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LAW AND RELIGION CLASSES.

The subject of religion classes was very clearly presented by President Anthon H. Lund at the recent conference. It is one of great importance to the Latter-day Saints. No religious instruction is or may be imparted in the district schools. That is a settled question and is generally understood. The necessity for such teaching to young children is recognized by most religious societies. Sunday schools have been instituted for this purpose. They do most excellent work, particularly in the "Mormon" Church, which is not excelled anywhere in its Sunday school system. But the idea that five or six days may be employed in secular education for the young, and only part of one day for religious training, is viewed as a discrimination in the wrong direction. For this among many reasons, religion classes for children have been organized in Zion.

The necessity of keeping those classes entirely separate and distinct from the district schools has been held in view from the beginning of the movement. The plan is to have competent persons, ladies or gentlemen, to take charge of and teach the little folks principles of faith and rules of morality, how to pray and sing and participate in devotional exercises, and to conduct themselves properly toward each other and their parents. This is to be done in a way to suit the juvenile capacity and lead the young mind in the way of godliness and right action.

The classes are to be held on given days in the week, according to the convenience and facilities of each ward of the Church. They are not to be conducted during school hours nor as part of any school curriculum. The superintendents and teachers are to be selected because of their adaptation to the work, and they serve gratuitously. The place of meeting is to be as near to the district schoolhouses as will make them convenient for the children to attend after school has been dismissed. In some instances trustees have permitted the use of a district schoolhouse for these classes, when they would not interfere with the school or injure school property, and on payment for light or fuel or any other expense thereby entailed. That in such exceptional instances they have not violated the law is clear from the following on the powers of the school board:

"It may permit a schoolhouse, when not occupied for school purposes, to be used for any purpose which will not interfere with the teaching or other furniture or property, and shall make such charges for the use of the same as they may decide to be just; but for any such use or privilege the district shall not be at any expense for fuel or otherwise."—Revised Statutes, Sec. 1822.

This privilege, provided for by law, of the use of a district schoolhouse, on permission of the board of trustees, for other than school purposes is wise and beneficial in case of the delivery of a lecture, or an entertainment, or any public gathering, especially in country districts not favored with assembly halls. The meeting of a class for children therein when it is not occupied by the regular school, can do no one any harm and will not be objected to except by some weak-minded, cranky or malicious person. However, it is only in exceptional instances that the district schoolhouse is used to hold those classes in, and the usual practice and advice is to hold them elsewhere if practicable.

We recur to this subject, which was so clearly and ably presented by President Lund on the occasion referred to, that the intimation that holding a religion class in a district schoolhouse under the restrictions described is contrary to law, may be exploded. Let it be understood that the policy of the organization is to keep the classes separate and distinct not only from the secular schools but from the school buildings as much as possible. But that the law permits the use of those buildings for such purposes under the direction of the trustees subject to the provisions quoted, ought to be clear to every sane mind. We hope the movement for the classes will receive the support of parents and of the public in every part of the Church, and it is certain that great good will be accomplished by them under wise supervision and strict compliance with the law and the rules adopted for their government.

A FOUL INSINUATION.

Anent the furor attempted to be revived in Idaho, to say nothing of Utah, over matters that are rapidly settling themselves, but which are looked upon as vitally important by ill-advised persons, and utilized by some political aspirants and their supporters, the Caldwell, Idaho, Tribune has a very pertinent editorial, from which we copy the following:

"It is argued by a certain school of social parasites that the integrity of every home in Idaho is endangered by the existence of a few moribund cases of

polygamy in the southeastern extremity of the State. It is solemnly predicted that if all classes of people do not unite and hasten to eradicate those remnants of impurity, they will revive, grow and spread until the moral atmosphere of the entire commonwealth is saturated with sexual lust, and every husband becomes the proprietor of a polygamous household. This is substantially the doctrine preached and the picture presented. It is supposed to be very effective with the women, and is said to cause them profound apprehension and untold anxiety, which state of mind renders them desperate to the point of voting the Democratic ticket. If this is true, the husbands and fathers of Idaho will hardly feel flattered at the estimate of them formed by their wives.

"But is it true that the wives of Idaho regard their husbands as libertines (trotting under the restraint of civil and criminal laws, panting to be unleashed and awaiting only favorable opportunity to burst the bonds and plunge into sexual debauchery? We don't believe the wives of Idaho regard their husbands in that light. We don't believe they relish the intimation conveyed by anti-Mormon politicians; but we do believe that when they come to properly sense the matter they will be filled with scorn and indignation. They will vindicate their intelligence and demonstrate their faith in the loyalty of their husbands by laughing at the boogymen which has been conjured up to alarm them and reprobating the political fakirs who have sought to destroy the very foundations of family peace and happiness by casting doubt upon the moral character, confidential integrity, sexual decency and fidelity of every husband and father in the State; for that is the insinuation conveyed by anti-Mormon politicians when they charge that the purity of our homes is endangered by the existence of a few decaying remains of a mistaken and unhappy religious tenet.

THE REMARRIAGE CANON.

