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

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Charles W. Penrose, Editor Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager

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WE MEET THE ISSUES.

The controversy that has arisen over the action of the House of Representatives in the Roberts case, as the Deseret News has fully explained, relates to something of vastly more importance than its effects upon the Congressmen from Utah. It has a bearing upon the whole country. It is far-reaching and affects our national legislative system. If a member-elect happens to be the victim of some popular whim, sufficient to agitate the average Congressman, he can, on the precedent now afforded, be confronted with an objection from some political opponent, and made to stand aside until a committee of his enemies have sat upon his case and reported their findings. This is not only new in congressional proceedings, it is revolutionary.

Few, if any, papers of influence in the country now take the ground that this procedure is right or necessary. They concede that the proper course was to give the member from Utah the seat to which he was entitled, and, then, if the charges against him were of sufficient importance, to refer the whole matter to a committee composed of members taking opposite sides of the question.

But the Salt Lake morning paper which helped to raise the storm that carried Congress off its feet, stands almost alone in defending the action that was taken, and arguing for its permanent adoption as a parliamentary rule. We have fully met every attempt at reasoning in this direction which it has put forth, but it now returns to its shattered theory, utterly ignoring the fact that it has been knocked to pieces. It says:

"The News has not yet attempted to answer Representative Taylor's argument which had three main points: (1) That the qualifications for a Congressman, as noted in the Constitution, did not prohibit Congress from adding other needed essentials if it pleased; (2) that Congress had several precedents for refusing a duly elected member a place, until his status was inquired into; and (3) that with Mr. Roberts once sworn in and seated, there was no power in the House to expel him. Neither the News nor any other journal that thinks a mistake was made, has, so far as we have seen, attempted to review that argument."

One of the troubles of our contemporary is that it has a powerful forgetter. The Deseret News has repeatedly met the so-called "argument" of Mr. Taylor. On Dec. 14th, the News said:

"It is not disputed that Congress has the power to prescribe certain qualifications for its members other than those already required. But is anybody 'insane' enough to claim that when a member, duly elected and possessing all the qualifications already established by law, presents himself to take the oath of office, new qualifications can be sprung upon him to satisfy the clamor of the multitude, and having no legal force? While it may be perfectly legitimate for the House of Representatives to duly enact new provisions in reference to membership in that body, such new regulations cannot be adopted except in proper legislative form and procedure, and cannot be made retroactive. And no such added qualifications have yet been prescribed."

On December 15th the "News" remarked:

"Suppose it is conceded that Congress has full power to decide what qualifications, in addition to those named in the Constitution, it may deem necessary to its own dignity and the common welfare. Will it be claimed by any 'sane' persons that such qualifications can be required before they have been passed upon in the form of a law or a rule properly adopted by that body?"

"In the case under consideration, no such additional qualifications had been enacted, or adopted, or even proposed. A member-elect, possessing all the qualifications required of other members, was prevented from taking the same oath as was required of those who have been passed upon in the form of a law or a rule properly adopted by that body."

"In the very article which the Tribune attempts to answer and pervert, on December 21st the 'News' argued:

"Congress is restricted and governed by the Supreme Law of the land. It has no power that is not constitutional. It is endowed with the right to judge of the qualifications of its members, but those qualifications are defined either by the Constitution itself or by laws that have been enacted and promulgated. The House of Representatives has no right to require a new qualification as to membership until it has been duly enacted."

These replies, which cover the ground of Mr. Taylor's point No. 1, have not been noticed by our contemporary in its endeavors to bolster up the Ohio member's bag of wind, but there is no need of our repeating them.

In reference to No. 2, the "News" has shown that the so-called "precedents" cited by Mr. Taylor, were not relevant to the case in question. The persons objected to, in those instances, it was claimed, were without a qualification which had been made requisite to a seat in the House of Representatives. No such qualification had been adopted or required as that which Mr. Taylor sprung upon Mr. Roberts, and it has not yet become a requirement of law or settled regulation.

As to the third point, there is nothing in it except cause for laughter and contempt. On Mr. Taylor's mode of reasoning, a member-elect must be pre-

vented from taking his seat because of popular clamor, when there is no rule or law for his exclusion, on the ground that there was nothing which, after taking his seat, would justify his expulsion. If that sort of logic or justice requires any refutation, the mind must be warped indeed that needs it.

