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ACT WITHOUT DELAY!

The attention of the Latter-day Saints, and particularly of the ward Bishops, is once more directed to the annual settlement of tithing accounts required by divine commandment to the Church. A very concise yet complete circular of instructions to Presidents of Stakes and Counselors, High Councilors, Bishops and Counselors and Stake Tithing Clerks, on this important subject, has been issued in a neat pamphlet, signed by the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric, and will be distributed extensively. It should be carefully read by the officers named and carried out exactly.

It is the duty of every member of the Church to make annual settlement of his or her tithing with the Bishop of the ward. This involves not only the payment of tithing, but a visit to the Bishop at the time he shall appoint before the close of the year, to see that proper credits have been given and make such explanations as may be necessary in each case. Announcement of the date for this settlement should be made at once, and be communicated to every member. The Bishops must see that this is done without fail.

Accuracy is required in keeping the tithing accounts. Every tithpayer should be given a receipt in the form provided, and Bishops, by the aid of their counselors or the ward clerk, should check up the amounts on the stubs with the ledger entries, to make sure they are correct. These will have to be audited under the Presidency of the Stake and that is another reason why they should be thus compared.

The movement to make the records, accounts and societies absolutely correct, is general throughout the Church, and when once established it will be comparatively easy to keep them in proper order. Diligence just now to comply with the instructions issued is urged upon all the officers interested. The work must be done at once so that the returns for the year may be properly compiled.

The blank books furnished from the Presiding Bishops' office are to be filled up as directed and sent to the Stake Tithing Clerk. If closely scanned the requirements will be found of easy compliance when once clearly understood. Promptness in making the reports is expected and it is to be hoped there will be no hesitation nor delay. If every member and officer will do his or her duty in these respects, uniformity will be secured, the law of the Lord will be obeyed and His blessings will crown the efforts of His people to do His will and observe His precepts.

UNTENABLE GROUNDS.

Amidst the furor which a clique of sectarian agitators is arousing against the junior Senator from Utah, it is refreshing to see the firm and consistent attitude taken by a portion of the press of the country. The idea that the Senate of the United States can be swayed by masses of signatures to petitions the real purport of which is not understood by the large majority of the signers, is repugnant to the dignity and intelligence of that august assembly. And that what they ask is out of harmony with the spirit and the letter of the supreme law of the land, is very pointedly set forth in a couple of paragraphs in Harper's Weekly of December, 1903. We therefore copy them in the "News" as follows:

"There seems to be current a good deal of misconception of the grounds on which Mr. Smoot is the subject of the case against him is complete, and he can be expelled from the Upper House of the Federal Legislature. The assumption is based on a misunderstanding of our Federal Constitution, and of the Act of Congress passed in pursuance thereof, for the admission of Utah to the Union. There is no doubt that the Federal Congress is competent to prohibit in any Territory an act which it regards

as contra bonos mores, and to make the prohibition of such an act by its State Constitution a condition of the admission of the said Territory to Statehood. The prohibition of an act is one thing; the prohibition of a belief, or theological opinion, is quite another. Under our Constitution, a Jew is as perfect a citizen as a Christian, and a Moslem citizen of the United States, however, attempt to carry out in practice the code of his religion, he would find himself blocked by the criminal law."

"Nobody has yet alleged that Senator Smoot has more than one wife, or, in other words, is practicing polygamy. It follows that the demand for his expulsion from the Senate must be based upon the assertion that he is a believer in Mormonism, and that, as a matter of theory, Mormonism sanctions a plurality of wives. It would be impossible to exaggerate the mischief of the consequences of expelling a Senator on the score of his theological opinions. Such a proceeding would be a flagrant violation of the first amendment of the Federal Constitution, which prescribes that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The Act of Congress by which Utah was admitted to the Union did not forbid the profession of the tenets characteristic of Mormonism. It simply prohibited the practice of polygamy. We repeat that, so far as any evidence has yet been brought forward, Senator Smoot is a monogamist. As regards his private opinions concerning the religious or moral propriety of polygamy, he is as free from restraint as would be a Jew, or a Mohammedan, either of whom is at liberty to hold what doctrines on the subject he may choose, so long as he refrains in practice from a violation of the State or Federal law. This is all there is to the Smoot business, and the sooner people stop petitioning the Senate to transcend its constitutional powers, the better it will be for all concerned."

A VALUABLE VOLUME.

The "Mormon" Doctrine of Deity is a subject of vast importance. It upsets the main philosophy of venerated creeds and has therefore occasioned much violent controversy. A work by Elder B. H. Roberts has just been published, containing a clear elucidation of the tenets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints concerning Deity, and it will be found of great value to students of theology and of interest to the general public. A discourse by Elder Roberts, which was published in the "News" and the Era evoked a reply from Rev. C. Van Der Donk, a Catholic priest, a strongly written paper, which was printed in the Improvement Era. It was answered by Elder Roberts in the same magazine, who took up the gentleman's arguments seriatim and disposed of them as many people think quite satisfactorily. This discussion with a discourse by Elder Roberts on Jesus Christ, the Revelation of God, and an interpreting preface, forms the body of the work. It can be had at the Deseret News Book Store, bound in cloth, for one dollar and we commend it to all our readers as a masterly exposition of the doctrine of Deity.