The Protestant Episcopal church in this country seems to stand exactly where it stood three years ago, on the question of the remarriage of divorced persons. In 1901 the subject was thoroughly discussed at the general convention held in San Francisco. An attempt was made at that time to make it unlawful for ministers to marry divorced persons "unless their former marriage was annulled by a decree of some civil court of competent jurisdiction for cause existing before such former marriage." This proposition passed the house of bishops, but it was rejected by the deputies. The matter was, however, referred to a committee of fifteen members, five bishops, five clergymen, and five lay members with instruction to report at the present convention. This committee presented a majority, and a minority report. The majority recommended that whenever any question arose as to the legality of the application of either party to the marriage ceremony, questions of fact shall be referred to the bishop of the diocese, who shall make such inquiry as he shall deem expedient and deliver his judgment in the premises. The minority report provided that questions of fact shall be determined by the record of the civil court which adjudged or decreed the divorce. The two houses have again failed to agree on an amendment to the canon on that subject, and the matter will again, we presume, go to some committee, or be dropped for the time being.

The attitude of some of the leading churches on the question of the remarriage of divorced persons is not radically different in theory, whatever the general practice may be. The Protestant Episcopal church does not permit its ministers to marry persons who are divorced, otherwise than "God's word doth allow." If the cause arises after the marriage. In the Roman Catholic church the rule is, we believe, that no one who is once validly married can marry as long as the other party is alive, except by special dispensation. Presbyterian ministers, we believe, must refuse to perform the ceremony in cases of divorced persons, except where the divorce has been obtained upon grounds recognized as scriptural. The Methodists do not recognize divorce, except for infidelity, and only the innocent party is, in their view, entitled to remarry, except if the divorced persons desire to resume the marriage relation.

The discussion on this subject aims at combatting one of the great evils of our time. But when it is thoroughly considered, it appears clear that the laws already existing are ample enough, if they were applied consistently. Respect for law is even more needed that a multiplication, or reconstruction of laws.

RUSSIA DECLINES.

The Washington dispatch which represents our government as now ready to assume the role of mediator between Russia and Japan can hardly be regarded as "inspired." If it was sent out as a "feeler," to ascertain the views of the belligerents, it has served its purpose to this extent that the foreign office of the French government has not officially stated that Russia is not willing to entertain any overtures for peace, as yet. That disposes of the matter for the present.

There can be no compromise now, except on the basis of complete withdrawal of Russia from the Chinese provinces. That Russia, long ago, solemnly promised to do, but broke her promises. That was the cause of the Japanese war, to compel Russia to keep her promises to the powers. If Russia now were willing to withdraw from Manchuria, in favor of Japan, and pay a large indemnity, besides, mediation would be possible. But until one party or the other, in this terrible contest, is convinced that its cause is just, friendly offices of a third party will not be appreciated. If the neutral powers want peace, they must compel the combatants to lay down their arms.

If our government really desires to promote the interests of peace, it should act on the suggestion of the Inter-parliamentary Union, and call a convention of nations for the purpose of earnestly discussing the formation of an international congress to convene periodically and act on all international affairs. That would be a long step toward the establishment of arbitration. This war will have to be fought to a finish, which may be near, or far off, but an international congress would make another such war unnecessary, perhaps impossible.

THE DEADLY RAIL.

The New York Herald gives the figures representing the casualties on American railroads, for the last nine years, since 1895. They show an almost appalling total, and they indicate, moreover, that there is a steady increase, as traffic increases. These are the figures:

Year.	Killed.	Injured.
1895.....	6,136	33,748
1896.....	5,845	38,687
1897.....	5,437	35,731
1898.....	6,529	40,882
1899.....	7,123	44,629
1900.....	7,553	50,329
1901.....	8,459	53,339
1902.....	8,258	64,662
1903.....	9,540	76,553

That is, last year there were more than 86,000 casualties, with nearly 10,000 fatal accidents. And this year will probably show an increase over last year, in fatalities.

Is there no remedy for this slaughter? It has been pointed out that the weak construction of passenger cars is one cause of so many deaths in collisions. Common day coaches, it is said, collapse like eggshells, while sleeping-cars withstand the shock. There may be some truth in this, and perhaps many lives could be saved in more solid cars; but the chief fault lies with the general public, that does not hold human life in high enough esteem to demand a thorough investigation of accidents, and the adequate punishment of the responsible parties. Were there more general regard for the value of human life, accidents would not be so soon forgotten. Justice would be meted out, until those responsible for the safety of passengers would do their full duty.

In Great Britain no such number of railroad accidents occur, and, as the Herald maintains, "England's comparative immunity is in large measure due to the fact that the Board of Trade will prosecute and secure the imprisonment of the guilty person."

Whirlwind campaigns—a breath can make them as a breath has made.

The Russians have succeeded in taking a fall out of the Japanese.

In Manchuria the paths of glory lead to the grave as they rarely have before.

The fighting at Shakhie is far more of a slugging match than of a scientific bout.

The way of the transgressor of the municipal ordinances does not seem to be very hard.

Go into the hills and gather autumn leaves. There is no finer decoration for the holidays.

