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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 18, 1906

ANOTHER GREAT CALAMITY.

The terrible news from the Pacific coast to-day occasions much agitation and excitement in this city. The extent of the calamity that has overtaken San Francisco has doubtless been greatly exaggerated, but sufficient is known to show that the earthquake there this morning was no ordinary tremor, such as has heretofore alarmed the inhabitants of that city. It is evident that many lives have been lost and much property destroyed by this catastrophe. It was a genuine earthquake, followed by fire and devastation.

The full horror of the occasion will not be known until calmness of mind is restored and the telegraph wires are again in working order. People here who have friends and relatives in San Francisco are in great suspense over the situation, and will remain so until definite information is obtained. Meanwhile, the sympathies of Salt Lake citizens go out to the sufferers in San Francisco and such aid as may be necessary and proper will no doubt be proffered and extended.

The general commotion that seems to shake the globe, the disasters occurring at different points, and the convulsions of nature that are decidedly noticeable, are paralleled by the agitation in the public mind over occurrences that disturb society, that concern the nations and that bring disaster and fear to the souls of men. They may be rationally viewed as "signs of the times," and precursors of that revolution in mundane affairs that has been foreseen by the seers and sages of the world from the earliest ages, and were predicted by the Savior of mankind as heralds of the approaching end of merriment and the dominion of Evil.

Sceptics may smile at these warnings and point to similar events at remote periods, but the simultaneous occurrence of these upheavals and commotions with other signs foretold in sacred writ, are something more than coincidences in the history of this globe, and are worthy of notice and comment. "When ye see the fig tree putting forth its buds ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise when ye see these things ye may know that the end is nigh, even at the doors."

A FAR-REACHING DECISION.

The decision by the Supreme court of the United States, delivered on Monday, in the Haddock case is one of very great importance. Particulars have already appeared in the Deseret News. It establishes the principle that in a case of divorce it is necessary to the validity of a decree, that both parties to the suit shall be residents of the State wherein it is rendered. This opinion of the highest court in the land ought to be made known in every part of the country.

There have been numerous divorces, when either the man or the woman was not a resident of the State exercising jurisdiction. According to the latest decree, such divorces were illegal, and the marriages that were subsequently contracted during the lifetime of either of the parties were invalid, and the offspring of such unions illegitimate. The far-reaching consequences of such a decision will create consternation and bring great sorrow and distress.

The results were clearly perceived by the court and particularly by the judges who dissented from the opinion. Four of the justices disagreed with the majority of the court. Three of them united in presenting a conflicting opinion, and one more filed a separate and independent opinion, agreeing, however, in the main with the other dissenting justices. It will be seen that the court of last resort obtained a majority of only one in rendering its decision. This illustrates the view, not infrequently expressed, that even the most exalted judicial body in the land is not infallible. If one more judge had joined the minority, the opinion would have been reversed.

Of course, the decision will stand and the disastrous effects will have to be encountered, no matter how many individuals and families are injuriously situated thereby. It emphasizes the arguments that have been offered for a uniform law on marriage and divorce. It adds nothing, however, to the plea for national legislation covering these questions. The same results could be attained by an agreement between the several States of the Union on these matters, as by amending the national Constitution and placing the subject under national administration. However, there should be such laws in relation to marriage and to divorce as would prevent any difference in the status of individuals married or divorced in any State of the Union, on removal to another State. The laws governing the situation should have equal force in every part of the United States and be so recognized everywhere.

The decision of the Supreme court will not have the effect desired by the extreme opponents of the "divorce evil," as it is called, but it will have some bearing upon it and make divorce

to a certain extent more difficult than in the past, for it will require residence of both the parties in the same State for the full length of time required for the residence of one of them.

The question of the right or propriety of divorce, except for one cause generally recognized as sufficient, is not touched by the decision of the Supreme court in the present case. That is still an open question and one that is likely to be argued, pro and con, no matter how many new laws are enacted concerning it or how many judicial opinions may be rendered. But that there should be uniformity concerning it, we do not think there will be any important dispute.

Another part of the court's opinion dispels the idea that when a marriage ceremony is performed and is not followed by cohabitation, it is not a real and legal matrimonial union. It appears that when a lawful ceremony has taken place, even though the man was an unwilling participant and never lived with the woman thus joined to him, the contract is to be considered valid, and the wife is entitled to support and to share in the man's estate. We do not assert that this is a new view of the subject, but we do say that it places the matter forcibly before the people of this country and will be news to many of them.

WHY NOT AGREE?

The strike in the coal region has already resulted in riot and bloodshed. Those are among the concomitants of labor disputes when carried on to the extreme, and as long as labor leaders are unable to control the riotous element and prevent murders, they should hesitate in ordering strikes, because the responsibility for the consequences will ultimately cling to them.

In the present instance, some strikers have been arrested for disorderly conduct. Other strikers endeavored to come to their rescue, and made an assault upon the jail. The authorities resisted, and some of the mob were shot dead, while others were injured. The fact is that during labor troubles, the crowds are easily excited and rash acts are committed in the heat of passion.

