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NOT AN INTERPOLATION.

In a recent article we responded to a letter of inquiry from the north concerning the passages in the "Sermon on the Mount" about plucking out an eye and cutting off a hand. We showed that these expressions were figurative, and doubted if any really sane person would take them in a literal sense. We also showed that the omission in the Book of Mormon of the passages as they appear in the New Testament did not constitute a "discrepancy," because one account was a report of a discourse delivered on this continent, and the other of a sermon in Palestine. We are now favored with another communication from the same source, explaining some facts and taking the ground that the passages in Matthew v: 29, 30, are probably an interpolation.

We are aware that, as related by our correspondent, there have been instances of the voluntary mutilation of the body by individuals who took literally the instruction of the Savior, "If thy right eye offend thee pluck it out," etc.; "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut It off," etc., and, through a morbid sense of sin, have proceeded to carry the counsel into effect; but we have not regarded such persons as of sound mind. It may be true that in other respects they were intelligent and reliable, but the very fact of their acts in this respect seems to us sufficient to indicate that they were monomani-

There is no good reason that we are aware of to believe that the passages referred to are an "interpolation." They contain nothing which would favor any particular religious sect or notion. As Jesus clearly intended by their utterance, they conveyed sound and excellent advice. They signify that no matter how dear to us and how much a part of our nature some besetting sin or great fault may be, it must be plucked out or cut off if we desire to reach that perfection which will fit us for association with perfect beings. There are so many figurative expressions in the Sermon on the Mount and in other discources by the Sathat these passages appear to us so clearly of the same character, that It is a marvel they should be considered otherwise by any

Our correspondent thinks that these passages do not harmonize with the saying, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." It is strange that any one should discover any discord between them. To pluck out a sinful desire, to cut off a degrading habit, is in effect to overcome it. To us there appears to be perfect harmony between the instruction and the promise. Of course, if the plucking out and cutting off are to be taken literally, there might possibly be some contradiction between the two scriptures; but understanding the teachings of the Master in the sense In which He conveyed it, there is nothing discordant about them but on the contrary perfect union and concord.

person of sound mind.

Our correspondent also imagines that the following, in the discourse delivered by the Savior to the Nephites, is a "substitute" for the passages in

"Behold I give unto you a command-ment, that ye suffer none of these things to enter into your hearts for it is better that ye should deny yourself these things wherein ye will take up your cross, than that ye should be cast into

But it will be found on examination that this is not a "substitute" for anything, but refers to the previous passage concerning adultery in the heart. Reference to the translation by the Prophet Joseph Smith, referred to by our correspondent, corroborates this view. It gives the passage exactly as in the Book of Mormon, and then follow the verses about the right eye and the right hand, and then this explana-

"And now this I speak a parable concerning your sins; wherefore cast them from you that you may not be hewn-down and east into the fire."

As we have heretofore stated, the translation by the Prophet has not been published by authority of this Church, yet it is evident that this explanation was given by the Savior in His sermon on the mount and is one of the precious things that have been omitted, in the transmission of the sacred writings from age to age, but was manifested to the Prophet in his work of translation.

We see no need of further discussion on this simple matter. The expressions about the right eye and the right hand are clearly as figurative as those which called the disciples "the salt of the earth" and a "light to the world," to be "set on a table" and not "hid under a bushel;" about "the mote in the brother's eye" and "a beam" in one's "own eye," and other symbolical language common to the age and place where Christ administered.

There is nothing in the figures of the eye and the hand incompatible with the others used by Christ as illustrations of

them as an "interpolation," but consider them very expressive and conveying clearly the meaning of the great Teacher to, all who are spiritual. Whose readeth let him understand."

CRONJE SURRENDERS.

The capitulation of Gen, Cronje is now officially announced. Dramatic interert is added to the important event by the fact that the surrender took place on the anniversary day of the Majuba hill disaster, and while the Boers were having a day of prayer and thanksgiving, presumably in commenioration of that historic battle. General Cronje is charged with unnecessary cruelty during the first war for independence. He is accused of having deceived an English garrison at that time by withholding from them the news of an armistice, and forcing them to undergo the humiliation of a surrender. Now, he himself, after a most heroic struggle, has had to lay down his arms. Is this merely coincidence, or is it an-

The result now achieved has been long anticipated. The size of Lord Roberts' army enabled him to divide his forces and yet carry on effective operations at separate points. Probably Cronje stayed too long in the vicinity of Kimberley. If he had broken up a day earlier, he would perhaps have had ample time to get away. It is easy now to understand the motive of his desperate resistance. He would delay Lord Roberts as long as possible in order to give the Burghers time to concentrate and intrench themselves, probably somewhere near Bloemfontein And this object is now gained. Everything indicates that a great number of Cronje's men have escaped and joined the concentrating forces. But the loss of Cronje is in itself the loss of a big

other case of sowing and reaping?

