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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 8, 1908.

THE "BEST EVIDENCE."

The Methodists assembled in a general conference at Baltimore, adopted an address in which reference was made to polygamy. On this topic the address reads:

"We believe from the best evidence we can obtain that the polygamous practices of the past are still found in the states and territories occupied in part by representatives of the Mormon body. In several states they have such political strength and furnish such sympathetic juries that the law against such polygamous practices cannot be executed. We believe that as in divorce cases must be brought within the scope of national legislation before the evils can be reached with sufficient vigor to punish them as they deserve. We trust, therefore, you will consider whether it is not wise for you to advocate some constitutional amendment which will make polygamy and polygamous practices a crime against the United States."

If the Methodists of this country believe that divorce and marriage ought to be regulated by Congress rather than by the various states, that is their business, and they have a right to their opinion, just as those who may think differently, have a right to theirs. But, they should not base their views on misrepresentations and conditions that do not exist. It is the duty of rational beings to ascertain the facts prior to the formulating of opinions and deciding the course to pursue. When the address says: "We believe from the best evidence we can obtain that the polygamous practices of the past are still found in the states and territories occupied in part by representatives of the Mormon body," it simply confesses a belief for which there is absolutely no warrant in the facts. Of course, sporadic cases of law-breaking may be found in every state in the Union, whether occupied, in part, by "Mormons," or not, but that does not justify the language of the address, taking it for granted that Utah is more particularly referred to.

The fact as to the Church is that it has faithfully kept every pledge made. Plural marriages ceased with the Manifesto, and ecclesiastical interference in politics became a thing of the past with the division on party lines, whatever may have been the case before that time. "Unlawful cohabitation" has also gradually dwindled away, since the Manifesto, as the understanding was that it would do, and this is one of the most striking evidences of the faithful fulfillment on the part of the Church of any pledges or promises, as to plural marriages. For if those promises had not been kept, the conditions would have been different from what they are.

The address refers to "the best evidence we can obtain." Where has it been obtained? Has it come from disinterested politicians who have sworn revenge against a community that is guilty of no offense? Has it come from religious bigots who need eastern money for missionary purposes and therefore have an interest in painting pictures in dark and gloomy colors? Are such the sources of evidence? Who would condemn anyone on such testimony? Jesus, our blessed Lord and Savior, could not escape condemnation, if such evidence were admitted.

AN EASY PROPHECY.

Senator Heyburn of Idaho and Senator Clark of Wyoming have placed themselves in a strange attitude before the country on the national forestry question.

The former on Wednesday last in the Senate is said to have ridiculed a chart of the forestry division, which was swung on the wall of the senate chamber, marked with statements as to the number of years the forests in various parts of the country could last. The forestry division, he said, was launching into the realm of prophecy in a way that would require greater wisdom than that possessed by the sages of old, when it declared that a certain section would be short of its forests in 20, 30 or 40 years. They forgot, he said, that timber grows, and he declared that "the supply of timber is as great today as ever in the world's history." There was, he said, no danger of a timber famine.

We are especially gratified to note that the Senator from Utah promptly took exception to the statement that the world's supply of timber is as great as it ever was. And when Mr. Heyburn retorted that the senator from Utah might consult the map on the senate wall as a guide, as he possessed "a spirit of prophecy," which he (Mr. Heyburn) did not possess, it was a happy reminder of Mr. Smoot that he could prove "not by prophecy, but by absolute figures that the timber of this country is being destroyed rapidly, and that there is not anything like the amount of timber in this country that there was 20, or even 10, years ago."

As this is a mere question of fact and can be proved by conditions open to ordinary observation as well as by statistics compiled by every civilized country in the world, we await with interest the demonstration which the opposing parties seem now in honor bound to furnish.

As to the right in this controversy, we do not entertain the slightest doubt. There is scarcely an intelligent citizen of the Republic but already believes from what he has personally observed, that the Idaho Sen-

ator was far from the facts, to put it mildly, in his statements. To go no further, every one might well ask Mr. Heyburn what has become of the almost continuous forest that once extended practically from the Mississippi river to the Atlantic coast and from the Gulf to the great lakes.

So, too, when Senator Clark declared that he "wanted to know how the Senator from Utah had become the mouthpiece" of the department of agriculture and added that he did not intend to recognize the senator as the representative there of the department of agriculture, which is under the control of Congress, it would have been appropriate for any one to remind him that a voice raised in defense of the forests is an agreement for civilization as against barbarism, for the safety of future generations as against the illicit gain of present-day monopoly and private greed.

No prophecy is necessary to foretell the fate of the American forests. That fate is already written in characters so broad and deep that no one with eyes and reason can fail to read it. That some should pretend to belittle the plain warnings of the government and of nature itself is a serious reflection upon either his intelligence or his sincerity.

THE TREASURY EMPTY.

