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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 11, 1900.

DANGEROUS DOCTRINE.

In reply to a question from City School Superintendent Cooper, as to whether there would be danger from teachers attending the State Teachers' convention, shortly to be held in this city, Dr. T. B. Beatty, secretary of the State Board of Health, replied as follows:

"In my opinion there would be no danger to be anticipated from the attendance of teachers at the State Teachers' convention, provided they shall have been successfully vaccinated; otherwise there would be great danger. They would not be liable to carry the disease to others unless they themselves should first have contracted it."

We have heard of many singular things done and said, by the Secretary, but this caps the climax. According to this sage pronouncement, all the quarantine regulations that have been established, excepting those applying to diseased individuals, are unnecessary and useless. People who have not themselves contracted smallpox, or other contagious disorder, may move around freely, ride on street cars, mix with the public in different assemblies, or on the streets or in stores, and there will be no danger because "they would not be liable to carry the disease to others unless they themselves should first have contracted it!"

There's medical wisdom for you! What, cannot a person who has been in the company of one afflicted with a contagious disease carry the germs thereof, in his clothing, and communicate them unknowingly to others, without contracting the disease himself? If so, then many scores of people in this city have been shut up in quarantined houses without any necessity for their confinement. One member of a family has had a mild attack of the disorder which doctors declare is smallpox, even if the afflicted one has not been really sick a day, and all the rest of the household have been confined in the home, with a yellow flag hoisted as a warning to others, and all in vain except as regards the liability of the one diseased person to spread contagion. That is, according to Dr. Beatty's peculiar theory.

If only those who have "first contracted" the disease themselves are liable to carry it to others, what necessity is there for the law of the State under which boards of health are required to act, and from which they derive all their legitimate authority?

The statute on health and quarantine regulations provides, that, "No PERSON or THING liable to propagate any of the contagious diseases shall be brought within the limits of the State, without the special permit and direction of the State board of health." Infected persons or GOODS may be stopped at the State line, and be "securely isolated and disinfected." "Bedding, clothing, rags and other objects which have been exposed to infection," are to be disinfected before being exposed, on penalty of a misdemeanor against the person found guilty of the exposure.

What are all these provisions for, if nobody can carry disease unless he, himself has previously contracted it? What difference does it make to infected clothing, whether the person wearing it has been vaccinated or not? Does the secretary of the board of health mean to say that vaccination not only renders the individual bearing its marks immune from smallpox, but prevents him from carrying its germs in his clothing? Are the clothes worn by a vaccinated individual vaccinated too?

If the theory set forth in the reply to Superintendent Cooper's letter is generally held by physicians, it can be readily understood why some of them visit and prescribe for "smallpox" patients, and then call upon people in their regular rounds, without changing or disinfecting their own clothing. But it is difficult to understand why this should apply to a doctor and not to other healthy persons similarly exposed.

The Secretary of the Board of Health to the contrary notwithstanding, we caution all persons who have been in the company of one afflicted with smallpox, or any other contagious disease, that the germs of that disease may be, and frequently are, carried to others in the hair, beard or clothing of such persons, without their contracting it themselves, and that it will make not the slightest difference to that conveyance of those germs, whether the bearers thereof by whatever means are vaccinated or unvaccinated. This says nothing against the virtues of vaccination to the individual. If it renders him perfectly immune, it will not stop the infection of his clothing, nor hinder his imparting that infection to persons whose physical condition is such as to render them liable to contract the disease.

A little calm reflection and the exercise of a little common sense, will

make this plain to any one not carried away with a craze or wedded to a fad. A vaccinated child is more liable to carry infection into a school if he or she has been exposed to contagion, than one who is unvaccinated but is healthy and has not been so exposed. Can this be rationally disputed? Will any sane individual deny it?

We contend for the enforcement of all effective quarantine regulations. We endorse every rule to prevent the spread of contagion. We uphold the provisions of the law which restrain the liberty of the citizen, to the extent of isolating him from the public, if afflicted with a contagious disorder or he has been exposed to it by contact with the diseased. But we would not force people to submit to a surgical operation against their will, because some physicians, even if they form the majority of their profession, favor it and desire to establish such compulsion.

