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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

C. RENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 26, 1900.

THE END OF THE FIGHT.

The public are already aware that the House of Representatives adopted, on Thursday evening, the majority report of the special committee on the case of B. H. Roberts, by a vote of 268 to 50. This amounts to a double declaration: First, that Congress is determined not to admit a "Mormon" polygamist to a seat in that body. Second, that a large majority of the members regard public opinion as higher than the Supreme Law of the land.

In one sense the will of the people is the highest authority in this Republic. But that opinion, in order to be valid and legal, must be expressed in the manner agreed upon by the people. The Constitution of the United States is the written authority of each branch of the national government. It defines and limits their powers. All that are not thus expressed in that instrument are retained by the respective States or by the people. Those powers can be enlarged or curtailed or changed to any extent that the people decide, but their decision must be conveyed in the manner agreed upon in the Constitution.

The provisions of the Supreme Law cannot be set aside, legitimately, by a popular demand which has not been formulated in the way prescribed in that instrument. Public opinion is as fickle and changeable as the wind. It will praise one day that which it condemned the day before. It may be lashed into fury by designing persons and led to rapine, arson and murder; or it can be aroused to reckless enthusiasm, hero worship and boundless adulation by similar means. It is not to be regarded as any authority until it is formulated into law duly enacted.

B. H. Roberts felt confident, almost to the last, that he would be permitted to take the seat to which he was without doubt duly elected by a sovereign State of the Union. This was the view taken by many of his supporters and friends, previous to the storm which originated in Salt Lake City and was diligently worked up throughout the nation. He, to the end, and they at the beginning, believed that the majority of the men elected to the House of Representatives would feel bound by the Constitution which they swear to uphold, rather than be influenced by public sentiment in contravention of its provisions. It was faith in their integrity that buoyed him up in the midst of the hurricane which blew around him and them. That his confidence was ill-founded is not his fault, but his misfortune if it works any harm to him.

The contest which he waged so freely in the face of such overwhelming odds, manifested once more the fact that in overcoming anything associated however indirectly with "Mormonism," a departure from truth or from constitutional right is inevitable. To suppress what is claimed to be wrong in it an actual wrong has to be committed. This has received repeated illustrations in the history of the "Mormon" people from its very beginning.

The misrepresentations and slanders which have disgraced the attacks upon the "Mormons" during this controversy, are not creditable to those who indulged in them. The people thus maligned have been accustomed to that kind of "argument." It will do them no permanent harm. It will be the means of attracting attention to the truth and of preparing the way whereby it can be fairly presented.

It is cause for congratulation that fifty stalwarts were courageous enough to stem the tide of popular fury, and to stand by their convictions of right in the face of so much violent opposition. Their names ought to be held in precious memory, and their future should be watched by those who believe in the victory of truth and the triumph of justice.

There is no disposition on the part of the "Mormon" people, of either political party, to endeavor to thrust into office any individual, however prominent and talented, because he is a polygamist. That was not the idea in the minds of the voters who elected B. H. Roberts. They supported him notwithstanding the fact that he was reputed to be a man who had contracted plural marriages in times past. They had good reason to believe that, under the Enabling Act and State Constitution, that would not be regarded by men of legal learning and general information as a disqualification for any public position. But they had no desire to provoke public hostility, or flout the "peculiar institution," fast going to decay, in the face of the nation, as charged by those persons and papers which have been instrumental in arousing the country on a false hypothesis.

If it will be any consolation to the anti-"Mormons" who are jubilant in their chivalrous triumph over one weakling who dared to brave their wrath, it may be new frankly acknowledged that no "practical polygamist" will be likely hereafter to offer himself for a national public office. Also that if he were to venture so far he would not be supported by the voters of this State.

And further, that the system which excites the multitude and is rejected by the great majority of the people of this Union, will not be revitalized in any way. Nor would it have been, in the smallest degree, if B. H. Roberts had been permitted to exercise the duties of his office according to the Constitution of our country. The relics of that system are fast disappearing, and before very long will cease to be a bone of contention.

