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"MORMONISM" IN DENVER.

Denver is greatly excited over the advent of two lady missionaries of the "Mormon" Church, and the ministers of different denominations are up in arms against the invasion, as they consider it, of their religious domain. A number of them have rushed into print with an exhibition of their dense ignorance of "Mormonism," and their bitter animosity against its disciples and promulgators. They use the common periphrases of our faith, distortion of the utterances of our Church leaders, and misrepresentation of the motives and actions of our people, with which the Latter-day Saints have been familiar for several years. There is nothing new in them and very little that is true.

Miss Fanny Woolley and Miss Lucy Grant have met with the treatment usually accorded to "Mormons" by so-called "Christian" people, in their endeavors to perform the work to which they have been called. Doors have been slammed in their faces and abuse heaped upon them as they moved from house to house distributing tracts, and they have been insulted grossly by people who ought to know better. That, however, and the opposition of the churches and their ministers, will make no difference to their labors of love.

As an offset to the attacks of the sectarian preachers, Elder Joseph A. McRae, president of the Colorado mission, has furnished to the Denver News the following brief statement, to which that paper has given prominent place:

"There are many peculiar ideas respecting the teaching of the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, and yet theirs is not a new religion.

"Christ and His Apostles taught a faith in God, repentance from sin and baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as essential to salvation; so do the Mormons.

"Christ and His Apostles taught a Gospel that applied to more than those who were living at that time; a salvation that reached out to those who were long since dead, and did not confine their ideas of redemption to the few who were permitted to hear the truth in this life; such are the teachings of the Mormons.

"He sent His disciples to preach without hire, as all true disciples should do, and are doing today.

"He healed the sick by the power of faith and taught His disciples so, and gave that as one sign that men might know the true faith and not be led away by every wind of doctrine; such are the views held by the Mormons.

"He received His teachings from divine revelation, and taught that as a doctrine to be perpetuated; such are the views held by the Mormons.

"In fact, all the teachings of Christ and His Apostles are re-taught by the Latter-day Saints, and we suppose that is what constitutes them such a peculiar people, and not because they are accused of teaching something that is not Biblical (which accusation is false).

"The doctrine of polygamy that has caused such a furor among the people of the world is not advocated today. The law of our land says that it shall no more be practiced, and that is the end of argument with all true Latter-day Saints.

"One of our articles of faith says: 'We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.'

"The teachings received by the youth of Mormonism will make them better citizens and more loving of country than their religion. They have been tried and found valiant to their country's flag and will ever defend it in the maintenance of truth and virtue, even to the last drop of blood."

A big stream of cold water has been turned upon the conflagration started by the sectarian ministers, in a declaration by the senior United States Senator from Colorado, who has always been a consistent and truthful friend to the people of Utah. That has also been published in the columns of the Denver News as follows:

"Senator Teller has no fear of the Mormons. In the course of an interview last evening he said:

"I have no fear of the Mormons. The newspapers and the railroads have settled the Mormon question."

"In the United States Senate we have no Mormon senators from Utah. On the contrary, one of the Utah senators is a Catholic. He was the last senator elected from Utah."

"There is no more danger from religious fanaticism from the Mormon Church than from any other church."

"All the churches aim to dictate to their members as to politics, but no great harm results as far as I can see."

"I believe the practice of polygamy is abandoned in Utah, and the people are an enterprising, industrious people, who are advancing in education and in fortune under good laws. They are loyal to the government, as was shown in the Spanish war, and although it has been claimed in the East that the Mormons have gained political control of Colorado, I have never noticed it to be a fact."

We congratulate our brethren and sisters in Colorado on the stir that they have made among the religious folks in Denver. Agitation is so very much better than apathy; inertia is much more to be deplored than even the most violent opposition. The attention of people who think for themselves and are not led blindly by religious pastors or dictatorial writers, will be attracted toward the devoted missionaries of our Church. Inquiries will follow, and the results will be that success which gladdens the hearts of all laborers in the cause of truth and encourages them to further exertions.

VACCINE AND ANTI-TOXIN.

The announcement of several deaths from lockjaw following vaccination, and also of fatal results from the use of anti-toxin administered to cure diphtheria, will have a very powerful influence towards hindering the cause of both methods now in use for the fighting of disease.

Tetanus, or lockjaw, is a terrible and frequently fatal disorder. There have been a large number of cases reported at different times and places in Europe and in America, which have been traced to vaccination. Coroners' inquests have so decided. The recent cases of tetanus in St. Louis were undoubtedly the result of the injection of anti-toxin into the bodies of children suffering from diphtheria. The facts cannot be fairly disputed. The deductions hastily made therefrom are open to question.