We have to repeat once more that our contemporary is wrong in persisting that all Mr. Roberts had to do, when presenting himself to take the oath of office, was to answer a simple question relating to his family affairs. In the first place, Mr. Roberts was not asked any question, which the Tribune can verify by reference to its own files giving particulars of the debate. And in the second place, the House had no right to ask him any such question, when he possessed all the legal qualifications for his office, which were then existing.

This covers the whole case. The fact stands out clear and certain that the proceedings against Mr. Roberts are unprecedented; that because of the fear of popular opinion, the majority in the House caught up the sophistries of Mr. Taylor, as the easiest way out of a dilemma; that it was an outrage on Mr. Roberts and upon the State of Utah; that it was a grave political blunder; and that if the policy pursued forms a precedent for future action, it is a terrible menace to the institutions of our country and a danger against which every patriotic American should raise his voice and influence.

TO EXTERPATE THE ELDERS.

The statement in a dispatch from Charleston, S. C., that the State legislature has been asked for a law against the Saints in South Carolina, is worthy of more than a passing note. It is the petition to the lawmakers, the hands of jealous ministers are plainly visible. A law is asked for—so says the dispatch—to "extirpate the Elders," and unless such an act is provided, threats of lynching are made.

The fact proves conclusively the absolute truth of the view that it is enemy against the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the moving force in the latest crusade, as it has been before. With great flourish and loud trumpet blast, the instigators of it have proclaimed to the country that they were absolutely innocent of the abominable charge that they were engaged in religious persecution. They have maintained that they were only fighting "lawlessness." In this South Carolina specimen of the crusade, the true nature of it is revealed, however. It is bigotry. There are no "polygamists," and no "polygamy" there except, perhaps, outside the Church, and yet the gentle ministers of Christ are clamoring for a law to "extirpate" the Elders.

How this can be done, remains to be seen. If legislatures are as bigoted as ministers, a way will be found whereby to satisfy the hunger and thirst for persecution that has been kindled in this country. And when the Church has been "extirpated," the next logical step will be to establish some one of the sectarian churches; to give it State support, special privileges and rights. With the spirit of the Constitution thus violated, there will be no end to religious trouble.

Is that what American ministers are laboring for? Do they want mediocrity Europe revived in this country, with its "heresies," and trials, and drivings, burnings at the stake, and massacres? Where is the shore towards which the monster-stirred currents are drifting. Are there breakers ahead? And will they be seen in time to be avoided? It behooves the American citizen to keep a good lookout.

BUY THE SLAVES.

There is a clause in General Bates' treaty with the so-called Sultan of Sulu, that has been the object of much adverse criticism. When the treaty stipulates that any slave in that country shall have the right to purchase his liberty at the current market price, it is urged that this is a sanction of the prevailing social custom.

It seems to us it is the contrary. At least, it is easier to construe as a condemnation of slavery with the added provision that it must be abolished in Uncle Sam's new accession, by purchase instead of by the shedding of blood. It should be taken as an intimation that the policy of the United States will be to, by some means or other, place the serfs in a position to obtain their freedom, without injury to anybody, and without a devastating war, which would be almost sure to follow the forcible breaking down of a long-established social institution.

To understand the situation, it is necessary to remember that in most Mohammedan countries slaves are property. To liberate them without compensation would be just as wrong, to the Mohammedan mind, as to kill wantonly their domestic animals. The system is wrong, of course, but that does not say that it must be abolished by fire and blood.

It will be remembered that the wisest statesmen of the United States, including the Prophet Joseph, are said to have advocated, at one time, the solution of the slave problem at home by purchase instead of war. It is not doubted now, that that would have been the best policy, and that to liberate a serf by giving an equivalent for him is not to sanction the relic of barbarism. Why should the critics denounce a Philippine policy which is conceded to have been the wisest as applied to slavery here?

THE PEACE CONVENTION.

There can be no doubt now, that the recommendations made by the Hague congress of peace will be accepted by the powers of the world. More than twenty of the states represented in that congress have already ratified the convention as submitted by the international conference. It still awaits the ratification of the United States, but it will certainly receive the signature of our government in due time.

According to the convention, as soon as a sufficient number of signatures have been obtained, a permanent court of arbitration is to be established at once, competent to deal with all cases of international disputes that may arise. The existence of this court does not prevent litigants from instituting

a special court of arbitration, if they so prefer. A permanent international bureau of information is also provided for, to serve as a record office for the court. These are the most important and striking features of the convention.