There is no probability that the war will end with this capitulation. Those familiar with the formation of the country expect that the scene of operations now will be laid to the hills north of the Free State capital, and the mountain passes, where numerically small forces may successfully oppose large armies. The war from now on may assume the phase it was thought it would have from the beginning.

Intense interest has been centered in the heroic struggle of Gen. Cronje against the overwhelming force around him. Cronie has been called the "lion of South Africa," and he has long been known as a master of military strategy.

Cronje was actively engaged in the so-called war of independence. At that time he defeated a British force at Potchefstroom, and it is said that the skill with which he misled the enemy attracted the notice of European military experts.

At the time of the Jameson raid Cronje again became prominent. The raiders were opposed by this general, whose strategy and rifle fire proved too much for them. It was Cronje who accepted their surrender and who guaranteed the lives of Jameson and his men, although many of the Boer commanders demanded that they be treated as criminals.

In the present struggle Cronje established the slege at Mafeking and then went to Kimberley. When Gen. Buller appeared at the Tugela river he made a trip to Gen. Joubert's headquarters at Ladysmith, and no doubt, a plan of campaign was then agreed upon, of which, perhaps, the present retreat from all the besieged cities is a part.

It is remarkable that the Boers in their retreat have proved themselves as good soldiers, as they have done in their defense of intrenched positions. In every respect they have shown themselves worthy opponents of British valor and chivalry. The delay Cronje was making in the onward march of Lord Roberts may give Gen. Joubert the needed opportunity of establishing himself in a position from which he cannot soon be dislodged.

NO EXCUSE.

It is customary with a certain class of writers to excuse indecent and immoral exhibitions on the stage, in newspapers, and eisewhere, on the ground that the public get just what they want. It is admitted that the practice referred to is lamentable, but the public is to blame. This excuse is now made in behalf of Olga Nethersole and her play. Were not public taste as corrupt as it is, such shows could not be offered.

As the world is constituted, it seems to be a recognized principle that "offenses must come," but that does by no means exonerate those through whom they come. On the contrary, if it is known that the public taste is such that that which is worse than poison is eagerly consumed, the greater is the guilt of those who supply the stuff for purely mercenary purposes. He who furnishes the Indian with firewater cannot excuse himself on the ground that the taste of the savage demands it, and if there were no demand for it, there would be no supply. The pleading would be puerile, but not any more so than when the blame for mental debauchery is laid on the depraved public

The fact is that every preacher, every actor and actress, every lecturer and every one who presumes to appear before the public, either as a moulder of thought, instructor or entertainer, ought to feel morally bound to bring forth only that which has a tendency to elevate and purify the public sentiment. Any other course is really an insult to the people. If the stage no longer aims at making its patrons better, it had better be abolished. The same may be said of the platform and the press. It is cowardly to charge the degeneration of the teacher to the depravity of the pupil. What is the teacher for? Give the people that which the best class demands, and those who have different tastes will gradually experience a change of heart. Much depends on the purity of the stage, and as much on the

moral tone of the press. THE RESCUE HOME.

Residents of Sugar House ward protest against having the so-called Rescue home moved to that locality. The reason is that the "home," where formerly located, acquired a reputation for being at times without proper control and a menace to the quiet and the morality of the neighborhood,

His meaning; therefore we do not regard | We would think the Philanthropic

women interested in "rescue" work would see to it that such rumors are without substantial foundation. They need the co-operation of the charitably inclined public for their work, but they cannot count on this, if there is a sus picion that the institution is not properly looked after.

We hope the "home" may find a suitable location, where it can annoy nobody, and that it may succeed in doing much good. It ought to be locatedsomewhere out in the country; far away from the temptations and allurements of the city. We do not know with what legal right the residents of a place can protest against having such an institution brought to them, but their objections should be given due consideration. Take the objects of the philanthropic effort to some place where there is nobody to oppose them, and where, consequently, they will not be constantly made to feel that they are social out-

BLOCH'S WAR PREDICTIONS.