The National Railroad Commission has demonstrated that the private car is a private snap.

Opponents of Vice Presidential Candidate Davis say that he is very indiscreet. If he is, it cannot be charged to his youth.

"How to Collect Old Furniture" is the title of a recently issued book. About the best way is to go to the second hand store.

There is as much division of opinion on the divorce question in the Episcopal general as there is among those who apply to the divorce court.

How very, very little conversation there would be in this world if people only said good of the living as they do (or are supposed to do) of the dead.

Russia and England cannot agree as to what shall be considered contraband of war. It is an important matter and the only satisfactory solution probably will be found by an international conference on the subject.

Encke's comet is looked for by astronomers at this time. This wanderer in space approaches the earth once in about 3 1/2 years its revolution around the sun being within the orbit of Jupiter and occupying about 1,200 days. It is a question whether the comet's orbit is gradually becoming narrower.

The coal miners' strike in District No. 15 is practically closed, and the men are now looking for situations. And what have the miners gained? Not a single point for which they contended; only a bitter experience. If they have learned that they have paid too much for their whistle, and profit by the lesson, their experience is well bought though dearly bought.

That the divorce business can be made quite profitable is proved by a story from Joplin, Mo., to the effect that one lady there has succeeded in obtaining two divorces in one year, with alimony from both ex-husbands. The lady a few days ago obtained divorce from a prominent merchant, and was given \$750 alimony. This it is said, is her second marriage and divorce within a year. Her first marriage was with a wealthy coal man, of Mulberry, Kas. She received \$3,000 alimony from him. Meredith's suggestion regarding temporary marriages, or family life on the installment plan, is already being carried out in some places.

Yesterday, the thirty-seventh anniversary of the transfer of Alaska to the United States, was duly commemorated at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. How the opinion of the American public towards that frozen region has changed since then. Seven million dollars was the price paid, and now the annual yield of gold from Alaska is greater than that. And the territory has other resources that will yet yield wealth. It is nearer now to all America than was this great intermountain region to the "States" at the time of its purchase. Its purchase was in reality Seaward's greatest triumph, and it will carry his name down to untold generations when his famous phrase, "There is a higher law than the Constitution," shall have been forgotten.

Public Opinion contains in its current issue a noteworthy symposium on the question whether Christendom can unite. Some of the best-known churchmen, theologians, and thinkers in Europe and America contribute to

the discussion. Abbe Bricout, vicar of St. Vincent de Paul, expresses the prevailing opinion among Catholics when he says that while union is impossible, the two churches should cease to regard each other as enemies and stand together against the modern spirit of irreligion. Dr. Adolph Harnack of the University of Berlin says that Catholic-Protestant combination is just as impossible as would be the "incorporation of a hospital of stone and a few wooden huts." Professor James of Harvard does not believe that union is either possible or "absolutely desirable."

A contributor to Good Housekeeping is of the opinion that if folks were more particular about what they put into their mouths, there would be less sickness. "The lips," he says, "are used to hold money, pins, pencils and almost every conceivable article. The telltale colon bacillus, which lives only in the intestines, has been found on the hands of ten per cent of the Bostonians examined for this germ. I remember the disgust which overspread the faces in a railroad car when a woman was seen to give her poodle a drink from a public drinking glass. No one else touched it during that trip, but it is more dangerous, and not less disgusting, to drink after human beings than a dog. Fortunately most disease germs die easily, and it is chiefly by the quiet, direct means of contact just suggested that the contagious diseases pass from one to another. If we put nothing into the mouth except what belongs there, we might ride in a car with a diphtheria patient and run no chance of catching the disease. Disease germs do not fly about, seeking whom they may devour. The matter of protection is largely in our own hands."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Out West for October has for front-piece "A Redwood Grove." "California Cathedral" is an illustrated article by Catherine A. Hittell. Another illustrated article describes "Camp Atascadero." There are several stories and poems, and the usual departments, all well filled with good reading.—207 New High Street, Los Angeles, Cal.

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WE COLLECTED \$125.00 In gold last week for William Kirkup of Franklin, Ida. It was an old torn and battered note, had to be pinned to itself.	WE COLLECTED \$64.00 last week for W. J. Robinson of Grantsville. It was an old note fourteen years old. Had two suits in court over this and won both.
WE COLLECTED \$35.00 last week for Mrs. Anna Liday, for room and board from a skip out R. R. man.	WE COLLECTED \$75.00 last week for Jacob Aures from a man in Oklahoma. The man was his friend years ago and Aures loaned him the money.
WE COLLECTED \$29.95 last week for Castleton Bros., for a grocery bill seventeen years old. The man that paid it says he'll hire us when he has a hard case to fight and wants to win it.	WE COLLECTED \$115.00 last week for The Murray Mercantile Co. from a man who went into bankruptcy. We had two fights in court over this, but we won in both courts.

Does anybody owe you? Do you want the money? If so write or call on us. If we did not know we could collect your bills we would not be spending \$4.00 this year for advertising. This ad will bring us Bad Debts to collect. We will collect them and make commissions thereon. Don't think your bills are too bad—but send them in.

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