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CONTEMPTIBLE

The *Lamont Herald*, the official organ of the so-called Re-organized Church, is quite active in its warfare upon the Church of Christ. It seems to have formed an unholy alliance with blighted sectarians, acrimonious politicians, and others possessed by the evil spirit of persecution. One evidence of this is found in its current number, where a contributor is permitted to make attacks, not only upon the faith of the Latter-day Saints, but also upon the character of their leading men. We notice, however, that the assailant has nothing new or original, but is freely using the ammunition furnished by the most bitter enemies of the work of God, and thus he places himself openly in the camp where he, no doubt, belongs.

It is very strange, though, that a religious body, such as that to which we presume the writer belongs, should not hesitate at using weapons which are so easily turned against themselves. They profess to believe in the divine fallacy of Joseph, the Prophet. Many of them are, undoubtedly, honest in this belief and would willingly lay down their lives to seal their testimony as to the truth of the Gospel which the Prophet was called to restore. They know very well that the world at large denounces the Prophet and his doctrines in very much the same terms and the same spirit of bitterness with which they attack their brethren. They cannot have forgotten that the wise men of this world proclaim the teachings of Joseph, the Prophet, as concerning the godhead, the apostasy, the restoration, the necessity of revelation, and other truths that he taught, as mere folly and brand the Prophet as an impostor. And yet, they are willing to stake their all on the honor, righteousness, and truthfulness of that man of God. What indescribable folly, then, for them to join hands with blasphemers, drunkards, adulterers and what not? In the cry of "crucify!" They reap as a reward for such efforts only the temporary applause of an unthinking crowd, but at the price of the contempt of fair-minded people of all classes.

Speaking of the falsehoods with which the world pursued the Prophet Joseph from the day he announced he had been favored with a revelation until the very day he was adorned with the crown of martyrdom, we noticed the other day that one Major Jonas Olmstead, of Los Angeles, at this late date comes forward with some statements that one would think almost impossible now, when historical research has shed so much light upon the history of "Mormonism" and its founders. This Mr. Olmstead is said to have served with distinction during the Civil War, and he claims to have known all about the Prophet and the origin of the Church. He claims to have been a near neighbor of the family of the Prophet at one time, and his testimony is therefore thought to have some weight. And what does he have to say? That the Prophet Joseph was a false prophet; that he, Olmstead, had seen Olmstead writing the book of Mormon, and that the Prophet Joseph, consequently, was an impostor and a bad man generally. He continues to say that many knew that the Prophet was a deceiver, but that they followed him on account of the material rewards he promised them.

This, our friends of the Reorganization very well know, is the testimony of the world concerning the Prophet Joseph and his work, and although it is as absurd as the stories that were current in Rome concerning the first Christians, it is circulated and finds believers. How inconsistent they are when they make use of similar tactics against the Saints of Utah! Our savior himself was not exempt from the abuse, accusations made by his enemies. He told his disciples what they had to expect in this regard, as his followers. Their very names would be held as unclean among the children of men. He pointed out that this was because they were no longer "of the world." He pronounced war upon those whom all men should praise. In view of all these facts, we would think that the representatives of a religious body whose doctrines and leaders are, themselves, the objects of ridicule and scorn, and falsehoods should be careful not to lay themselves open to the condemnation of those who fight with such carnal weapons.

RIGHT OF OPPOSITION.

One of the common falsehoods circulated about the "Mormon" Church is this, that its members have no chance of giving expression to their opinions, except as far as these are in accordance with those of the leaders. It is said, for instance, that Church officers can be sustained at conference, but that no attention is ever paid to votes in opposition.

The latest story to this effect comes

from Spanish Fork, where a member of the Church in good standing, at the conference last Sunday, made use of his prerogative and declined to sustain an ecclesiastical officer in his position. The daily promulgator of falsehood has a "special" in which it is made to appear that this is an unheard of incident, showing special "treachery" on the part of the protestant; that no attention was paid to the protest, and that "he was not given any chance to speak."

This is a sample of the utter disregard for truth with which "Mormon" affairs are treated by the unscrupulous enemies of the Church. This is a specimen of the falsehoods by which the country is being inundated, for the purpose of influencing the sentiment against the Saints. As a matter of fact, the gentleman was given a hearing by the Stake authorities the same day his protest was made. He had every opportunity of stating his grievances, and in all probability the matter will be adjusted amicably, and in accordance with the spirit of the gospel of Jesus, by whichever party is in error acknowledging this and making such restitution as the case may demand.

There is no church in which individual liberty is held more sacred than in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That, notwithstanding this, remarkable unity marks the proceedings of their conferences, and other meetings, is due to the presence among the Saints of that divine Spirit whose special work it is to unite the scattered children of the Father. Unity under their perfect law of liberty is not understood by the world, but it is, nevertheless, a characteristic of the Church of God.

CUBANS AND LIBERTY.

Some of the Cubans, it appears, are still opposed to the so-called Platt amendment. This was in evidence the other day, when a bill was introduced in the Cuban congress for the printing of the constitution of the republic, with that appendix left out.