Now that this cruel war is over, that is so far as it relates to the Utah Representative, it is desirable that the heat attending the conflict shall be permitted to subside, and that the people of Utah of all parties, classes and conditions, shall seek to promote the best interests of the State, and to come into as close harmony with this great nation of which it forms a part as is possible under the circumstances. The destiny of this people is intimately associated with that of the Republic, and we should all aim to promote the welfare of our country and to maintain and perpetuate its free and glorious institutions. There should be no resentment in our hearts, even towards those who we believe have wronged us. The greatest good to the greatest number should be, as it has been, our motto and the end to be kept always in view.

A FAIR EXPLANATION.

A communication appeared in the Deseret News on Thursday evening signed "Fair Play," which was inserted without proper supervision. It contained strong reflections upon a lady who is defendant in a suit for divorce, and some unfavorable remarks concerning her attorney. While it is true that all the strictures against the lady are contained in the complaint filed in the case, we do not think it was proper to present them in the manner in which they appeared. The alleged failings of the defendant ought not to be paraded in public prints, and the feelings of her relatives were, no doubt, righteously aroused against the author of the charges, particularly as they claim she was, in some things at least, very wrongfully accused. The communication was incited by an account published in the Tribune with treble headlines, in which Mr. Lindsay R. Rogers was represented as making a virulent attack upon the plaintiff in the case. It is claimed that the statements in the Tribune article were incorrect, and that words were put into Mr. Rogers' mouth which he did not use when speaking to the plaintiff. As to that we have nothing to say, except that we regard on general principles the personal attacks by attorneys upon parties litigant and witnesses, which are very common, as altogether unjustifiable in a court room. However, it is possible that Mr. Rogers felt justified by his views of the case, in speaking very warmly as to the course pursued by the plaintiff in making such serious charges against his wife. The Deseret News does not wish to do any person an injustice, nor does it desire to open its columns to the exposure of human weaknesses, particularly of the gentler sex, for whom sympathy is often more called for than reproach. The proceedings in divorce cases sometimes disclose accusations that had better be kept within court records, and in this instance we think ought not to have been paraded in a public journal. We regret that anything of the kind received a prominent place in the Deseret News. With the merits of the controversy we have nothing to do, as they are a matter for courts to decide. Our correspondents will please refrain from personalities and the "News" will endeavor to exercise a keener oversight. However, we may add, Dr. Parkinson in this matter assumes all responsibility for the contents of the communication.

IN KENTUCKY.

The situation in Kentucky certainly seems peculiar, from a distance at least. Armed men are gathering round the State capitol, evidently for the purpose of intimidating the legislators. Their petition to the house sounds well. In it they beseech the members not to forget that their powers were loaned them by the citizens at the polls, and that among these powers was the jurisdiction to decide judicially and by due process of law what was the expressed will of the people, and not the political preferences of the members.

Public officers in other States than Kentucky need to be reminded of the fact that their authority belongs to the people. It is so easily forgotten both by the voters and their chosen servants. But when it becomes necessary to teach a legislature its duties at the muzzle of a gun, there must be something radically wrong in the State. The voters are responsible for how they vote. Why do they select men for public places whom they must threaten to kill, unless they do their duty? Where is our American civilization?

Not long ago, in Frankfort, Ky., a prominent Kentuckian went up to a public table and shot and killed another Kentuckian in the midst of a group of people. The State seems to be full of citizens, with various degrees of social standing, carrying weapons in their pockets and murder in their hearts. The ministers of Frankfort have taken alarm and asked their people to hold special prayer meetings on account of the demoralization of the State. They are praying that the parties may be endowed with wisdom and moderation, and that the Colson-Scott tragedy may not be repeated. Good enough! But the status of public morality in Kentucky, as in some other places, is such that prayer alone is ineffective. It takes the energy of a Hercules and streams of water to cleanse an Augean stable.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

The viceroy of India, Mr. Curzon, reports to the home government that 50,000,000 people in India are suffering on account of the famine that came as a result of scarcity of rainfall in the northern and central part of the country. It will be necessary to take measures for the relief of that number of sufferers at least until March, when the harvest will be gathered. The government, it is estimated, will be required to pay at least \$5,000,000 for the relief of the starving millions, but it is

doubtful whether that sum is sufficient to tide the people over the difficulty, and give them a start for another year.