At the present juncture of the war-in Africa it is not without interest to read what M. Bloch, the Russian military expert, thinks of the possibilities of a naval struggle against Great Britain, If he is right, it would seem the best interests of that country would suggest the conclusion of peace as soon as this can be done on honorable terms, in order to have free hands in other directions. It appears almost probable that this Russian writer is doing his best to encourage Europe to an attack on Eng-

His position is this, that the superiority of the United Kingdom as a sea power is no guarantee of its safety. England's all-powerful fleet, he thinks, could do no more harm to the German coast than did the French fleet in 1870. And against Russia the effect would be felt even less. France might suffer some, but not sufficient to intimidate the inland population into submission.

M. Bloch believes a naval war against Afbion would assume about the same character as the Boer war. England's weak points would be harassed steadily, and there would be no chance of a pitched battle. The result would be that the country would need perhaps 500 cruisers to protect her commerce. The cost of carrying freight would cause a rise in the necessaries of life to such figures as to make them inaccessible to the people. Under the circumstances the masses would soon rise against the government and compel it to make peace at almost any terms. England is without an extra supply of provisions, and as long as she is dependent on the uninterrupted maritime communication, she will not undertake a great war, even if she were beforehand assured of final victory.

M. Bloch closes his argument with the following almost solemn warning:

"Unfortunately, these considerations are overlooked by public opinion in England, where they pretend not to be afraid that the prolongation of the war in South Africa and the exhaustion of the English forces might tenut certain the English forces might tempt certain countries to take advantage of England's weakness. In this event the dan-ger is not for England alone, for the rise to serious conflicts in Europe."

If M. Bloch is correct in his estimate of Great Britain's naval strength and the danger of a European conflict, the British government can do no better than grasp the first opportunity of peace with honor, as otherwise the African war may prove only a curtain raiser to a greater and more terrible

FAIR APPRECIATION.

The Chicago Times-Herald has something to say, editorially, on the splendid speech of Congressman Littlefield on the Roberts question. We do not regard that effort as partisan in any sense. It was a constitutional argument that has never been answered and cannot be controverted. The Times-Herald says on Feb. 25:

While differing from a majority of his party in Congress on both eccasions, Mr. Littleffeld has had the honor and good sense to reflect the view of a ma-jority of Republicans throughout the His speech on the admission of Rob-

erts was far and away the best that was contributed to the debate. It was effective both in diction and in argument, and it would have carried the House if any appeal to reason could have done so. The mastery of consti-tutional law which it revealed appears again in the speech on the Porto Rico bill. There is the same copious use of the authorities, to the confusion those who quote precedent by halves and try to persuade by misinterpretation and deception. There is the same capacity for telling expression which makes the most of every strong point. Moreover, there is the same reliance on truth and right, always the most potent in every discussion.

BOARDS OF HEALTH.

The San Francisco Chronicle has the subjoined editorial on the powers and duties of boards of health:

"One trouble with our board of health is that its members are doctors, and as such attempt to carry into the public service the autocratic habits and bearing acquired in their private practice. They are accustomed to give arbitrary orders to be executed at other people's expense, and to insist on absolute obedimust be is well known to all who at any time in their lives have contracted the unfortunate habit of consulting one doctor after another for their ailments It is unnecessary to say that no one ever found two successive doctors wh prescribed the same remedies or gave the same directions. When doctors meet in consultation they fight these things out in secret, and in the end present a

"The board of health must understand that the city of San Francisco is not their patient. Even its prisoners and unfortunates are not their patients, for physicians are appointed and paid to care for these wards. The duty of the board is simply to appoint the neces-sary officials and expend the funds apposes in the most economical way.

The flour trust has collapsed. Too

little dough. Now "Little Bobs" is bigger than ever

in England.

The Chicago Times-Herald asks, "Is this a free country?" Free from what? The "balance of power" in prisoners

of war is now on the side of the British

that knoweth little about politics will tell it all, and more too.

Gen. Cronje has no stampeded mules to which to charge his disaster. He was just caught by an overwhelming force and could not help himself.

A compromise has been reached in Congress on the proposed legislation affecting Puerto Rico, but if anyone is satisfied with it he is keeping out of

That story by an English traveler who laims to have passed through Cenral Africa, may be true, but it is big enough to require corroborative evidence in several respects.

The march of civilization has made another long stride. The sources of the Nile in Central Africa now are in telegraphic communication with the civil-

It is gratifying that the surrender of Gen. Cronje was accomplished without an assault on his position, which would have cost many more lives to have attained the result.