NOT READING THE BIBLE.

There is a general complaint because of the neglect of the study of the Bible. It is true that the Bible societies are distributing more Bibles than ever, but the young men that are educated in the schools and colleges of the present time, are said to be ignorant of the book, while those who do read it, do so more to find fault with it, than to receive information concerning the road to life eternal. Consequently, it leaves but little impression upon public thought. Its language is no longer enshrined in the popular memory as the word of God. In congresses and in political speeches we do not now find displayed the close familiarity with the language of Scripture which once was so nearly universal. Its influence in English literature is no longer so readily observed as it was formerly.

This is due, partly, to the influence of the so-called higher criticism. That "criticism" commenced by the Old Testament, and it did not confine itself to the stories of miracles. It took in the entire volume, and pronounced it, more or less boldly, a very human composition. As soon as it was supposed that the nerves had recovered from the shock caused by this assault, the New Testament was paid attention to in a similar manner. And the result was that this part of the Bible was also relegated to the class of antique curiosities. The Gospels, it was asserted, were a collection of sayings by men who lived between 40 and 100 years, or more, of our era; they "embodied" a great deal of tradition, and are full of "imagination, legend, and embellishments," such as other documents from that age. They may give, in general outline, we were told, a picture of Jesus, but the details are by no means certain. In other words, the Gospels, the critics asserted, are, for historical purposes, no better than the sagas of Snorre Sturleson, for instance. It is natural that wherever such views prevail, the study of the Bible must be neglected. It was studied formerly as the "word of God;" as a collection of myths and traditions it can never become popular.

An important question in this connection is: What will the Protestant world do without the Bible?

The entire theology of the Protestant world is said to be based on the Bible. The very existence of Protestantism is justified on the theory of an infallible Bible superior to an infallible pope. It is incumbent upon Protestantism to demonstrate the false reasoning of the "higher critics," or to recede from their position as to the authority of the ancient Scriptures. That is, clearly, the dilemma of the orthodox scholarship of this age.

The situation is one that clearly proves the need of the continuous guidance of the Church by divine revelation. It proves the need of Apostles and prophets, as in former ages, if unity of faith and freedom from error are desired. When popes are found fallible and the Scriptures are declared myths, where will the seeker after truth go, if not to Him who has pro-

mised to give wisdom to those that seek for it honestly and earnestly? Protestant theology owes the world a satisfactory answer to this question.

AN EMINENT DIVINE.

The funeral of Dr. Abel Leonard, Bishop of the Episcopal Church for the district of Utah and Nevada, which took place this afternoon, covers from sight but not from memory, the remains of one who figured prominently in this community as a good citizen, a trained theologian, a powerful preacher and a kind and benevolent man. His career has already been described in the Deseret News with particulars of his life and labors. We simply pay a brief tribute to the work of a churchman who, according to the light and opportunities he had, not only dwelt among us as a Christian, but by precept and also by example, endeavored to promote the cause of human enlightenment and salvation. He has gone to his rest and his reward, and his name will be honored and remembered by many thousands of people in the region of these mountains, who are bowed with sorrow at bidding him farewell.

A JUBILEE REVIVAL.

The dedication of the new Latter-day Saints' church in Christiania, Norway, appears to have caused a great revival of interest among the general public, in the doctrines of the Church. Two of the daily papers of the city have given prominent space to articles on Utah, and "Mormonism." In "Dagbladet" for Nov. 8, a copy of which has been received, appears a two-column article on "Conditions in Utah," by Elder John A. Hendrickson, president of the Christiania conference. It is full of information concerning the home of the Saints. This article with others which have appeared lately in the Christiania papers has drawn attention to the Saints, and at the services the hall is filled to overflowing. From another influential Christiania paper we learn that Sister Johanna Moen of Salt Lake, who is visiting friends in the Old Country, has given an interesting and well attended lecture, in defense of the Gospel against the attacks of an unscrupulous slanderer of the Saints. Her defense is very much appreciated by Saints and friends. It seems that even the attacks of enemies serve to create interest in the Gospel, and the Latter-day Saints meetings are now visited by preachers, editors, Salvation Army officers, as well as the common people, and Gospel conversations are carried on after the Sunday meetings till a late hour.

On the 8th of this month it is 50 years since the organization of the Christiania branch of the Church, and it is, perhaps, no accident that the jubilee year is characterized by a remarkable "revival." The Church does not grow old. The Gospel principles do not grow old. Truth is eternally new, and that which is founded on truth partakes of that nature.

Once again is cotton king.

Man that is born of woman rarely appreciates her as he should.

Cripple Creek is not under martial law directly but by innuendo.

Reducing the tankman's salary is done for the purpose of letting the water out.

It is natural that General Wood's path to a major generalship should be a thorny one.

John Mitchell is a man of striking appearance, strikes appearing wherever he goes.

Martial law reigns in Cripple Creek. It never rains in Cripple Creek but that it pours.