With a war on her hands, that costs Great Britain in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 a day, and besides absorbs public interest to the exclusion of nearly all other subjects, the country will find it difficult to carry on relief work in India, either by government aid or by private effort. Millions are now being fed by the government, but the aid rendered seems inadequate.

The probability is that an appeal will have to be made to the other nations for charitable contributions. Should this come to pass, the United States would surely send some of its abundance to the famine-stricken parts of the British empire. It would be a most appropriate time to remember the many acts of friendship rendered to us by Great Britain during our trouble with Spain, when, but for the attitude of England, who knows what difficulties our country might have encountered?

Great Britain is now greatly strained on account of her African war, and it is conceivable that the dissatisfaction which is sure to come in the suffering districts of India may, if adequate relief fails to appear, assume the character of riots, perhaps local rebellions, which would come at a very inopportune time, indeed, especially as Russia is believed to be on the look-out for any excuse to push nearer the Indian frontier. Relief work for India's sufferers would be the most graceful and timely acknowledgment of the services rendered us during the Spanish war. It could be objected to by nobody. Comparatively little would be contributed from European countries. The burden would mainly have to be borne by the benevolent citizens of this country.

CHARGED TO VACCINATION.

The current number of Medical Liberty News tells of a case of death in Brooklyn, following vaccination. It is one of many, and proves that the operation cannot be submitted to without taking serious risks. It shows why so much popular opposition has been raised to compulsory vaccination in Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland and other countries. People are necessarily more influenced by what they see and hear, than by the dicta of theorists.

The case referred to was that of Ella Lanning, two years old, daughter of Isaac and Ella Lanning, No. 17, Sycamore street, Brooklyn. She was vaccinated on August 15, last, by a physician of the board of health, who gave a certificate to that fact. The account goes on to say that the child up to that time had been healthy, but shortly afterwards she went into convulsions. The family physician, Dr. Benjamin M. Briggs, was called in. Every now and then the little sufferer had a spasm. Her jaw was set, every muscle in her little body was taut as a bowstring. The doctor did what he could to relieve the patient, but the child died the day it was taken sick, in the evening. Dr. Anthony Binger, of the coroner's office, gave a certificate that the death was due to "tetanus following vaccination."

The same number of the medical journal from which these facts are taken publishes the following item dated Chicago, Oct. 29:

Marguerite Fahnestock, the eight-year-old school girl, who had been suffering from lockjaw, died this morning at her home, No. 130, Winnetka street, a victim of compulsory vaccination. She was vaccinated by Dr. N. S. Abell, a physician employed by the board of education. She had been vaccinated by the family physician, but was again vaccinated at the school.

Rumors of sickness and death due to vaccination are numerous, wherever the operation is enforced. Of course, it is said that such rumors are all due to prejudice, or malice, but it is difficult to entirely obliterate the popular impression that where there is much smoke there must be some fire, and the consequence is a general outcry against compulsory treatment for a disease, that possibly may come some time in the future. As a rule people are content to put off taking medicine until they actually need the remedy.

PACIFIC CABLE.

There are two projects for Pacific cables, one by way of Alaska, the Alutian Islands and Japan, to Manila. The other is over Honolulu and Guam to the Philippine capital. The latter route is considerably longer than the former and more expensive to build and maintain. Its promoters ask for a subsidy of \$400,000 annually, while the promoters of the former route ask for no government aid.

Secretary Long and Rear Admiral Bradford have submitted to the Senate committee on naval affairs some figures which prove the urgency of the enterprise. This country should certainly have direct cable connection with Asia. The navy department has spent \$58,000 for cable messages, and the average expense of the war department is shown to be about \$1,000 a day.

