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SALT LAKE CITY, - AUG. 1, 1908.

FOR AMERICAN PRINCIPLES.

Ex-Senator Dubois' peace proposition to the Ada county delegation to the Idaho Democratic state convention, offering his opponents the presidential electors in exchange for the state chairman, the state committee, the state ticket and the platform, has very properly been turned down, for the reason that no anti-Church agitation should be part of a political campaign in this country. The convention of Ada county declared against the further exploitation of the so-called "Mormon" question as a political issue, and the delegates refuse to retreat from that truly American position which Dubois viciously assails.

In this country all men and women have the privilege of believing whatever seems right to them. They may belong to whatever church they choose, or to no church. They may worship in any manner approved by their consciences, and no man can lawfully assail their civic rights on that account. When such assaults, nevertheless, are made, they should be resisted by all who believe in American principles of government.

Trivial and commonplace as these truths may seem, tremendous efforts are constantly being put forth to set them aside. Ex-Senator Dubois' friends have not concealed their aim at the disfranchisement of every Church member in Idaho. They fully revealed their purposes in the suit to oust from office an intelligent and exemplary young man, Judge Budge, for no other reason than his church membership. The same anti-American sentiment is poisoning public life in Utah through the agitation of disappointed politicians. Every question that ought to be considered from a business, or political, point of view, is distorted and discolored by those agitators, by the infusion in the discussion of rabid anti-"Mormonism." Under the circumstances Church members are forced to defend their rights as American citizens with all the constitutional means at their disposal. They are forced, as good citizens, to do what they can in defense of the American form of government, which the anti-"Mormon" agitation is seriously menacing.

The battle waged so valiantly, and we may say successfully, though not without enormous sacrifices, by Latter-day Saints, from the beginning, against anti-"Mormonism" is not a struggle for Church domination in politics, as impartial history will make clear. The Church, as an organization, has no political ambition. Its mission is to proclaim the gospel of peace to the uttermost ends of the world. But, as far as Latter-day Saints have been forced into that conflict, they have engaged in it in defense of the Constitution of this Republic, which anti-"Mormonism" is endeavoring to destroy.

They have a legend at Drachenfels, on the Rhine, to the effect that the rock on which the castle was built at one time was frequented by a dragon to which the inhabitants in the neighborhood daily sacrificed a human being. If they neglected to pay this gruesome tribute to the appetite of the monster, it swooped down upon them and killed all who did not succeed in escaping its fangs. At one time a beautiful maiden had been captured in war, and two chiefs claimed the ownership. To settle the dispute the judge decided that she was to belong to neither but to be given to the dragon. Consequently she was conveyed to the rock and left there to her horrible fate. But when the hungry monster was about to make an end of her existence, she held a crucifix before her, and the dragon fled, to his dark cavern, hissing and snorting.

This may be a legendary record of the termination of oppression with the advent of Christianity. It may be the record of a just revolutionary battle fought there against some mighty lord entrenched in a strong castle. It expresses, at all events, the beautiful thought that right will prevail through some means or other. The terror of the dragon must come to an end. In the Cross there is power, and victory.

ENEMIES THEMSELVES JUDGES

The "News" is under obligation to the anti-"Mormon" sheet for publishing in full its latest editorial effort on "Money for the Campaign." In that article we asserted that the proceeds of the bond issue undoubtedly will be used for the furtherance of party purposes, by the employment of "American" voters on public works, and that party leaders hope, by this means, to secure control of the County. We also pointed out that certain contributions to the column of the Tribune indicate that the distinguished gentlemen who uselessly rule the "American" party, are already now counting on raising the taxes on all farm property.

The Tribune reproduces this article, and does not even pretend to contradict it. The paper does indulge in a few pet epithets. It gently suggests that it is "contemptibly mean and vicious" to tell the truth, but it does not deny that the purpose is to make the City pay for "American" party voter, in an indirect way. It does not deny that the intention is to capture the County offices and raise the taxes on farm property.

and other seeds, while porcupines and mice frequently kill young trees by gnawing away their bark.

Forest fires often result from the presence of herders, who often fire the dry grass in order to improve the quality of the future feed. Chiefly for this end, vast areas are annually burned over in every part of the United States. Even where, as is most usually the case, these fires do not kill the old trees, they destroy the shrubs and the undergrowth, and so permit the destructive action of heavy rainfall to create flood conditions through the washing away of the soil. A young forest is always more exposed to such injury than is a well established one, and the steep hillsides are more subject to the injury than are the level plateaus. Young conifers, or pine trees, are more likely to suffer from tramping than from being eaten, while the broadleaf stripplings may be destroyed by defoliation from pasturing animals of any kind.

It has been pointed out by the government agents that, in the matter of transplanting, cattle and horses do comparatively little harm, although their hoofs compact the soil and often tear loose the slender rootlets of small trees. In many places the effect of the tramping is to destroy the forest floor and to interfere very seriously with the flow of streams.