In the year 1902, when the great strike was on in the anthracite region, the case was submitted to arbitration, and it was agreed that all questions at issue between the companies and their employees should be decided by a commission. This body passed upon all questions in dispute at the time, and also established a conciliation board with power to decide future differences between employers and employees. This board consists of representatives of both sides, with an umpire when necessary.

It is to be regretted that the decision of the strike commissioners, adjusting the disputed points and establishing the board of conciliation, ceased to be binding after the 31st of March, but there seems to be no valid reason why there should, at this time, be a departure from the peace methods agreed upon in 1902 and a revival of strike methods with riots and bloodshed. Since arbitration has proved successful for several years, why not continue to have recourse to that civilized mode of warfare? Public safety would seem to demand the necessity of preventing strikes that nearly always are accompanied by acts of lawlessness and violence.

A RIVAL TO THE CANAL.

It is evident that Mexico is endeavoring to take time by the forelock in the matter of transisthmian traffic, and if the Panama canal is not constructed in a reasonable period of time, it may find a respectable rival in the Tehuantepec railroad. This enterprise is nearing completion. It forms a connecting link over the southern part of Mexico, between the oceans. In a short time a fleet of steamers will engage in the ocean transportation between the terminals of the Isthmian railroad and the ports of San Francisco and Honolulu, on the Pacific side, and New York and Pensacola, on the Atlantic and gulf side.

According to all reports, the terminal facilities at the gulf and Pacific ports of the Tehuantepec railroad are to be of the amplest and highest order. New docks, equipped with the best modern machinery for transferring cargoes directly from the steamers to railroad cars or to warehouses have been built. Millions are to be spent in the improvement of the harbors.

It is supposed that this railroad will be a serious competitor with the Panama project, if it is in the field long enough before the completion of the canal to draw the traffic over Mexico. In favor of this supposition is the shorter distance it offers between some of the principal points. From New York to San Francisco, it is pointed out, the distance by way of Tehuantepec is 1,182 miles less than by way of Panama; from New York to Yokohama it is 1,227 less; from New York to Manila it is about 1,109 miles less; from New Orleans to San Francisco it is 1,354 miles less; from Liverpool to Yokohama it is 552 miles less. These ports all represent large centers of commerce. The necessity of unloading and reloading from ship to railroad cars and from cars to ship, at the terminal points is, however, a serious drawback to the shorter route. If, at some time, it should be found practical to construct docks in which the ships could be placed and hauled across the Isthmus, the railroad would, in all probability, take most of the transisthmian traffic. Some such idea was suggested many years ago.

SEISMIC DISTURBANCES.

The present seismic disturbances appear to be quite general, judging from the facts that a calamitous earthquake has shaken the island of Formosa, and signs of volcanic activity in the interior of Mt. Ranier have appeared almost simultaneously with the outbreak of Mt. Vesuvius.

It may be impossible to account for all the phenomena that pass before our view in nature, but the volcanic forces that make earth tremble in our own

day are the same that were at work in the morning of the creation, raising up islands and continents and thus making the world habitable to man.

The newest scientific view holds that the earth was formed by the gathering together into a vast sphere of particles of matter floating about in space. As the density of this mass increased in obedience to the law of gravitation, the interior heat developed and finally the center became fused. But as the earth matter gradually was reduced from a solid to liquid mass it needed more room. The fused matter expanded and when this process had been going on for a sufficiently long time one side exploded and the Old World was formed. Later, by a similar process, the New World was formed by a terrific explosion that opened the side of the world, almost from pole to pole. The Rocky mountain system was lifted up above the surface of the ocean. The earth shell was elevated, by the expansive power of the fused matter beneath. Another break occurred in the locality of the Appalachian system.

The same forces are still in evidence in volcanic activity, and as long as this is sufficient to relieve the pressure from below, the earth will be safe, but we are constantly reminded of the fact that the time is coming when "the elements shall be on fire," and the earth be "purified" by burning. Science now recognizes that the destiny of our globe is to become fused, and "burn out." Seismic disturbances are a reminder of this fact. They testify of the approaching end.

NO REASON FOR A PANIC.

The fact that thousands of small policyholders have permitted their policies to lapse, is a rather sad sequel to the investigations into the business methods of certain life insurance societies. The Equitable Life alone reports 27,000 cases of this kind. And as a rule it is the class that can least afford it, that has been made to feel the loss heaviest. This is a feature of the agitation that should not be lost sight of. There is, however, no valid reason, as far as we know, why policyholders should feel panic-stricken. Not one of the companies under investigation was proved insolvent. Some of the managers had invested the money entrusted to their care by the public in a reckless manner. It had been squandered in the shape of enormous salaries to officers, or given away for campaign purposes, and so on, thereby depriving the patrons of the companies of a part of the profits that ought to have been theirs, in all justice, but the companies had, nevertheless, ample funds to pay their obligations, and there is, therefore, no reason for a panic. The probability is that the investigation will result in improved business methods, and greater economy on the part of the managers of the big concerns, and that this will be for the benefit of the policyholders.