No person who has been exposed to contagion should be permitted to mingle with the public until he has been disinfected. No child who has been so exposed should be allowed to go to school until it is shown to be freed from the infection. Regulations of this kind are rational. But to say that vaccinated children or adults cannot carry contagion "without having first contracted the disease themselves," is not only contrary to the experience of the faculty and the laity, but is absurd in the extreme and of deadly danger to the whole community.

THE NEW BOER ARMY.

From European papers it is learned that a complete reorganization of the Boer army has taken place recently, and it is supposed that its successes in the lately recorded operations are mostly due to this fact.

When the war broke out, the commanders were elected by popular vote. Each Boer followed the leader he preferred. Every soldier, in fact, was a general. He fought when he thought the situation would justify him to do so, and retired when, in his judgment, it was no longer possible to hold the ground. For special expeditions volunteers were called. The soldiers had no pay. They remained at the front as long as they chose to do so, and then returned to their farm work; in a few days they would again shoulder their muskets and report for service.

All this is now changed. Regiments have been formed, each containing no less than 300 men, and no more than 500. The regiments are divided into companies of from 100 to 200 men. Lieutenant generals, brigadiers and colonels are appointed by the commander-in-chief, and other officers by their superiors, all subject to the ratification of the president. Officers are held responsible for their inferiors, and the soldiers receive \$1.25 a day, and the officers higher compensation. Offenses against the martial code are to be punished by fines, or by imprisonment at hard labor, while desertion has been made a capital offense.

The reorganization of the Boer army at this stage of the conflict does not give any promise of an early pacification of the population. When a people so thoroughly democratic as the Boers, submit to a strict military rule, it proves their determination to resist to the utmost the annihilation of their autonomy. The plan at present seems to be to enlist the Cape Colony Boers in the cause, and if they succeed in this, even to some degree, the struggle is almost sure to be continued for some time. The final outcome cannot be traced even then, but the continued conflict means more suffering, more bloodshed.

President Kruger said the other day that "South Africa will yet save itself." Undoubtedly he still counts on a general African uprising, but it seems improbable that this can be effected under the very muzzles of British guns. Still the Boers are working hard for their independence, and notwithstanding all, what is looked upon as their death struggle is witnessed with a great deal of sympathy throughout the civilized world.

THE ARMY CANTINE.

The vote in the House of Representatives on the army canteen must be taken as an indication of the strength of the temperance sentiment in this country. Some members voted against the canteen, expressing doubts as to the wisdom of the prohibitory clause, while others, undoubtedly, were sincere in their voting.

It is predicted, however, that the measure will be killed in the Senate and that the conference committee of the House will quietly agree to the Senate action.

As we understand it, there is no difference of opinion as to the need of temperance in the army. But some hold that the cause is best served by placing the sale of liquor to soldiers under the control of the officers. They contend that under this regulation, there is less drunkenness in the army than there is when the soldiers are left to the mercy of the low dives that cluster round army posts. This view the temperance people denounce. It may, therefore, be just as well to submit the contending theories to a practical test. If the abolition of the army canteen can be demonstrated to cause an increase of temperance, the vote for its restoration will be as overwhelming as the vote now was for its abolition.

It is no mark of savagery, we think, to say that such evils as drunkenness cannot be wiped out by legal enactments. Soldiers do not lose their appetite for strong drink because the traffic in it is placed beyond the controlling reach of the officers. Nor does that materially lessen the facilities for obtaining that with which to satisfy a depraved appetite. The true method of reform is through the intellect of those who are to be reformed. Legislation, when expressing the sense of right, or wrong, of the community is a great help to safeguard the morals of that community, but under other circumstances it generally remains a dead letter and as such is more of a detriment than a help. Reform societies sometimes are too anxious to secure legislation in their favor. They should, instead, continue their moral work, until legislation in the desired direction becomes a

generally felt want. Then their efforts would be permanent. They should build from the foundation up, instead of trying to lay the capstone before the foundation is well finished.

AN APOSTLE IN BOSTON.