As we have pointed out repeatedly, the law makes it the duty of the City auditor to publish on or before the first Monday in February each year a true statement of the financial status of the City at the close of the preceding year. This provision is evidently intended to be somewhat of a safeguard against a policy that, unchecked, would mean financial ruin. But the party in power has up to date neglected to order its representative in the auditor's office to comply with this simple provision of the law. Some kind of a report was offered long after the date set by law, but it was found to be so incomplete and unreliable, that it was not accepted by the finance committee and has therefore not been published as the law demands. The situation here, therefore, similar to that in New York, where, as the World said the other day, no one knows just exactly what the public indebtedness is. Reports are contradictory.

But it is understood that our City now is about \$250,000 short in the general funds, and that is a serious matter. There should be no overdraft, under ordinary conditions, until the month of June. The time from that month and until the taxes are beginning to come in, in November, is generally the time when the City's credit is drawn upon, but this year commenced with an actual shortage, in spite of the highest tax rate in the history of the City, and this shortage has now grown to the figures mentioned. What it will be before November no one can even guess at this time. There is no evidence of economy anywhere.

It is needless to say that this shortage of \$250,000 is not all owing to the cost of the "American" misgovernment the past four months and a few days of the present year. A greater part of it was carried over from last year—illegally, some say. The existence of this evidence of extravagance and incompetence, not to say robbery, is perhaps a sufficient reason for withholding the financial report demanded by law. It is also, we take it, the chief reason for the proposed bond issue. Money is wanted, not for the "necessary improvements," some of which have already been contracted for, but to quietly cover up the deficit of last year, and for campaign purposes.

But there is no evidence that the citizens of Salt Lake have confidence enough in the rulers of the "American" party officials, to entrust them with another million dollars to squander.

THE WORST ENEMY.

A new sin is now laid at the door of the terrible mosquito; it is said to cause the fall of nations.

An English medical investigator has discovered that the decay of Greece and Rome was due to the mosquito and that the intellectual vigor of the Greeks declined as a result of the malaria carried by the bite of this insect.

By way of corroboration, an Eastern exchange cites the new birth of New Jersey since the war of extermination of mosquitoes. What this commonwealth was previous to the drainages of the Hackensack Meadows and the sprinkling of petroleum on ponds and pools is matter of record. Now the State that was the mother of trusts has become one of their hardest regulars. Public morals have improved, civic reform has been instituted, the Colby movement has run its course, stricter excise and automobile legislation is in force. The mosquito State has redeemed her name.

From these premises the obvious conclusion is reached that the way to preserve the Republic is to destroy the mosquitoes.

We are not so sure the conclusion is amiss, far fetched as it seems. We should lend our support, under almost any hypothesis, to any practical method of ridding the neighborhood of mosquitoes.

GOOD READING IN THE HOME.

The advantages of good reading, and the imperative necessity of providing the home with an abundance of good books, are aptly set forth in an editorial on this subject in the New York Evening Post. To quote:

"The average private library is a pathetic collection of odds and ends, picked up without forethought or even intelligence. The kitchen is far more systematically and thoroughly furnished, and the mistress of the house would be astounded at the idea of setting her dinner table with a similar array of coarse, incongruous, broken and ugly dishes. But without a blush or a word of apology people of wealth and presumable of some cultivation fill their pitifully few shelves with books that are a disgrace to their owners. This shortcoming is the less excusable because in these days of well-made, beautiful, and at a very few hundred dollars will enable even a poor man to procure a library of the best histories, essays, letters, travels, poetry, and novels—books that are thoroughly interesting and worth reading. And there has never been a time when it was more important to offer children excellent books for home reading. The power of attracting the young to literature has changed within two decades. The yellow newspapers are shrieking in our

streets. The yellow magazines, streaked, speckled, and spotted, catch the eye at every corner. The temptation to fritter away time and energy on scraps and snippets which are always voluble and frequently amusing has never been so overwhelming. The parent who would erect some barrier against this engulfing flood must have in his own house books of strength and vitality. It must have a library that is something better than a literary catch-all."

Is Speaker Cannon pursuing a Fabian policy?

Pine air is a ride in an auto a May walk is finer.

What material for Indiana novelists Bella Guinness has furnished.

When Evelyn gets her divorce and Harry his liberty, he will be a free man.

Instead of handing him a lemon Connecticut gave Secretary Taft a nutmeg.

The educational authorities of the State have been brought to book—convention.

All in San Francisco bay the fleet was moored when Black-eyed Susan came on board.

There are only two great uncles in this country. They are Uncle Sam and "Uncle Joe."

Nothing develops race prejudice so promptly and strongly as betting on the losing horse.

A Paris paper says that the Monroe doctrine is as dead as a herring. Not dead but sleepeth.

Andrew Carnegie, it is said, has taken, to writing poetry. And if he cannot find a publisher he can be his own.

A pretty Brooklyn widow captured a burglar just by being polite. A pretty widow who makes up her mind to, can capture any man.

Congratulations to Springfield on its decision to have a high school. It never made a better one and it will never regret it. All success to it.

Those opposed to the president's legislative program must not conclude that he has taken to the tall timber because he has gone to Pine Knot.

And now the California papers are saying that Santa Barbara's treatment of the sailors of the fleet in the matter of outrageous charges by restaurants, was Santa Barbarous.