Browsing, or the feeding of grazing animals on the young trees, though it occasions far less damage than results to the forest from either fire or trampling often results in a scanty growth of the injured trees, which are often maimed or rendered unsound by the animals that browse upon them. The foresters say that goats are especially harmful, and where they abound, the healthy reproduction of broadleaf trees is practically impossible. In the United States they are fortunately not common. Cattle devour tender young shoots and branches in vast quantities, often living for months on little else, and sheep are destructive in the same way. Hogs also find a living in the forest, but they are less harmful, because a large part of their food consists of seeds and nuts; east of the Great Plains very large numbers of cattle and hogs are turned into the woods.

These remarks specifically apply to many portions of our State. Floods are small reminders of the much more enormous destruction that is going on among the hills. That local statesmanship may rise to the level of intelligent investigation and regulation of this vast interest of the whole people, without injury to any special interest, is the desire of almost every person who has observed the present process of denudation of the mountains.

A WAR CLOUD.

Turkish sultans have a habit of promising reforms in times of great crisis. That a crisis is on now in that empire, is clear from authentic reports.

The American ambassador at Constantinople, in a dispatch to the government, describes the situation in Macedonia as threatening. A large portion of the third army corps has revolted and joined the Christian and Mohammedan population in demanding assurances from the Sultan that the new constitution will be fully carried out. No general revolution, Mr. Leishman added, has developed, although there was some sporadic rioting. Several Turkish officials, he said, had been assassinated. Mr. Leishman confirmed the reports that the Sultan had removed from office the grand vizier and the minister of war.

Whether the crisis can be confined to Turkey only time can reveal. Lord Cromer has just startled the world by asserting that the main duty of the English government now is to make provision for a European conflict which, he said, "may not improbably be forced upon us before many years have elapsed." It is supposed that the agitation in Turkey, unless suppressed, may furnish Germany an opportunity of showing her resentment of the forced isolation to which she has been doomed by the alignment of other European powers, and that Lord Cromer foresees this peril. If the Sultan seeks and obtains the military aid of Germany and there are many rumors to this effect, such action would create a grave situation among the powers of Europe.

Some European statesmen have expressed the view that there is no true solution of the Turkish question other than the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and the formation of a grand confederation of the Slavonic races, including the Hungarian portion of Austria, thus introducing a new nation into Europe in place of the Turkish empire, which belongs rather to Asia than to Europe. Constantinople being then won over, forever, by western civilization, and a confederation of youthful nations, united in defense of their own independence, Russia would be confined to her true limits and two pathways thrown open to the eastern world. Could this arrangement be effected, Macedonia would naturally revert back to Greece, where it belongs, logically. The Turks could work out their salvation in Asia, and no doubt, become stronger than they are now, depending chiefly on alien races for their existence.

Some such solution will, perhaps, ultimately be found, but there seems to be trouble ahead first. Another war cloud darkens the horizon.

AN AWAKENING VOLCANO.

Mr. A. H. Sylvester, of the United States Geological Survey, has an article in the July number of *Geographical Magazine*, describing the glaciers and evidences of volcanic activity of Mount Hood.

This celebrated mountain is one of the greatest volcanic cones of the world. The Indians of Oregon are said to have worshiped the spirit they supposed dwelt in it, and the immigrants learned to love and venerate it. The mountain rises about 7,000 feet above the surrounding country. It is supposed to have become extinct in times long past, but there is a lava flow, ten miles to the northeast, probably from a fissure, of comparatively recent origin. And the question is whether the slumbering giant is not now getting ready to wake up. Steam has been observed to escape from it,

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Dr. Aked sounds the very notes which first startled this generation when the heralds of our dispensation summoned the world's attention to their message. He points out that Christianity must be applied to every action of human life, politics not excepted. He pleads for a rational faith in harmony with the truths revealed in nature, and he maintains that unless the churches have something to say on the social problems, they have no place in our day. These truths were maintained by the Prophet Joseph, and his successors. They are proclaimed to the world today. And that is the chief reason for the sharp conflict. The world demands a church that will do nothing but sing hymns and dress well on Sundays. It demands the right to manage worldly affairs without the interference of God. But the Christian conscience is awakening to the absurdity of that claim. And Dr. Aked voices the sentiment of awakening Christianity when he says: "We may be profoundly thankful for the promise of many mansions in the sky, but the gospel for the day demands better homes below and better men and women in them." That is "Mormonism" in a nutshell.

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News from the southeastern parts of the State indicate that the flood season has commenced in Castle Valley. The report says that on Sunday evening one of the largest floods known there came down what is known as Crandall canyon, a tributary of Huntington canyon, destroying the road and taking out all the bridges. The water rushed through the logging camps of the Huntington Lumber company's sawmills, and carried logs, log carts and harness with it. One of the results of the flood is that the water ditches have been and are yet full of rolling mud, which is very disagreeable to those who have no water in their cisterns.

The recurrence of these small but annoying disasters in the southern parts of the State is a forcible reminder of our neglect of practical forestry methods, and ought to be an inducement toward the reforestation of many of our mountain areas now denuded of their timber growth and shrubbery.

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