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## A CHRISTIAN SERMON (?)

We find it necessary, once in a while, to notice the frantic endeavors of two or three religious publications to prejudice the country against the Latter-day Saints, or "Mormons," as they choose to name them, with the ultimate object of bringing religious influence to bear on the Senate of the United States, in order to deprive a Senator from Utah of the seat to which he was lawfully elected by the representatives of the Republican party in this State. It is a little curious to note the manner in which they defile holy religion and politics and bring to bear the power of their church over the affairs of state, while at the same time they berate the "Mormons" for exercising that kind of control, which they untruthfully attempt to show is a feature of the "Mormon" system.

The most recent attack upon "Mormonism," with the same object in view, appears in the Christian Herald of January 17, 1906. The copy which has been furnished to us is doubtless an advance issue, as the paper is published in New York, and has been here at least two or three days. It purports to be a "Sermon by Rev. F. De Witt Talmage, D. D.," written apparently for that paper and not yet delivered from the pulpit. It consists chiefly of a tirade of abuse, plagiarized stories, extracts from newspaper libels, incorrect pretended citations from congressional and state laws, distortions of "Mormon" doctrine, echoes of the pleas of men and women who know nothing of the question at issue, to deprave forever the congressional halls every representative of "Mormonism," and a general repetition of untruths long ago exploded and cast aside by well informed opponents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

There is one paragraph that may be said to be new, if not original. The present De Witt Talmage claims that, when a young man, he entertained in Brooklyn Dr. Byron Sunderland, of Washington, D. C., who had been chaplain of the United States Senate. Talmage says, "I literally pumped the old man dry of all his reminiscences." These, he goes on to say, covered stories of acquaintance with Webster and Clay and Benton and Pierce and Lincoln and Conkling and Blaine, all the mighty political giants north, south, east and west, who had been his intimate friends or acquaintances. How much time this consumed he does not state, but claims that "About one o'clock in the morning he said: 'Dr. Sunderland, you have been describing to me many men; tell me the strongest personality you have ever known.' Then the old man leaned back in his chair and told the following incident:

"The scene was not in Washington; it was in Salt Lake City. The man was not Webster or Clay; he was Brigham Young. Many years ago the Mormon Church challenged the Gentiles to a debate, and some of the leading ministers of the East took up the challenge. Bishop John P. Newman of the Methodist church and myself were delegated to meet the Mormon representatives. The debate took place in the Mormon Tabernacle, which holds some ten thousand auditors. The debate had been going on for some days, and we had come to the closing night. Bishop Newman was summing up and making his peroration, with the skill of an accomplished orator he was wheeling his facts into line, and he said substantially: 'Therefore, if this is so, and if that is so, and if the other thing is so, then we are forced to the conclusion that Mormonism stands for nothing else beside licensed libertinism and wholesale fraud.' Ten thousand angry men and women instantly leaped to their feet and began to press down toward the platform. The cry was taken up everywhere: 'Lynch him! Lynch him! Kill him! Stab the heretic's heart! Kill him! Lynch him now!'

"I sat beside Newman at the time," continued Dr. Sunderland, "I did not see one avenue of escape. Suddenly Brigham Young arose and stepped to the front of the platform. He swung his arms out over that cursing, swearing, angry mob and uttered just two words: 'Sit down.' They dropped into their seats as the grain falls before the hiss of the scythe. That was to me the most marvelous scene I ever witnessed. As I came under this heater's spell, I realized that he was one of the greatest of men and one of the most dangerous, if not the most dangerous, to American liberties, who has ever trodden American soil."

We publish these paragraphs verbatim, so that the readers of the "News" may form some idea of the manner in which Rev. Doctors of Divinity will manufacture stories inimical to the "Mormons." There is but a single thread of truth in that woven tissue of falsehood. We do not believe that Dr. Sunderland, who impressed us as a decent, respectable gentleman, ever told anybody such glaring untruths as this man Talmage puts in his mouth.

In the first place no challenge was issued at that time by the "Mormon" Church or any of its authorities, so no one was "delegated" to take it up. Dr. Newman was on his tour through the country, and on arriving here chal-

lenged Brigham Young to a debate with him on the polygamy question, and President Young referred him to Orson Pratt, who arranged with Drs. Newman and Sunderland for a discussion of the question in the Tabernacle. The debate was reported verbatim. The proceedings were detailed in the local papers. Nobody ever heard of such an outburst as described in the Christian Herald, until it appeared in that religious magazine. Dr. Newman made a terrible mess of his attempt to prove that polygamy was not taught in the Bible and was not practiced by Moses and the patriarchs. And the only expression of the congregation in response to one of his labored, flat and flabby attempts at a flight of oratory was on one occasion, when he heaved and bowed so, in evident hesitation at not being able to recall the grandiloquent words he had committed to memory, that the audience fairly roared with laughter.

There are many people in this city and state who were present during the debate, and we presume there is not one of them, whether friend or foe, who remembers any such incident as that which Talmage declares Dr. Sunderland related to him, or would have the hardihood to declare that it occurred. Dr. Sunderland rendered all the aid he could to support Dr. Newman, posting him frequently with quotations which he desired to use, but the whole affair was a recognized failure, and the challenger beat a retreat with as good grace as possible.