With this heavy government patronage, it would seem self-evident that the cable should be owned and controlled by the government and not by any private company.

The question of which route to be selected will undoubtedly be decided with due regard to the commercial interests of the country. If the longer and more expensive is selected, this will be because it is the best and therefore cheapest.

Spion Kop is a good place to leave alone, so the action of both British and Boers testifies.

The four trust is said to be in danger, its chief source of profit being in the fact that its profits do not run out as anticipated.

A dispatch from New South Wales says a man there has died of bubonic plague communicated by the bite of a flea. Where did the man get that particular flea?

It is suggested that the British abandonment of Spion Kop was because it was not worth keeping. It is possible there was another reason—it was too hot to hold.

Count Tolstoy expresses surprise that England, while boasting of being a

land of freedom, is trying to crush two small republics. On the matter of being surprised, Count Paul distinctly differs with the eminent Russian.

It is reported that the late deposed Emperor of China has committed suicide. The probability is that he was put out of the way, and the suicide story started to cover the crime.

If the British have been compelled to abandon Spion Kop, the point taken by General Warren after long and persistent fighting, important news from the battlefield is to be expected before long.

Lighting in South Africa, with the thermometer 107 in the shade. An enemy's fire would be hot indeed to be hotter than that. Then think of the men being unable for hours together to get a drop of water for their parched tongues.

A Congressman is not liable to the law for what he says in the halls of Congress. One who avails himself of this immunity from just punishment and falsely charges a reputable citizen with murder, is below the contempt of honorable men.

In noting that Honolulu is panic-stricken owing to the plague there, it is also worth observing that the Hawaiian capital is not too far from Pacific coast ports to require the strictest quarantine regulations, that the disease shall not reach this country.

That was very considerable of the British war office not to interfere with the jubilation in London last night. At noon yesterday Gen. Buller telegraphed that the British had abandoned Spion Kop in the night, as the general discovered that morning, but the war office did not divulge the fact till 11 a. m. today.

Sectionalism between the North and the South is fast becoming a memory of the distant past, but yesterday's incident in the Senate shows that whenever it is referred to in way of criticism by a Southern senator the Northern response is sharp and unyielding as ever.

The French settlement has been granted the required extension in China, so the irritation in that quarter has been checked. But some other European power soon will find itself rubbing up against the Mongolian again. China is too good picking to leave alone.

A Highlander who was in the battle at Magersfontein lays much of the fault for failure upon young officers, who, he says, "fought like a lot of school boys." The publication in England of this class of letters will further increase the prevailing dissatisfaction with the war office.

The Provo correspondent of the "News" says there have been no prisoners in the county jail this year, excepting a couple of tramps. Are there many counties in the United States with a population of 35,000 that have a similar record? And Utah county is largely "Mormon."

A Manila dispatch says the danger of bloody feuds in the Philippines can be averted by a declaration of what Congress intends to do with the archipelago. Such declaration should not be slow in coming if it will do any good, since the purpose of the majority in Congress is pretty generally understood throughout the country.

The imminent peril caused by carrying large quantities of explosives on railway trains received another awful illustration near Wilkesbarre, Pa., last evening, where dynamite in a car was exploded, five men receiving fatal injuries, while others were hurt, and the shock was felt for twenty miles, doing much damage.

Putting all disputed matters aside, it is doubtful whether the world has seen such another intellectual battle as that in which Mr. Roberts has been the central figure, since the appearance of Martin Luther before the diet of Worms in 1521. He, too, stood alone against fearful odds, and left the capital condemned by the highest civil and ecclesiastical authorities. We do not presume to say how far a parallel can be drawn, but it is certainly true as to Luther, that his apparent defeat at Worms was the greatest success of his life.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Springfield Republican.