With banks dynamited who says that Davis county is not abreast of the times? Voliva and his followers have sent an ultimatum to Dowle. And thus it is that they treat him as a sultan. If the old adage, "A woman who listens and a castle that parleys are lost," is true, then Voliva is lost for he has begun parleying about arbitration. Dr. Woodrow Wilson says Socialism is no cure for the country's ills. The president of Princeton never uttered a truer or more timely thing in his life. Gorky's mission to America already is almost a failure. His enemies have got him to offering explanations, about the worst thing a politician or revolutionist can do. When little Patsy Sullivan grows up he should be made a forest ranger, having shown a wonderful tendency that way and stood a test that few men could stand. The champion court tennis player of the United States is now a seventeen-year-old lad named Jay Gould of New York. His grandfather's name was a racket among the railroads. He, too, was a champion. President Diaz of Mexico has been taking a leaf from President Roosevelt's book of nature and has been hunting the wild cat and the mountain lion. He made his kill and returns to his capital much refreshed. Cuba is now said to rank second in importance in the trade relation of the United States with other American countries. Canada leads with \$293,000,000, Cuba follows with \$140,000,000, Brazil is third with \$111,000,000 and Mexico fourth with \$92,000,000. Our exports to Cuba were in round numbers \$45,000,000, and imports from Cuba \$95,000,000. Ten years ago our total trade with Cuba was \$23,500,000. A Sioux Falls, S. D. dispatch says that the United States supreme court decision in the Haddock divorce case created a sensation there among members of the divorce colony. Attorneys interested in the South Dakota divorce industry say they are not prepared at this time to state what effect the decision will have on the industry. It will likely have much the same effect as a bull in a China shop has—upset and smash everything.

A Washington dispatch says: "Leonard Lyell, a celebrated English geologist, and son of Sir Charles Lyell, is in America to study the geological formations in the Yosemite valley, the grand canyon of the Colorado and the Yellowstone park." In 1845 his father made a visit to this country and his record of it is very interesting. At Corning, N. J., he had a very amusing experience. The proprietor of the inn where he was staying came in and enquired, "Where is the gentleman who drove this man (Lyell) over?"

Mary is six years old, goes to school and is a very good student. Her parents are as proud as they are fond of her. They instruct her in the Bible and at times entertain her with stories about King Arthur and the knights of

the Round Table, in which she delights. The other day some friends wanted her to recite the Ten Commandments. She did so. There was not a single mistake through them until the tenth was reached, when Mary showed the influence of the King Arthur stories. The tenth commandment in Mary's version ran thus: "Thou shalt not buffet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."

A MEDAL FROM THE SULTAN.

London Cable. London—Capt. Winter, formerly a queen's messenger, whose duty it was to take dispatches to ambassadors abroad, tells an amusing experience of an eminent English aristocratic beauty at the court of the sultan of Turkey. Abdul Hamid was struck by her charms and at the close of an audience pressed a small case into her hands, telling her it was a memento of her visit. On getting outside she found the case contained a handsome diamond star with a Turkish inscription, which, being interpreted, was "Star of the Order of Chastity of the Second Class." The woman was indignant at this qualified praise and wanted her husband to remonstrate with Abdul but was informed that this was the highest class of this order the sultan ever felt justified in granting.

NO EQUALITY.

Pittsburg Times. If the state were to be socialized it would offer the only prizes worth considering by men of managing and creative genius. They would push themselves into the administration of finance and labor in the governing body under collectivism just as they have done with the production of wealth and the utilization of resources left in private hands. No law nor system ever has made or ever will make all men equal in the conception or execution of great undertakings.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

Boston Herald. The New York Times reproduces in full the younger Pliny's account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79, as written to his friend Tacitus, and expresses doubt whether the present disaster will elicit anything in the way of special correspondence equal to this in literary value and lasting interest. Caius Plinius Caecilius Secundus was only 18 years old when the terrible eruption, which destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, occurred, but that his powers of observation were well trained at that age is evident from the two letters, which furnish the most graphic account in existence of the first recorded eruption of this volcano. It is due to the modern special correspondents who are furnishing the accounts of the present disturbance to say that they are probably called upon to furnish their copy somewhat more promptly than was the case with the younger Pliny. And some of them are sufficiently graphic to satisfy all reasonable demands. For all practical purposes it is pretty hard to beat the modern newspaper correspondent on the spot.

JUST FOR FUN.

Elevating the English Stage. London Punch. It is indeed a pleasure to see the drama at last emerging from the state of sluggish insipidity which has so long disgraced it. At the Prince of Wales' Theatre four of our most lovely actresses now play a game of football on the stage, in the course of which Miss Gabrielle Ray kicks the ball into the auditorium. We doubt whether the theatrical history of any country could point to a more saucy incident. Managing Editor—Who wrote that account of the De Pyster wedding? City Editor—The sporting editor. Managing Editor—I thought so. He says that the bridal couple met at the hitching post.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Judge—Accidentally shot, you say? Nonsense, sir! You were shot intentionally while intending to rob a house. Burglar—Yep, but it was a woman who did the shooting, your honor.—Cleveland Leader.

"Lost money, eh? Don't look so glum. You ought to take things philosophically." "I always do, but it's hard to part with things philosophically."—Philadelphia Press.

Some people are more skinned against than skinning.—Life.

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