It is most interesting to reflect upon the history of this effort for peace. When the czar issued his famous peace circular, he was almost universally considered a crank. The idea he gave expression to was thought to be entirely impracticable. But the position of the czar was such that his word could not very well be ignored. The circular had touched a chord in public sentiment, and received a sympathetic response from the deep. Governments could do no less than to appoint delegates to meet and discuss the matter.

It was evident, though, that many of these delegates met with the preconceived idea that nothing could be accomplished. With them it was a question of burying the czar's plans as solemnly and decently as possible. But when the conference had been at work two weeks, a remarkable change took place. It was seen then that with some little effort in the right direction, it would be possible to accomplish something. The Russian idea was to have a general and gradual disarmament. This was abandoned, on account of the many practical difficulties that were discovered. But the American idea of international arbitration found favor, and thus it happened that the cause of peace gained a decided victory, notwithstanding the fears and doubts with which the work was commenced.

It is pleasant to reflect at this time, when peace and good will should dwell in every heart and home, that the last year of this century will in all probability see established at the Hague that permanent court of arbitration. The nations will then have a judiciary power among them, to take the place, virtually, of armies and navies, just as the courts in civilized communities have taken the place of the knife and the gun. That means ultimate disarmament, for armies and navies will gradually become superfluous.

It is gratifying to remember that the world owes this work, largely, to the influence of the American delegates at the Hague. Possibly their influence would not have been great enough to carry their points, but for the Spanish war, in which the supremacy of this nation, as measured by a military standard, was established. Possibly that war was necessary for the triumph of universal peace, and possibly, too, it is the last one in which this great country need be involved. With a court of arbitration established, there can be no further valid excuse for an appeal to force. The thought is as gratifying as it is appropriate, as we are approaching the manger in which rests in holy innocence and purity the King of peace.

AT ITS OLD TRICKS.

Great aid is made by some papers when they affect to fear the intrusion of the Church into secular affairs. But they take the fullest license whenever they please to meddle with Church affairs. They pick out men for high ecclesiastical offices, give accounts of Church meetings that have not taken place, and announce Church plans and projects that have no existence except in their own columns.

This morning the Tribune had a three-headed announcement of a wholesale free distribution of meats, poultry, vegetables, groceries, etc., from the tithing office. This had the effect to cause a rush of applications. A few who read of it told others who never look at the sheet, and so there have been many disappointments.

If the story was meant for a joke it was a heartless hoax. If it was intended for irony it was poor sarcasm. If it was published as news, it was of the same sort as its bogus letters and trumped-up lists of plural families. It is a wretched fabrication and cannot be too severely denounced.

It seems that the Tribune is never happy except when misleading the public, and never content when not publishing some monstrous canard. When the Church has any important announcement to make, it will be published in the Deseret News. The public are warned against the chronic exaggerator and fabricator called the Salt Lake Tribune.

THE DOOM OF THE BUFFALO.

A gentleman in this city, who is greatly interested in the preservation of the buffalo, which is now threatened with extinction, has called the attention of the Deseret News to a statement made by President Wilford Woodruff on the occasion of the dedication of Pioneer Park on July 24th, 1888. His remarks, on that occasion, caused considerable comment from people who never saw a herd of buffalo, in the time when they swarmed the great plains of America. The pioneers and others who came with teams to this region from the Missouri river, understood the statement made by the venerable gentleman and had no doubt of its accuracy. But there were some who were rather incredulous as to the number of the animals, as he related the story. But it has since been corroborated. Here is what President Woodruff said, as reported in the "News" of July 25th:

"President Woodruff then said he would speak of one incident and only one connected with the journey of the pioneers hither. It was suggested to him by the presence on the stand of W. C. A. Smoot, who was the youngest teamster in the advance guard. It occurred near the Platte river. One day the little band of home and liberty seekers were started by seeing to the west, directly ahead of them, what appeared to be a great black cloud close to the earth. To their amazement they discovered on approaching nearer that it was not a cloud, but a solid, mighty, moving body of buffalo, probably the greatest herd that had ever assembled in the Western world. There was great danger of being crushed to death by the mighty horde. What to do was a problem. But after consultation a wedgelike column was thrown out and an opening effected in the herd. Among this animated mass of the monarchs of the mountains and the plains they struggled on and on, for their own personal salvation, for three days and nights. At one time Brother Smoot lost a horse, which got mixed up with the buffalo, which were traveling, not in a scattered condition, but just as close as animals could crowd together. For a time it seemed as though

the loss would be permanent, but after a while the horse was recovered.