The action of both the House and Senate committees on interoceanic canals in reporting favorably at this time bills for the construction of a waterway through Nicaragua is an old proceeding. The two houses at the last session provided for another investigation of all the possible canal routes by a special commission and appropriated \$100,000 to pay the commission's expenses. That commission, whose chairman is Admiral Walker, has only recently started for Panama to inspect a canal that is already half dug. How can any legislation properly be enacted on the canal question until the Walker commission shall have reported? Yet the Nicaraguan partisans, who control the House and Senate committees, propose, evidently, just such procedure. There is practically no opposition in the United States to a canal. The only questions remaining are the where, the how and the how much. But they are exceedingly important in view of the enormous expenditure involved.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Let the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty be America's answer to the objections of Germany and Great Britain to our control of the Nicaragua canal. In the language of Ambassador Choate, in defining the new diplomacy, let us "say what we mean and mean what we say, so that there should be no misunderstanding." When the United States has built an isthmian canal that waterway will be open to all the world in time of peace, but it will be closed to the enemies of the United States in time of war. A whole ship load of European protests shall not constrain us to facilitate the possible attacks of a foreign foe upon our coasts and commerce.

San Francisco Chronicle.

With the growth of the idea of an expanding commerce upon the Pacific there has been a disposition in some quarters to think of the canal with reference to that commerce in general. Please remember that all letters and remittances should be directed to Andrew Jensen, 55 and 60 east South Temple street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt

considered at the east. Some have even gone so far as to speak of the canal as a means of actually diverting trade from the west coast. The fundamental error which is the root of this later delusion arises from the general use of the Mercator map to illustrate the ordinary routes of commerce. This map represents the earth as if it were a cylinder, instead of a sphere, and is correct only in its representations of latitude, the distances east and west, except near the equator, bearing no resemblance to the truth. As a matter of fact San Francisco is but 200 or 300 miles off the nearest route between the western entrance to the canal and Yokohama, and it is not likely that steamers between Europe or New York and Japan and China will ever fail to call at this port.

Boston Transcript.

The Senate committee sustains that of the House in reporting bills for the construction of an interoceanic canal through Nicaragua. The public are having more and more difficulty in recognizing the propriety of such action as they become more and more familiar with the facts of the case. Suppose any one of these sapient committees should decide to construct a new house. He employs an architect to draw plans. He is not entirely satisfied with the arrangement and he gives that architect or another one a large sum of money to go over the work again and see whether those plans cannot be improved or better ones substituted. But before he can get returns he puts his builders at work upon the questionable plans, still paying his architect for his efforts to make improvement. His neighbors would call him a fool for pursuing such an eccentric and wasteful course, and they would not be far out of the way; yet that is just what it is proposed this country shall do.

Chicago Record.

Unquestionably the policy of neutralization for great waterways is best for the world and for civilization. The United States would do well, therefore, to conform to it, even if in a particular instance its self-interest might seem to lie in the other direction. As a matter of fact, however, a neutral canal will best serve the naval interests of the United States, for it will always be open to navigation, even in time of war. What we want is an isthmian canal that can be used when we desire to transfer vessels quickly from one coast to the other. It is a matter of comparatively little consequence to us that an enemy could use the neutral canal also, on like terms with ourselves. Whereas, if an enemy were privileged to destroy the canal if he could, or to prevent its use in any of the ways known to modern warfare, we might be very seriously inconvenienced.

Chicago Democrat.

It is now the duty of the present Congress to forward the great national work. Further investigation is useless. The facts are sufficiently known. The benefits of the canal are fully in evidence and the government should undertake its construction at once.

Los Angeles Express.

Nicaragua canal concessionaries may as well make up their minds that Uncle Sam is not going to be bamboozled by bluff talk. If they have any rights that are deserving of consideration they will be protected, but deep-laid plans for making the government will not win out.

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All parties having received Church Chronology, or who hereafter may receive such from the Historian's office, are kindly requested to keep the accounts connected therewith separate and apart from Church Chronology business engaged in by the Deseret News and their agents. It is further desired that all those who have entered into business relations with the Historian's Office will kindly wind up the same no later than January 1, 1900, as the undersigned after that date is expected to resume historical labors. Please remember that all letters and remittances should be directed to Andrew Jensen, 55 and 60 east South Temple street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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