It is highly probable that the vaccine virus used in the cases described in the dispatches was impure. This, no doubt, will be alleged by the physicians who believe in the virtues of vaccination. The matter ought to be and no doubt will be, thoroughly investigated, and whatever facts may be developed ought to be made known to the public. The bare possibility of spreading disease by means of any kind of inoculation, will naturally have the effect of prejudicing the masses against it in every form. Of course the cases mentioned and others reported in medical works are exceptions, and should not of themselves be taken as evidence against the practice. But they do furnish some reason why it should not be enforced, either among children or adults, against the wishes of those who disbelieve in its virtues.

Reputable and reliable physicians of this city, as well as many others in different parts of the country, affirm most positively the benefits of anti-toxin in serious cases of diphtheria. It is claimed, and with a good show of credibility, that the deaths in St. Louis from lockjaw resulted from gross carelessness in the preparation of the antidote. The coroners' jury which investigated the deaths of seven children from lockjaw, found that it was caused by the presence of tetanus toxin in the diphtheria anti-toxin administered to them, and that the fault lay with the Board of Health that issued the serum.

The great difficulty in the way of those alleged preventives and curatives which involve the insertion of matter into the human system, taken from animals that have been subjected to inoculation with virus containing germs of disease, is that the actual condition of the creatures thus impregnated is not fully understood. While apparently healthy at the time when the lymph or anti-toxin is extracted, they may have inherited from remote progenitors the germs of disease which are not developed until transmitted to offspring, or to the human beings who receive the virus.

In any event it is probable that both vaccination for smallpox and the use of anti-toxin for diphtheria, will receive a set-back through the cases of lockjaw recently reported. Both diseases are more than ordinarily obnoxious and to be dreaded, but diphtheria numbers a much larger percentage of fatalities than the other and more generally repulsive disorder.

The remedies now in use are not to be considered as demonstrated to be either deadly or non-efficacious. The question as to their utility is still open to the general public, although it may be considered almost settled in favor of their benefits by the majority of the medical world. This is an age of experiment and progress, and there are two sides at least to every question worthy of consideration.

WILL RECOMMEND STATEHOOD.

According to a forecast in a Washington dispatch, President Roosevelt will, in his message to Congress, recommend the admission into the Union of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Oklahoma is the youngest of these territories, having only during the last twelve years grown into prominence. There can be no valid ground of refusing statehood to the other two. Arizona especially is well equipped to take its place among the sovereign states.

But Oklahoma's qualifications are by no means insignificant. Its population consists mainly of Westerners with characteristic Western pluck and energy. Last year the Territory had 114,736 children on its school rolls, of whom the average attendance was \$5,635. There were 255 students in the university, exclusive of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, which had 364. There are two normal schools, one of which had at the date of the latest report 253 students. There are more than nine hundred church organizations in the territory. If Indian Territory could be joined to Oklahoma and the two go in together, the new state would start with a population of over 800,000, and thus be ahead, in this respect, of a number of states.

MEXICAN ARBITRATION PLAN.

The arbitration plan of the Mexican delegates to the pan-American congress is said to differ somewhat from that adopted by the Hague congress. The latter declared that arbitration was the proper way of settling all kinds of international differences, but left it optional with the powers concerned to resort to arbitration, or not. The Mexican delegates take the view that questions involving a nation's honor are not subjects of arbitration. They enumerate certain subjects that are not to be considered as involving national honor, and these are generally, private claims for damages, and also controversies over treaty interpretation on issues of private international law, on water rights or fisheries, on merely technical boundary disputes, on international protection of routes of communication, or of moral and intellectual interests. In all other controversies, the interested powers must decide for themselves whether "honor" is involved, since every nation is the custodian of its own honor.

If the Mexican plan is adopted, a long stride toward permanent peace is certainly taken, for questions of "honor" between nations do not now play much of a role, compared to questions of profit. Wars are less likely to break out because of insulted dignity than on

account of threatened financial injury. Generally there is a diplomatic way out of every dilemma where nothing but "honor" is at stake. It was not honor alone that prompted the European allies to gather on Chinese soil. Were honor much of a factor in civilized politics, the Turkish sultan would long ago have been driven from Constantinople, for every atrocity committed under the eyes of the Turkish government is an insult to the nations that have pledged themselves to assist on humane government in Turkish dependencies. But international honor can stand a good deal. For that reason, if an agreement can be effected by which all questions not involving "honor" must be submitted to arbitration, wars will become less frequent.