Admiral Sampson can have little respect for Spanish veracity, the way he has to deny the inaccurate assertions of Captain Coneas, in the latter's report on the battle with Admiral Cervera's

Kentucky is now practically without a State government, since the "outs" have secured an injunction forbidding the "ins" from exercising the functions of office, yet the "Ins" hold possession so the "outs" are powerless to conduct affairs till the courts pass upon their

Taking the figures of the American army in the late war with Spain, only two men out of a hundred lost their lives in battle, with about four times that number wounded. But it is not so everywhere, for instance, the Dublin fusileers with Gen. Buller on the Tuge-

This body of troops went in \$50 strong, and now less than 200 of the original members remain, with much fighting still in prospect before the year of war is rounded out.

In the Roberts case, the speech of Congressman Littlefield had little effect because the overwhelming majority had decided on what course to pursue, regardless of any appeal to reason. But in differing from the majority on the Puerto Rican bill, Mr. Littlefield was more fortunate, and his speech against the proposed measure sealed its fate till it was so modified and limited that the majority of congressmen probably will allow it to pass as a temporary ex-

Gen. Cronje has surrendered to Lord Roberts, with his force of 3,000 men. Unable to escape, he made a wonderful defense for ten days against an army which, at the lowest estimate at the time the victory was achieved, was firteen times greater than his own, and with a vastly superior equipment of arms. No wonder the British military authorities praise his skill and the courage and fighting qualities of the Boer general and the men under this recognition of their valor and ability (failure in which on the part of the British was the primal cause of their early failures) will have the effect of securing for the Dutch in South Africa treatment that regards them less as inferior beings than has been the case heretofore, the result of British success may be a means of improving conditions which have prevailed. But while this victory may mark the beginning of the end of the struggle, it is early yet to predict when that end will come.

IS MARRIAGE A FAILURE ?

New York Evening Sun. Prof. William G. Sumner, of the Social Science department at Yale, in the course of his lecture to the senior class yesterday, gave it as his opinion that 90 per cent of the marriages nowadays turned out unhappily; that modern marriages were not a matter of love, and that in fact everything in a matrimenial way was as it ought not to be. It is stated that the professor's statisties caused a sensation among his hear-ers. Of course they ought not to have any such thing. The expression of the pessimistic view might very well have been greeted with uproar-ious laughter as a good joke. For it would have been only reasonable if the boys had con-cluded that the professor was sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought on account of his own failure in the matter of the tender passion.

Chicago Times-Herald.

In considering the brash assertion of Professor W. G. Sumner that per cent of all marriages are unhappy" we should make allowance, not for the professor's own family life but for certain intellectual peculiarities that are the result of his studies and training. For many years he has surrendered himself to the "dismal science" of political economy, and become as devoted to what he calls facts as Mr. Gradgrind. He has a dubious smile for both metaphysics and sentiment. He may have heroes of his own, but he loves to pull down the heroes of others. If a glowing youth feels an ecstasy of veneration for the fathers of the republic the professor will remind bim that they were mortal, very mortal and fallible, and mean upon occasion.

Boston Transcript.

Professor Sumner of Yale explains the meaning of his statement, that ninety per cent of the marriages of today are unhappy, to be that there is that proportion where the reality does not come up to the ideal and disappointment fol-On that basis life itself is un-

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Prof. Sumner's pronunciamento gives his class and the general public a theme for conversation. It is not likely to influence anyone's conduct.

No doubt Professor Summer was discussing matrimony in the abstract and with na intention of dissuading men and women from entering upon it. Without the institution of matrimony and laws to preserve it the world would lapse into social chaos. No ideals of any kind are ever realized in this life, but many of us manage to be happy norwithstanding. It is equally so with It is equally so with ry respect up to our expectations, and yet it will, if properly understood and therished, make men and women hap-pler, better and more useful than any ther institution which could be de

New York Journal.

Professor Sumner says: "A novel to be popular must in there days be opti-mistic. Therefore most novels stop with The time draweth near when the man the man times." Where should a novel stop,

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if not with a betrothal or a marriage ceremony? Why continue the optimism when you have reached the high level of all life's optimism—the happiness of marriage? What good end can be served by a pessimistic professor talking blue talk to a lot of students, who get an opportunity and a suitable girl? New York World.

In hundreds of thousands of happy homes marriage has been and is today an illimitable success. It has in none of them "realized the ideals" cherished at the beginning, but it has brought something immeasurably better into the lives of those concerned. It has knitted two kindred souls together. It has surrounded the hearthstone with children whose welfare and education common interest to the parents. It has invoked both joy and sorrow to unite two hearts with links of steel, for sorrows shared are as potent for love as joys in common. Human life is not dependent upon ideals. And marriage, with all its disappointments, has contributed more to human happiness and human advancement than any other institution eyer devised by God or man

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