's resolution of inquiry to meet with a hoar frost?

A sharp watch is being kept on Colombia. It would be better to keep a stop watch on her.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," is Professor Langley's motto. May he succeed!

The reign of law is supreme in Colorado, but whether it is civil or martial is hard to tell at times.

The Sea of Azov is disappearing. Who knows? After a while the Slough of Despond may disappear.

The United States Shipbuilding company was not a wicked pillaging trust. It was just a pelagic trust.

The Carbon county strikers have met and discussed the situation. Talk is cheap but strikes are dear.

The mayor of a Kansas town refused to be bribed by a brick paving combine. No gold bricks for that mayor.

Secretary Root stands by General Wood. That's right. Every word must stand or fall by its root.

Abe Majors having been refused another trial by the Supreme Court may make trial of another outbreak.

How does Rev. Dr. Collier manage to walk on the sunny side of the street on the days when it is foggy or rainy?

"The Smoots appear to be a rather more happy family than their detractors," says the Boston Herald.

Indiana has a new law granting temporary divorces. The grounds upon which they are granted are temporary insanity.

Strange that the money that is put into flying machines should take wings and fly away while the machines themselves don't.

The managers of Mme. Nordica's divorce suit seem to be able to make it do as an advertisement for more than one prima donna.

A Kansas soldier writes from Manila that "Hawatha" has arrived, and that the Filipinos like it. This shows a sympathy between the brown men and the redmen.

The Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty has arrived at the state department all bound up in a strong steel box. Evidently Panama believes in grappling her friends to her soul with hoops of steel.

The Porte complains to the United States legation at Constantinople that the acting officials at the American consulate at Alexandretta will not permit the embarkation of Attarian, the naturalized American, and the Turkish

police attacked Consul Davis because he wanted to embark him. It looks as if someone had blundered, or lied.

A veritable tower of Babel, modern in every way, may become one of the attractions of the St. Louis World's Fair. It will be a spiral tower built of steel, 1,200 feet high, and trains will be run to the top of it. At stated intervals in the tower restaurants and observatories will be constructed on projecting platforms for the accommodation of travelers. The trains will be operated by cables, the upgoing winding spiral on the inside and the down train on the outside. The tracks will be so constructed that derailment will be a physical impossibility and the whole structure will be inclosed in steel netting to prevent any one from falling off. The inventor is Lieutenant Graydon, formerly of the United States navy.

THE LATEST ABSURDITY.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The sensation-mongers are just now at a loss for real, bona fide news, and therefore they set afloat the most improbable stories they can invent. The latest absurdity is that Gen. Arthur MacArthur made a remark in Honolulu to the effect that it would not be long before war would break out between the United States and Germany. The attention of the General was called to this report and he said emphatically it was not only untrue, but that he never uttered such a remark.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Whether General MacArthur was quoted correctly or not on the imaginary German menace, it is certainly desirable that the public should understand the perversion of facts that is at the bottom of all such comment. For the lie well stuck to, which is mischievous enough under any circumstances, might prove to be a cause of international suspicions and antipathies that would lead to the most serious and deplorable consequences.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

General MacArthur sees danger in the cultivation of the Pan-Germanic spirit, and especially in its manifestation in South America. This is a familiar ghost which our military men have been pointing out for years without arousing any marked apprehension in this country. It will conduce to the cause of peace if these prophets shall remain a while longer without honor in their own country.

St. Paul Globe.

We are most unfortunate in our heroes. As Nat Goodwin used to say of the ladies: "There is no getting along with them—and there is no getting along without them." We ought to render them dumb—the heroes, not the ladies—before turning them loose. They talk like a flock of Finstons.

Kansas City Times.

Considering the purely private and personal character of General MacArthur's comments on the possibilities of a war with Germany or some other great power, and the strategic advantages of Hawaii, it can hardly be said that he is an alarmist. It was never intended that his remarks should be made public, and it seems that publication was due to a misunderstanding. It was entirely within the province of General MacArthur to say what he did and of Colonel James to make use of his views in addressing Governor Carter. Issue may be taken, however, with General MacArthur on his notions of German war possibilities. There is much less reason to think of such possibilities at present than at several other times in the last five or ten years.

THE KAISER'S ILLNESS.

London Times.

Although the part affected is not infrequently the seat of cancer, it is also liable to growths of other kinds, and hence the mere situation affords no reason to believe that the one now in question is of the same character as that which ultimately destroyed the life of his Imperial Majesty's father and predecessor. To the general public, unaccustomed to enter into nice distinctions between different kinds of diseased structure, the coincidence of position will, we fear, appear alarming; but it is certainly permissible to believe, as we are bound to hope, that the coincidence may not conceal any deeper or essential resemblance. His enforced silence will mean the temporary interruption of utterances to which people have learned to look forward with respect as well as with curiosity; and any enforced interruption of his many-sided activity, even if only temporary, can hardly fail to be felt in the high places of the world.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Christmas number of The Illustrated Sporting News has seventy-two pages, including a large supplement. The contributors include Cyrus Townsend Brady, Clara Morris, Vance Thompson, John Kendrick Bangs, Harter Duns, Edward S. Martin, Ralph D. Faine, Edwin Sandys, Frank S. Butterworth, John R. Spears and others. The art work is by Edwin Penfield, Ernest Haskell, Howard Giles, Arthur Dove and F. M. Follett.

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MR. OTTO HEGNER, Cellist.
SIGNOR ROMUALDO SAPIO, Conductor.

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