A censorship of the press has been established at Victor, Colo. To the victor belongs the spoils.

The provisional government of San Domingo is asking recognition. What has it to offer in exchange?

The fourth assistant postmaster general proposes to make the postal employees Bristolow the mark.

Princess Alice of Schoenburg-Waldenberg in a divorce court must appear to herself as Alice in Wonderland.

With many people it depends largely upon circumstances (chiefly financial) whether old acquaintances should be forgot.

What's the matter with Congress? Yesterday the House was in session for just five minutes and the Senate for fifteen.

A report comes from Kansas of the finding of relics of prehistoric man of the coal age. We wonder if the prehistoric men of that age had coal strikes.

A Chicago union has been declared in contempt by a judge of that city. Every day, all over the country, unions are coming more and more into contempt.

A Salina, Kan., man had to postpone his wedding because he forgot his

license. Man must have license to get married though he may thereby lose liberty.

It is not a very patriotic man who will discharge an employe who is called out as a member of the militia. He is very apt to endanger his own business thereby.

No doubt the Long Island sheriff who kissed a primary school teacher and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in consequence, thought he was merely taking a perquisite.

Speaker Cannon, resenting what he deemed an insult from John Herman J. Schulteis, chairman of the national executive committee of the Knights of Labor, summarily ordered Mr. Schulteis from the speaker's room at the Capitol, with the parting injunction to the labor leader never to darken his door again. In other words, the Cannon fired him.

The public, says an exchange, has barely recovered from nervous prostration induced by the question "How old is Ann?" Now comes the Philadelphia Inquirer with the following international puzzle: "Columbia owes England and Germany a large sum of money. When the debt was contracted, Panama was part of Columbia. If the United States gives Panama \$10,000,000, what proportion of this sum is Panama bound to pay to Columbia's debtors, and how are they to collect the same?"

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

New York Sun.
The neglect of Biblical reading is not the cause of the trouble, but the new spirit in which the Bible is read, and not only by the young and frivolous, but also in the pulpit and the theological seminary. As the Word of God the Bible influenced profoundly the everyday speech of our race, but when it is studied as merely the word of man its very language no longer remains imbedded in the popular memory as a unique heritage from heaven itself.

Kansas City Star.
Now it may be submitted that, all religious considerations aside, it will be a distinct loss to English literature if the rich treasure house of Biblical allusions be wholly or in part cut off from writers. The incidents recorded are so varied, the language is so distinctive and so nearly perfect that quotations from the Scriptures are wonderfully adapted to the enrichment of any literary work. It may be safely asserted that the time will never come when the most striking Biblical references will not be generally understood. The twentieth century Franklin need not fear to compare his country to Joshua, at whose command the sun of Britain and the moon of France stood still. It seems likely that the respect of the future will be unable to impart the flavor to his work which his predecessors were able to secure with their rich allusions to Scripture.

Philadelphia Record.
There is only one authentic picture of the last judgment. It is often cited as evidence that our Lord taught future punishment; it is never cited by evangelical ministers as evidence of the basis upon which future rewards and punishments are to be distributed. After the description of the separation of the good and bad, like sheep from goats, those who are sent to the right are represented as surprised at their happiness and as asking to what it was attributable, and the reply of the Judge was: "I was an hungry and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was in prison and ye came unto me; Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Here is the charter for a sociological Christianity.

New York Examiner.

The Bible is a divine book—human as to its form, God-inspired as to its spirit and teaching. "Moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God." That tells the story. It is not necessary to suppose that the precise words employed were prompted by the Spirit, though even that, in some instances, might have been the case, for it is just as possible for the Spirit of God to suggest words as thoughts (Matt. 10:19). It would be absurd to say that those narrative portions that are confessedly drawn from existing documents were verbally inspired; but it is quite within the bounds of probability to believe that the Holy Spirit directed in the choice of the documents to be preserved, while in all that constitutes the revelation of God's will and purpose, the unswerving of His character and power and grace, the impress of the Spirit upon the mind and heart of the writer must be considered to have been potential, on any rational theory of the origin of the Holy Scriptures. This, and this alone, can account for the power of the Bible as a transforming force in the lives of men.

New York Christian Advocate.

The New York State Conference of Religion, an institution well calculated, as far as it has any influence, to reduce Christianity to an indistinguishable alloy of the kind of religious optimism, or rather pulp, held its fourth meeting a few days since at Ithaca, N. Y. Of course Heber Newton was at home there; so was a few rabble. The Parliament of Religions at the world's fair, Chicago, is now recognized at its true value as a hippodrome performance, whose separate figures were looked at by the world with curiosity, and out of which the Catholics, the non-Christian peoples, and the disintegrators of orthodox Protestantism made all the gains. Any form of Judaism which rejects Christ has no more claims on Christianity for recognition than Mohammedanism, and not so much, for that recognizes Christ as a great prophet sent by God.

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500 Men's 60c Double Yoke	
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all kinds, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$2.00	
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Wool Undershirts or Drawers	\$1.00
500 Ladies' \$1.25 Black	
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