But the reasoning of the Mexicans is nevertheless one-sided. They argue that self-respecting nations cannot compromise "when they sincerely believe their honor is involved." They believe "honor" is better vindicated by killing a few thousand people who as a rule are entirely innocent as far as the question in controversy goes, and wasting a few million dollars' worth of property. That is the kind of honor that prefers a duel, and perhaps murder, to submission of the quarrel to a court for adjudication. Fortunately, the individual duel is no longer considered honorable among civilized men, and the great problem of international arbitration is to make war as unpopular, and criminal among nations, as the vendetta and the duel are among individuals.

Still, it is not to be expected that this can be accomplished all at once. It must come gradually. And the Mexican plan, being less sweeping than the Hague convention, may, for that reason, be the more practical of the two.

LIQUOR QUESTION IN NEW YORK.

No sooner has New York by an overwhelming vote decided for a "pure and moral" city administration, than the question of Sunday closing of the saloons is brought up for discussion, and the important point is that the opinions on this question are as divided as ever. Under the old regime, saloons were held open unmoistened, provided the owners paid liberally for their defiance of the law. The law-upholding citizens naturally concluded that with the ousting of the old officers, the licensed law-breaking would cease, but now many of the voters claim that their intention was not to make New York a "dry town," but only to stop the infamous blackmailing that was carried on. They clamor for Sunday beer.

Strange to say, Dr. Parkhurst, a total abstainer and a leader in the reform movement, has placed himself on record as not opposed to Sunday opening, if the sale of intoxicants is confined to beer and light wines. He argues thus: "I consider the Germans as a most valuable part of our population. They want their Sunday beer with their families. The fathers go to beer gardens with their wives and children; they hear good music, surrounded by their families. It does no one any harm. I look upon the German idea of a beer garden as one of the most beneficial examples of domesticity in the world. I have been in them on every day in the week, and I know about them."

There is much curiosity manifested in the probable position the new mayor will take on the question. The New York Evening Post predicts that he will pursue the course he did twenty years ago in Brooklyn. There, says the Post, "the sale of liquor to people entering the side-doors of saloons in Brooklyn during the years 1882-1885 did not disturb the quiet of the community or interrupt religious services, and this system, which flourished for those four years under Mr. Low and later for two years under Mayor Schieren without police blackmail, satisfied all reasonable people as the best possible solution of the problem, pending changes in the law. It is safe to say that time has only strengthened Mr. Low's convictions in this matter, and that he will apply his old principles of action on a larger scale." If this prognostication is correct, New York will continue very much as it has been in the past, except for the levying of blackmail, and the reformers will have to commence work anew. The "moral" lesson it was hoped New York would set the rest of the country, will be to a great extent lost.

Undoubtedly an effort will be made to have new regulations for the sale of intoxicants passed, during the next session of the legislature. Whether this will result in local option for the larger cities, or the general throwing open of all saloons in the State on certain hours on Sunday, or in the retaining of the law as it now stands, matters not. The important point is that the law, as it is, or whatever it may become, is strictly and impartially enforced, according to the letter and the spirit thereof. It is best to enforce even a bad law, as far as doing so does not conflict with higher principles, for the enforcement of such a law is sure to demonstrate its defects, and bring about its repeal. Nothing is more demoralizing than the constant evasion of law. That fosters contempt for all law. It breeds the spirit of anarchy. It is responsible for many of the crimes of our time.

Will the President's message be short and sweet or linked sweetness long drawn out?

Reciprocity is the topic of the hour politically, but the views upon the question are anything but reciprocal.

"Are we becoming Indians?" asks the Baltimore Sun. Not much. We are becoming the Improved Order of Redmen.

The New York police force is to have a new head. This can only mean that Chief Devery is to lose his head, or that it is to be laid low.

A Brown university man is engaged in an endeavor to extract light from decayed meat. It is a task worthy the best efforts of the learned doctors whose occupations are so graphically described by Swift.

And now J. P. Morgan is said to be after a number of British ship yards.

If the gentleman wants to do something that will bring him laudable fame, let him pay Miss Stone's ransom and have that annoying incident closed.

Seven deaths from lockjaw have resulted from vaccination for smallpox in Cambridge, New Jersey. It is a glowing tribute to "science," and proves as nothing else could that vaccination, followed by lockjaw resulting in death, is a sure preventive of smallpox.