"It always was," said President Woodruff in his closing reference to the incident, "a mystery to me why that great body of buffalo should have gathered together and marched from its roaming place on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains and moved down to the Platte. It never occurred before, it never occurred since, and will never occur again."

In support of this statement the following is copied from the Denver News of Oct. 11:

"Judge Isaac R. Hitt, the well-known Washington attorney, who has spent many years in investigation of Indian depredation claims, is at the Brown hotel in company with his wife. He is in Colorado upon a short vacation. On my way through the East," said he, "I stopped at Omaha and had a long talk with a man who has seen a great deal of Western adventure. I refer to General Dandy. I asked the general many questions, and in the course of the talk asked what was the largest herd of buffalo he ever saw. The general thought a few moments and replied: 'The largest herd I ever came across was in Colorado west of Julesburg. I was with a party traveling towards the mountains, and one morning as we were about to start on our day's journey a herd of buffalo appeared, and soon the advance was completely cut off. The herd extended as far as the eye could reach, and all day we waited in vain for the stream to get by. We went into camp on the same spot as on the night before, and all night the buffalo could be heard moving on their apparently endless chain. We watched the movement during the day, and it was three days before the trail was once more open and we could proceed. I would not attempt to estimate the number of buffalo in the herd, but it amounted into the millions.'"

The destruction of these grand monarchs of the plains is deplorable. Traffic in the skins, which have come to be of great value, is the chief occasion of their wholesale slaughter. There have been many attempts to breed them, but they have not been highly successful. The story of their decadence and what has been done to arrest its progress is graphically told in a recent work by "Buffalo Jones" in "Forty Years of Adventure." He once took ten of the animals across the Atlantic for a wealthy English nobleman who tried the process of hybridization, but it did not reach the success that was fondly anticipated. The buffalo seems to be doomed. The anecdote told by President Woodruff and corroborated by General Dandy, shows how rapidly a once numerous species of the animal creation can disappear from the face of the earth.

Now is the time to make the worthy poor happy, and then to keep at it.

European intervention in the South African war is a thing to talk about, and that is as far as it goes.

One more Christmas with the clamor of war between Christian nations resounding in the ears of the world!

The Venezuelan revolution has been crushed again. The crushing process there should be developed into a pulverizer.

The prevalence of lung troubles now existing makes things appear almost as if an epidemic had reached this part of the country.

The story comes from London that Filipino insurgents are buying large supplies of artillery in Europe. It may be easy to buy, but the delivery is another affair.

Prominent Canadian sentiment on the burning question of the hour with Great Britain shows that imperial federation is not immovably planted on Canadian soil.

The claim that the Philippine insurgents have plenty of money to keep things going has strong endorsement in the fact that the chief thing in the rebellion, Aguinaldo, keeps on going.

England might purchase Delagoa Bay, and there be no trouble, but should there be an effort to seize it there would be great danger of thrusting the European fat into the fire.

That Spanish war veteran who was killed at Natick, Mass., last night, while attacking a young lady, would have been better off to have died a hero, in an attack on the enemy on the field of battle.

The giving of contributions for Gen. Lawton's family is highly commendable from the American point of view, but the raising of subscriptions to give direct or indirect aid to either party in a foreign war is an entirely different proposition.

The tales about Boers having unlimited quantities of money to buy assistance are too fairy-like to be accepted as relating facts. A big supply of war material was laid up for the present condition, but the other assertions are outside of the domain of probability.

The reason for the Boer commander's rudeness complained of by Gen. Merrett has come out. During an armistice after the Magersfontein battle a British naval gun was fired, giving the Boers to understand that the armistice was violated, hence the refusal to hold further communication with the British commander.

There is a convict in the California State prison who seems to have the better of the officials there. He could get out by taking the pauper's oath in lieu of a fine he cannot pay, and the law holds him till he takes the oath. As he will not subscribe to that part of the performance, it looks as though he were sure of board and lodging at the State expense for some time to come.

There appears considerable justification in the complaint of the British public, of a censorship that allows reports that tell only of disaster and how clever the enemy were in defeating British arms, yet permits no word of detail that tells of bright features and brave deeds in the English attempted advance. Such accounts are too strong an inference that all the cleverness was on one side, to give satisfaction to a people who have learned that their own soldiers fight well and cleverly too.