The Boston Post of the 3rd of this month gives an excellent likeness of Elder M. F. Cowley, of the Council of the Apostles, accompanied by a liberal notice of an address delivered by him in the city of Boston. Leading papers of the country have lately displayed a commendable disposition to fairness in their treatment of "Mormonism," and this, more than anything else, will help to efface from memory that there ever was in this country, a so-called "Mormon" problem, and establish that peace and good will, which is the aim of every just citizen. The Post says:

"One of the Twelve Apostles of the 'Mormon' Church, the Rev. Matthias F. Cowley, of Salt Lake City, Utah, preached the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints to a Boston audience last evening in Arcade Hall, Park square. In appearance, the speaker was not unlike a practical business man. He spoke without notes, and his style of delivery was direct, like a lawyer addressing a jury."

"Boston, together with New York and Albany, had been especially mentioned, he said, in the revelations of the Prophet, Joseph Smith. Unto these three cities were the missionaries commanded to go preaching a revival of the ancient Gospel."

"All his statements were supported by the speaker by quotations of the Bible. Speaking on the subject of revelations, Mr. Cowley said: 'I do not believe that the prophets and angels are dead yet, and do not think it would be unreasonable if they should visit the earth again. There is no reason to suppose that God has changed his method of inspiration by revelation. Consequently, Joseph Smith, I believe, was as true a Prophet as Moses, and through him God is guiding his people in a unity of faith, just as He did in the early church.'"

"Mr. Cowley spoke of the flood as 'a baptism of the earth with water, an emersion.' In these latter days would come the baptism of fire, when the earth would be again purged of its wickedness, he said, and then continue:

"The nineteenth century, just closing, shows us a history of terrible earthquakes, floods and other disasters, besides millions of lives sacrificed in wars. The judgment of God in the twentieth century will be much more abundant, because men are rejecting the truth, in spite of the great light which they have."

"An afternoon meeting was also held yesterday, at which the speaker was the Rev. Edward H. Snow, the president of the Eastern States Missions. He spoke upon the mission of the 'Mormon' Church, which he declared was to carry a divine message to the people of the world."

Were the pulpits influenced by the same liberal-mindedness as some of the leading and influential papers, there would be less conflict between "Mormonism" and other religious systems. "Mormonism" has no quarrel with anybody. It stands for peace on earth and good will toward all men, recognizing in all their brothers and sisters—children of the one Father. It offers truth and salvation to all, but has no ill will to those who entertain different views on any question whatever. It asks only to be accorded the same privileges it is willing to extend to all, and which are guaranteed in the word of God and the constitution of this country.

The shipping subsidy bill is expected to go through Congress swimmingly.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty is between the horns of a dilemma—to ratify or rectify.

The manner in which he gets out of traps shows that Dewet is a very smooth Boer.

If the Nicaragua canal is to be policed it is to be hoped that it will not be by Tammany police.

That Holland-Portugal misunderstanding did attain the dimensions and dignity of a tempest over a Herr Pott.

No matter how the striking telegraphers may be supporting themselves they are not living on "tick."

A reading of the convention's resolutions would lead one to think that the Federation of Labor wants is the earth.

A London dispatch to a New York paper says that Gen. Kitchener gets more and more laconic. But he doesn't get Dewet.

"Mr. Dooley" is rapidly recovering from his recent illness. To which the people cry, Well Dunne, good and faithful servant.

A Chicago man is building a \$25,000 Doric tomb. Evidently he thinks he is laying up his treasures where rust and moths come not.

And now the anti-expectoration ordinance is to be rigidly enforced. That is proper. But it is also pertinent to ask why it hasn't been rigidly enforced before?

Old Man Kruger has received a good deal of sympathy in Europe, but in these days of wars and rumors of war and the historical novel, sympathy doesn't go for much.

One of our learned local doctors says people should be vaccinated at least once a year, or "as often as it will take." How can one tell how often it will take unless one is vaccinated every day? There is such a thing as having vaccination on the brain as well as on the arm or leg.

For those who like gray days nothing could be finer than those we are now having; but enough is as good as a feast, and most people think there have been enough gray days.