The number of fatal hunting accidents in Maine and Wisconsin is something appalling. During the hunting season the woods in both states are full of hunters, and no doubt the great majority of them are men totally unused to handling guns. The expectation of seeing a deer makes them nervous and they shoot at almost any and everything, thinking it is a deer; and when one is hunting, many things resemble whatever game one is after. New hunters think there is little or no danger in a gun, while the old hunter with years of experience knows that a gun is dangerous without lock, stock or barrel.

"Where are the boys? What has become of the public school boy who used to play pegtop, marbles, baseball and hockey on the Common, and 'fire' his crackers on the hill on the Fourth of July? who coasted on the long path from Beacon to West street in winter. Can you find a boy now who knows the difference between an alley, a twozer, an agate or a chinee? How long since you have seen a boy driving a hoop?" asks the Boston Commercial Bulletin. Gone West to grow up with the country, of course. They can be seen any day on the streets of Salt Lake City, and other western towns, playing all these, and enjoying them as much as ever any New England boys did. And we fancy they can be found in the New England towns playing these games with the same zest that they did in days of yore.

THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.

New York Mail and Express.

If the commission decides positively and finally for the Nicaraguan route, the Nicaragua route it will undoubtedly be. That will relieve us of all necessity of dickering with the French company or negotiating over complicated relations with Colombia, and it will be the death knell of the Panama scheme, at least for this generation. It will make effective the new treaty with Great Britain, which seems sure of prompt ratification, and clear the way for action upon the interoceanic waterway for which the world has been waiting so long.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

It is said that the commission will report the existence of a combination of railroad and steamship interests to defeat the canal project. It is generally known that the transcontinental railroads have persistently opposed the isthmian canal project, and of late it has been apparent that the flourishing Panama canal company would like to delay action in the hope that it might eventually unload its financial elephant upon the United States at a good profit; but it has not been a matter of common knowledge that the Suez canal company has also been a factor in the opposition. The steamship lines which are included in the combination said to have been reported by the isthmian canal commission, are either owned by the transportation lines which control freightage by way of the isthmus, or hold paying contracts that they are loth to relinquish.

Boston Herald.

The area we greatly need easy access to is the west coast of South America, Australia, New Zealand, and the southern Pacific generally, and for the purpose of trade development in these quarters the Panama route would be much more convenient than the Nicaragua route. It is to be regretted that the question cannot be considered in an entirely impartial manner and that any prejudice should exist in the minds of members of Congress. The proposition is in its broadest sense a business question, and if the United States is to build a canal it should endeavor to construct it as a canal company would, along those lines or at that place where the traffic which it was built to accommodate would be best served.

THE SIBERIAN RAILROAD.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The announcement from St. Petersburg of the practical completion of the trans-Siberian railroad is interesting to every nation in the world. Russia is an empire of vast extent, but her power has not been proportionately large because of the lack of transit facilities and the absence of the social and political cohesion which ease of communication establishes. The trend of development on the Pacific coast of Asia has made it necessary for Russia to place her in position to meet the requirements of occasions which demand prompt action, and a railway line across Siberia to Vladivostok, its eastern seaport, became a vital strategic enterprise. The railroad is now in operation, but its facilities are far from satisfactory, and an immense amount of work will have to be done to make it serviceable to the government in the transportation of troops.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It is barely possible that the Manchurian line has been rushed through so that military supplies may be carried over that province to Port Arthur; but it will be more than two years before this section will be in shape for regular commercial service. It has been the policy of the Russian government to expedite the laying of rails at first with very little regard for the condition of the roadbed and afterward to reconstruct the latter at leisure. This has been done as a military necessity. But there is a vast amount of track that will have to be relaid before the line will be a commercial success.

THE CAPTIVITY OF MISS STONE.

Boston Herald.

The captivity of the American missionary, Miss Stone, is not removed from perplexity to the public mind as time progresses. Several weeks since word was sent out that an immediate understanding with the brigands who have her in their power was necessary if her life was to be saved. Following this, the case took on another form. We were told that waiting could be obtained, as it apparently has been obtained, but it does not appear that any definite negotiations have been effected with Miss Stone's captors. The affair is a muddle with tragedy always impending in it, but providentially never realized. This really all that can be said with certainty in the way of information with regard to this most unfortunate woman. In the mean time, her sufferings from suspense as to her ultimate fate, not to take into account the possibility of her experience among those who are retaining her for ransom, must be very severe.

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