A Russian newspaper takes this view regarding the reverses of the British in Natal: "God is punishing an arrogant and rapacious people who have oppressed and persecuted other races in order to enrich themselves." The expression of opinion is important only because Russian censorship stamps it

BEST HOLIDAY GOODS

Display in the City is now on view at Z. C. M. I., and everybody is invited. Our great DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT has the choicest and Largest Stock ever exhibited in the West. All other departments are in unison with an extensive supply. Owing to having been able to make most of our purchases just before the recent advances, we are able to make OUR PRICES THE LOWEST.

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Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

as almost semi-official. But it should be read with considerable interest by Poles, Finlanders and some other nations who are constantly praying that somebody will stop the further aggression by a "rapacious people," which has no Anglo-Saxon connection whatever.

PHILADELPHIA THE PLACE

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

By a vote of 25 to 24 the Republican national committee has decided that the next Republican convention shall be held at Philadelphia. While the Republicans of the West would have preferred Chicago, they will gladly accept Philadelphia as their second choice. Philadelphia is a historic city full of grand memories of the fathers of the Republic, and we hope the Republican delegates will be permeated with a like spirit of patriotism and sagacity which marked the assemblage in Independence Hall when Thomas Jefferson presented his immortal Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that every man was of right entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

For the third time in the history of the Republican party its national convention will be held next year in Philadelphia, the national committee having made choice of that city yesterday by the close vote of 25 against 24 for Chicago. The date set is June 19, the latest date in the history of the party, there having been only one other convention, that held in Chicago in 1888, of the same date. Of the twelve conventions since the formation of the Republican party as a national organization, including that to be held next year, only four have been held east of the Allegheny Mountains, and but one of the other eight farther east than Chicago, that city having had five out of the twelve. Ten of the conventions were set for June and two for May.

Kansas City Star.

The first great national convention held in Philadelphia was that of the Whig party in 1848. General Zachary Taylor was then nominated for the office of President of the United States, to which he was elected a few months later. In Philadelphia was also held the first notable convention of the Republican party. This was in 1856. Fremont was nominated and lost. Buchanan, who was nominated at Cincinnati, by the Democrats, being elected. In 1872 Philadelphia was again the scene of the national Republican gathering, and General Grant was nominated for his second term as President. Baltimore had been the scene of nearly all the conventions prior to 1856, and seemed to have a pull over its neighbor in Chicago. But the city of the future is no longer to be a mere active convention committee and, possibly, hung to its accumulated dollars with less tenacity than did the thrifty Quakers, for it is more than probable that both these factors were as potential in convention matters a half century ago as now, for an old-fashioned "pull" bears a close resemblance to that of the modern brand.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

In the contest for the selection of the next meeting place of the Republican national convention, Philadelphia won over Chicago by one vote—or 25 to 24—of the members of the national Republican committee. New York was not in it, receiving only seven votes. Philadelphia is by no means so well equipped with hotel, hall and other accommodations as either Chicago or New York, but there are, nevertheless, many elements of fitness in the selection. It is the leading city in a State which for many years has rolled up bigger majorities for the Republican party than any other State in the Union.

Worcester Spy.

It has been years since a Republican national convention has been held so far east as Philadelphia. The city of brotherly love lies on a direct line between north and south, but it is a daring experiment to compel western delegates to travel 2,600 miles. But the city is in the heart of the most densely populated strip of the country, the Atlantic seaboard, it has abundant hotel facilities and a convention hall probably without an equal in the country. Philadelphia is well only as regards location and telegraphic facilities.

Springfield Republican.

The choice of Philadelphia as the meeting place of the next Republican national convention is surprising and significant. It will be the first time since 1872 that the convention has been held in the East, while a Democratic national convention has not been held in that part of the country since 1868, when Seymour was nominated in Tammany Hall. There have been two principal reasons for the choice of Philadelphia as a western city for these political events. The convenience of the delegates is consulted in selecting more central locations; and the rise of the West in political power and influence has compelled a recognition which party managers have deemed it wise to favor even in small ways.



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THE POCKETBOOKS.

The leather section has been the center of attraction the last few days. There's certainly no such stock to choose from anywhere, and there's certainly not many things nicer to give for Christmas. Just one more day to make your selections. Pocket books, card cases, memorandum books, 25c to \$10.

THE TOILET ARTICLES.

These with sterling silver backs, and ebony backs are the most popular, and such rich and handsome gifts—too many to take the census of. Hence, start with hair brushes and run down to dainty little nail files; start at 25c and run up to \$20. Some single pieces, some in sets.

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