To his great surprise, he found that Elder Orson Pratt, one of the Twelve Apostles, was a Hebrew scholar, thoroughly versed in ancient scripture, and when Dr. Newman cited Leviticus xviii, 18, as the grand Biblical fulmination against polygamy, and endeavored to distort the Hebrew text in order to sustain his position, Elder Pratt so thoroughly analyzed that text from every possible standpoint, that the great champion of the M. E. church in Washington, D. C., "with the chains attached," was completely vanquished, and even the boys in town jocularly referred to him after his departure as "Leviticus xviii, 18."

Dr. Newman was treated with the greatest courtesy while here, and as far as we know, the story hatched up by F. De Witt Talmage, D. D. is the first attempt from any quarter to show to the contrary. There was no occasion at any time for the exercise of the influence of President Brigham Young to preserve order during that debate. The writer of this article was present, and knows of that which he affirms, and his statement can be corroborated by many other persons who also attended.

We do not intend to go through the so-called "sermon," published in the Christian Herald, but will quote a few sentences to show the kind of a "Christian" preacher this later Talmage is. After stating that he has read many books, "both for the advocacy and the condemnation of Mormonism," he remarks:

"I can come to but one conclusion; that Joseph Smith was a crack-brained epileptic, who with his fits of hysteria, was just the man for a little while to appeal to the ignorant and superstitious people with whom he came in contact."

Any man who has really investigated "Mormonism" from works written for and against it, and has truly reached such a conclusion as that, must be himself subject to fits of hysteria or lapses into idiocy. The idea that the physically stalwart, athletic, vigorous yet highly spiritual Joseph Smith, who conversed with the powers on high, brought forth and translated the Book of Mormon from metallic plates, introduced a system of theology that has never been controverted, and an ecclesiastical organization pronounced by even critical objectors to be the grandest in existence, who gathered thousands of strong-minded adherents, founded cities, built grand edifices, laid the foundations of the great Church which has withstood both the assaults of the learned and scientific and the violence of mobs and murderers, was a poor hysterical epileptic, is a fit notion to be associated with Talmage's fanciful and ridiculous story about the "Mormon" uproar in their Tabernacle dedicated to the service of the Lord!

De Witt Talmage with about as much truth and common sense, attempts to explain in the so-called "sermon," what the "Mormon" Church "stands for." To use his own elegant language, "What this leprous social organism is reaching out for in this twentieth century," he says:

"First: The Mormon Church unflinchingly stands for graft. It represents financial plunder. It is Ross Tweedism parading about the streets in the mud-beattered garments of the degraded passengers empty their pockets at its altars. It was conceived with the idea of financial graft, developed with the idea of graft, and it is perpetuated with the idea of graft."

He then goes on to relate what he says he has been told in regard to "Brigham Young's financial depredations." Of course it must be all true, for somebody told him so. For instance, that President Young "secured from the tithing system of Utah over \$13,000,000, \$9,000,000 of this he squandered on his family; \$4,000,000 he left to be fought over by his heirs." After a good deal more of this kind of "evidence" of "graft," he adds:

"But modern Mormonism stands for more than financial graft and unlicensed libertinism. It stands for the degradation of women, not only through the evil door of sin, but also through the narrow door of superstition." \* The Leaders of that church promulgate these two doctrines: First they say: a woman who is unwilling to marry and bear children is a woman who will have no part in the glories of celestial life. Therefore, it is the duty of every woman to marry, no matter what may be the desire of her heart. Love or dislike of life have nothing to do with the matter. In the Mormon world, a woman must be sealed to a man, or else she is doomed to eternal death. The second doctrine is like unto the first: The highest seat in heaven for the good Mormon is for the Mormon Saint who takes unto himself the greatest number of wives and rears up the greatest number of children."

The foregoing, Talmage places in

quotation marks, as though it was taken verbatim from some "Mormon" authority. Probably he will find some readers of the Christian Herald who will accept it as "Mormon" doctrine. We need not say to any one who knows anything of the religion of the Latter-day Saints that Talmage's burlesque of it is only a contemptible distortion, and is not believed in by any member of the Church which he thus misrepresents. It is just the same with his denunciation of the tithing system, which he denominates as "graft." Every statement he makes concerning the "enforcement" of that principle is entirely untrue. He either knows nothing at all about the doctrine, spirit and discipline of the Church that he berates in language unfit for the pulpit or for any real Christian publication, or he wilfully and intentionally perverts that which he attempts to belabor with the mire of his own manufacture.

We have only given a few samples from the mess of mendacity which he calls a written sermon. The nub of it all is contained in the tail end like the sting of a wasp. It is this: Expel Reed Smoot from the Senate of the United States, because he is a member of the Church thus abused and stigmatized and misrepresented. We have already devoted too much time and space to the scurrilous concoction by a preacher who appears to be aiming to acquire fame, but who will never reach the position acquired by the elder Talmage, while he devotes what few little talents he possesses to the shameful work of holding up to scorn and derision, and still more forceful antagonism, a Church and a people whose faith and devotion he is not able to comprehend, and against whom his puerile efforts will fall and will fall back into the mire from which they were hurled.