German troops are removing the famous bronze astronomical instruments from the great wall near Peking, and they will be sent home to Berlin. The incident recalls the taking from Venice by Napoleon of the famous bronze horses, and which the allied powers restored. But why is it worse for Germany to take these astronomical instruments from Peking than it was for Venice to take the horses from the Turk? Of course it is and was all in the interest of civilization.

The Salt Lake Tribune continues to exhibit the malice and mendacity which used to be its chief characteristic, and which policy has led it to conceal for some time. The charges it has made

against the Deseret News have not been supported by anything that has appeared in our editorial columns, and its bare word counts for worse than nothing with the vast majority of the people of this State. If it offered any argument on the subject of its tirades against the "News," we might continue to notice it by replying to its reasoning. But in the absence of even an attempt at that, we can afford to let its vaporous exhalations fade of their own insubstantiality.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

San Francisco Call.
The length of the message should not deter any citizen from reading it as a whole. It is an important and interesting summary of the history of the year so far as it affects the United States, written by the man who has been the most potent factor in directing the course of our country. Upon the side of domestic politics it abounds with recommendations of legislation needed to confirm existing order and prosperity and to make improvement better still. He asks Congress to insure the continued parity under all conditions between our two forms of metallic money, silver and gold. He recommends the reduction in the internal revenue tax, the upholding of our merchant marine, the regulation of trusts, legislation for Porto Rico and the Philippines, the construction of the Hawaiian cable, and the enactment of many other measures of general benefit.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
In general it may be said that the message breathes the spirit of patriotic statesmanship which pervades all the President's utterances. It is a splendid record of what has been achieved under his administration, and is pregnant with the promise of still more splendid achievements in the future.

Kansas City Star.
The tone of the message regarding the Philippines is distinctly hopeful, and shows great confidence in the work of the commission appointed to establish civil government in the islands. The insurrection is regarded by the President as practically at an end, and the tone of satisfaction manifested in his treatment of the matter is natural enough, after the enthusiastic endorsement which the people gave to the doctrine of expansion at the recent election.

Chicago Times-Herald.
While the President leaves no room for doubt concerning his friendliness toward the Isthmian canal project, his message contains small comfort or encouragement for those who favor canal legislation at the present short session of Congress. Indeed, it might easily be inferred from his utterances upon this question that he favors delay, at least until after the report of the canal commission has been carefully and exhaustively considered by Congress.

Chicago Record.
As to the Philippines question, Mr. McKinley contents himself with an account of what has been done and an intimation that the ultimate decision of this political status of the islands must rest with Congress. The work of establishing local municipal government has been begun with a view later to the organization of government in larger administrative divisions. It being the purpose to intrust these governments, so far as may be expedient, to native Filipinos. In the end, when a final central government shall have been established, it will deal only with questions of general concern, holding the same relation to the various countries or provinces that the federal government of the United States holds to the various States. For the present this work is to be under the supervision of the military governor, the members of the commission and the secretary of war, who to the exact status which Mr. McKinley expects the islands to assume ultimately he is silent.

San Francisco Chronicle.
Legislation is urged for the purpose of promoting an increase in our shipping engaged in foreign commerce, which last year carried but 3 per cent of our imports and exports. It is also urged that Congress should do all that constitutional limitations permit it to do for the control of capital combined in trusts and the restraint of such combinations as are found injurious.

Omaha Bee.
Reference is made to the Alaska boundary dispute, the provisional arrangement as to which has so far worked without friction, but the president says it is at best but an unsatisfactory makeshift "which should not be suffered to delay the speedy and complete establishment of the frontier line to which we are entitled under the Russo-American treaty for the cession of Alaska." It will be seen from this that there is no ground for the charge that there has been a surrender of territory in Alaska by our government, something, indeed, which the executive department of the government is absolutely powerless to do.

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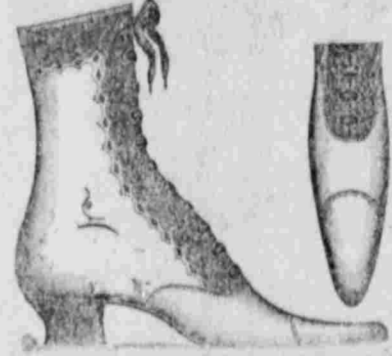
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