Twice has Colombia made a demand on the United States for \$10,000,000, and twice has the United States refused to pay the demand. Colombia is at least entitled to a consolation prize for her persistence.

The secretary of the New York milk committee of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, says that in twenty-eight blocks in the neighborhood of the Plaza and around Fifth Avenue there were born in one year 37 children, while in four East Side blocks of equal population, there were born 319 children. What is there strange about that? The poor we always have with us while the rich we haven't.

IN DEFENSE OF THE MULE.

New York Sun.

The industry and intrinsic value of the American mule have been so often lauded on the floors of Congress that it is a relief to hear a modest tribute to the usefulness of the American mule. In the Senate on April 25 Mr. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, was confuting the statement of Mr. Beveridge, of Indiana, that England could not have overcome the Boers without her navy, when Mr. Nelson of Minnesota, was recognized, and said:

"I desire to call the Senator's attention to the fact that the American mules which the British succeeded in getting into the Boer country enabled them to triumph in the war."

The truth is that the mule, in spite of the blot upon his escutcheon and the handicap of small feet, a rat tail, and ears that excite laughter, is first in peace, being found on every farm and in every railway cut, and first in war as a feeder of armies and hauler of guns, baggage, and medical supplies. The mule makes more noise over the laying of one egg than is heard from a mule in a whole campaign. . . .

The mule is all very well as a contributor to the breakfast table, but for general utility and homely worth she is not to be mentioned in the same breath with the American mule. May his ungainly shadow never grow less!

CORSETS FOR ARMY OFFICERS.

Army and Navy Journal.

Mme. Jacques, the inventor of a corset for men, has asked Surgeon-General O'Reilly to take up the subject of introducing this article of wearing apparel in the army. She claims that it is especially valuable for officers as they get on in years and become obese, and urges that it would be distinctly helpful for officers who are obliged to take practice rides, reducing the discomfort of such active exercise and tending to prolong their period of active service. The surgeon-general is disinclined to give the matter serious consideration. Mme. Jacques, however, is little disposed to be discouraged, and, with her maid to announce her coming, is interviewing prominent officers at the war department in her avowed efforts to prove a benefactor of the army. If Mme. Jacques and her maid have sufficient personal attractions and will guarantee to fit the corsets, we think their scheme will be popular with the obese military gentlemen getting on in years for whom the corsets are intended.

PERSONALITY IN BUSINESS.

Edward Payson Hatch, in System.

If you stop for a moment to analyze success in business, you will see that it comes through contact with people. It is all hinged upon the manner of your contact. On every side you are surrounded by a multitude of persons, in every one of whom there exists a potential force that may be exerted, at one time or another, to add to your success. The offender you cause that force to be exerted, the faster your business will grow. You can attract these individual forces, if you choose, and get the most from them. Or you can repel them, and suffer actual damage from having come in contact with them. Or you may take a middle course, as many business men do, and drift along in a purely negative manner. Looking at business in this light, it is apparent that the underlying element which contributes most to the success of any undertaking, and to business in the aggregate, is the art of finding the vital points of human contact that will set in motion these forces.

JUST FOR FUN.

Thankful.

"I hope your constituents are grateful to you for what you have done for them."

"I hope so," answered Senator Sorghum; "but I must confess I am thankful for the arrangement which makes compensation for my services independent of the gratitude of my constituents."—Washington Star.

Unique.

"I have something novel in the way of a melodrama."

"State your case."

"The blacksmith is a rascal, while the banker is as honest as the day is long."—Kansas City Journal.

Had Her Own.

"Can you be trusted with a secret?" he asked.

"The woman drew herself up proudly. 'You have known me for ten years, haven't you?' she replied.

"Yes."

"Do you know how old I am?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Gotham—"What is the most prominent institution in Brooklyn?" Church.

"The baby carriage."—Yonkers Statesman.

Englishman—"What a pity your country has no ruins." New Yorker.

"Ruins! I guess you haven't seen the Metropolitan Street railway."—Life.

"This is a well-kept path," commented the man who was inspecting the White House grounds. "A man could sprint on this." "Some hey," sentimentally responded the guide.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Old Lady (to conductor—her first drive on an electric tram—"Would it be dangerous, conductor, if I was to put my foot on the rail?" Conductor (an Edison man)—"No, mum, not unless you was to put the other one on the overhead wire."—Punch.

Small boy (noticing the Phi Beta Kappa key hanging from the minister's watch chain)—"Did you find it again, or is this another?" Minister—

"Why, my little man, what do you mean. I never lost it." Small boy—

"Oh, mother said you had lost the charm you had when you were young."—Jude.

"H'm!" commented the patent-torn man. "How did it happen that the citizens of this community elected as mayor such an incompetent man as the Hon. Bump Peavy? As far as I learn he does not possess a single qualification for the proper administration of the office." "Well, my boy, not so's you could readily notice it," confessed the landlord of the tavern at Polkville, Ark. "But you see, Bump was elected on the question of a safe and sane navy."—Puck.

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Tuesday Night....."Macbeth"

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Thursday Night....."Richard III"

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Saturday Night....."King Richard III"

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