## WHERE CRIMES FLOURISH.

Chicago has for some time had a carnival of crime. No less than seventeen murders of women have taken place there in a year, in addition to all other transgressions. Conditions have become so unbearable that a citizens' mass-meeting has been called to consider ways and means of overcoming the lawless element.

It is time for the adoption of heroic measures in Chicago. The Chief of police has found it necessary to warn women from making any display of jewels or money in crowds, and even from appearing on the streets without an escort. That, he says, leads young hoodlums to follow them. The young degenerates find it easy to snatch a woman's pocketbook or follow a woman who is wearing diamond earrings or a diamond sunburst. Many of the boys are, in the opinion of the Chief, sons of respectable parents, but they lack moral training and are allowed to wander where they will at night. Most boys mean well, but one bad boy will corrupt a whole crowd and make the gang a nuisance to the neighborhood. When life and property become as insecure as they have been in Chicago for a long while, it is time for the citizens to consider the position seriously.

Of course some wiseacres ascribe the outburst of crime in Chicago to the influx of immigrants from abroad. It is so convenient to lay our sins at the doors of others. Their deductions, however, are not sustained by statistics. The Philadelphia Record says:

"With the single exception of the Italians, the American people are the most homicidal nation in the civilized world. In fact, we are running neck and neck with Italy with respect to the ratio of violent crimes resulting in death. In the latter country the homicides number 150 per million of inhabitants per year; in this country last year the ratio was 115 per million. A comparison with the criminal statistics of other leading nations will serve to emphasize the indictment and make it positively terrifying. Thus the annual average ratio of homicides to population is 12 per million in Germany, 15 per million in France, and 27 per million in the United Kingdom. Ratably, therefore, murder and manslaughter are four times as frequent in this country as in England, Scotland and Wales, and nine times as frequent as in Germany."

With what reason, then, are the crimes referred to charged to the immigrants?

Chicago will, no doubt, find it necessary to commence a war of extermination upon the lawlessness with which it is infested. But unless this campaign becomes general throughout the land, it will not be effective, for the demons will simply spread to other cities and continue their nefarious work as long as they can, and return whenever the vigilance of the authorities is supposed to be relaxed. What our country needs is a general campaign against all manner of unrighteousness. It is discouraging to find in the centers of population in this great Republic, conditions that are paralleled only in the countries that usually are considered "the worst governed on earth."

Venezuela is the spoiled child of America.

There are buffalo but no antelope on Antelope Island.

The tabling of the Tillman resolution shows a Daniel come to judgment.

The chicken show chickens are all good. They come home to roost.

Prosperity is so great in Utah that even the Great Salt Lake is rising.

The forest preserve policy appears to be, To them that are shall be added.

The whole family of Arizona Kickers seems to be in Washington just now.

"Look at home before you look abroad." In other words, "See America first."

Mr. Schwab has bought a gold mine in Nevada. He bought a gold brick in the shipping trust.

It is up to Sherlock Holmes to solve the mystery of the defeat of Sir A. Conan Doyle at Hawick.

Mr. Poulton Bigelow declines to "take water" but is perfectly willing to take bread and water.

The Moroccan delegates propose to

get all the fun out of the Algeiras conference that they can.

Portions of the British press think that Kaiser Wilhelm may bolt the Morocco conference. If he should it would be a thunderbolt.

Twelve hundred and fifty dollars is to be asked for the head and hide of the buffalo killed on the island. It remains to be seen whether, in this case, to ask is to receive.

"Our government," says Lincoln Steffens, "should represent us, all of us, all of us—the good, the bad and the indifferent." And per contra the good, the bad and the indifferent represent the government.

It is said by one reporter that Mrs. Minor Morris was carried from the White House grounds "like a sack of salt." And since that event some have sought to make out that she is the very salt of the earth.

Special Immigration Inspector Braun in his report, speaking of the Armenians, says that they have invented a system whereby they can stay in Turkey and at the same time defy Turkish laws. This system consists of a large number of Armenians emigrating to the United States, and as soon as they have earned sufficient money for their need they return supplied with American citizenship papers and are continually conspiring against the Turkish government under the protection of American citizenship. There is, no doubt, much truth in the statement. And doubtless "there are others." A foreigner who takes out naturalization papers and does not reside in America, is not an American no matter what his certificate may say.

## DELIBERATELY PLANNED.

Portland Oregonian.  
The assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg was deliberately planned and was executed with a strict attention to detail which proves that it was the work of a man or men who were fully as crafty and cunning as they were merciless and bloodthirsty. With this knowledge of the character of the criminal or criminals so apparent, there is more than a shade of possibility that the man now under arrest might have been conveniently "placed" at Caldwell for the purpose of being arrested and tried while the real murderer was making his escape. A number of "ummies of this nature were put forward for arrest while the police were searching for the murderer of Dr. Cronin in Chicago many years ago. Some of these dummies found their way to the penitentiary for their connection with the crime, but the murderer was never caught. It would seem from the testimony that Orchard was in a perilous position even though it be proven that he did not actually commit the murder.

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