The Platt amendment gave the United States a kind of supervisory authority over Cuban affairs, in certain exigencies, and limited the borrowing power of the Cubans. It was adopted as a measure of safety for the Cubans themselves, against a too lavish expenditure and the consequent dependence upon perhaps land-hungry creditors. But it seems that some of the Cubans resent the intimation that they cannot take care of themselves, independent of the vigilant eye of Uncle Sam. According to the agreement the Platt amendment was to be embodied in a treaty between this country and Cuba, but it is a question whether such a treaty has ever been signed by the Cubans.

It is strange that any citizen of a small republic, which owes its very existence to the magnanimity of the United States, should dare to endanger the friendship of this country, by man-eating to escape treaty obligations. Such citizens should be looked after by the Cuban government. They are not patriots. Possibly they have personal interests in view, for the furtherance of which the Platt amendment must be torn up. If so, they bear watching. They are the enemies of "Cuba libre."

VICTIMS OF ZEAL.

Some of the Jews in New York are entering protests against the interference with their affairs by certain sectarian missionaries. They claim that these individuals almost force themselves, and their views, upon the dwellers in the Jewish districts, and they point out the un-American in this violation of religious liberty. The Secretary of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of the United States and Canada, Mr. Albert L. Lusk, writes to a New York paper as follows:

"I will welcome all real Christian help as heartily as I will be glad of Jewish assistance. If Christians want to aid in providing vacations, outings, recreation centers, etc., for Jewish children I shall be only too glad to receive their assistance. But I am sure that no lover of liberty, no true believer in the righteousness of constitutional American institutions, will ask that I or any other Jew shall be silent. If it is made a prerequisite for all this charity that our boys and girls shall forever wear the symbols of another religion."

One of the editors of the Hebrew Standard, Mr. L. L. Brill, also registers a protest. He says:

"The whole question is not one of bigotry. This being a free country, we Jews are entitled to bring up our children in our faith, and we object to the unequal for interference of non-Jews. The better the Jew, the better the citizen, is an old Jewish maxim, and it is yet to be shown that these institutions are right in attempting to supplant Jewish influences. It is because we are desirous of seeing young Jews and Jewesses 'live up to their religion' that we are in this fight. If tomorrow Jewish settlements for Christian children were established, say in the Hell Gate district, you would, and rightly so, characterize it as a great impertinence, and the Christian clergy in the district would certainly be justified in resenting the attempt to teach their children the tenets of a strange religion."

Mr. Brill is correct. These missionaries would consider the establishment of Jewish institutions of proselytism in so-called Christian districts, very impertinent. They would loudly protest against such an alleged danger to the country, and they would probably stir up heaven and earth against the Jews, as they have been doing against the Latter-day Saints.

The trouble with many of these missionaries is that they have degraded the missionary calling to a means of earning a living. In order to retain it, they are under the necessity of making some kind of a showing in their regular reports. Hence their policy of stirring up strife, if they can do nothing else, to make their friends believe that they are active; hence their gross falsehoods about their neighbors, to show what heroes they are, and what mountains of unrighteousness they have to remove by their herculean faith. Their living depends on this kind of work, and therefore it goes on. The so-called pagans abroad are as much misrepresented and belied as are the victims of their zeal at home. No matter where these zealous missionaries take up

their work, their surroundings are described, as sinks of iniquity. Some change must be effected in the methods of Christian propaganda before the era of good will can set in, which the followers of Christ earnestly pray for and expect.

THE FOLLY OF IT.

Speaking of the delicious efforts of a contemporary to make it appear that there was some mysterious connecting link between the first prize in the Utah reservation drawing, and the senior Senator from Utah, the *Provo Enquirer* says in part:

"Such folly! The very fact that the Salt Lake Bureau will hash up such a mass of nonsense only proves how entirely lacking are any facts, with the least semblance of truth, to substantiate its wild charges. Why, the very school boy would hesitate before concocting a story of such flimsy material. How ridiculous then does it appear for a newspaper, that pretends to give the news of the day to send such a riddle out to its readers."

"The poor old duffer is so blinded by rage and spite that it is not responsible for its utterances. It has long since ceased to be menacing and its idle vapors are only food for laughter."

Put none but Americans on the National Guard.

The lawns are dying but no water grave will be theirs.

The yellow peril is clearest seen through the jaundiced eye.

Japan does not propose to be jeweled down by Russia, the Jew baiter.

The running of the weather bureau seems to have developed a hot box.

In the Utah land lottery drawing the "also ran" class was much the larger.

That trolley wreck in Butte was almost metropolitan in its number of victims.

Mr. Rockefeller has been trying the Knapp cure. He is utterly heedless of the police, "keep off the grass."

England thinks that Japan's terms are moderate. That is because they are demanded of her historic enemy.

To suggest the arbitration of differences arising in the course of peace negotiations is quite as humorous as humane.

The Chinese anti-American boycott will not be complete until the walking delegate, in all his glory, is introduced into the Flowery kingdom.

For Queen Margharita to ride in an automobile was dangerous enough, but for a miscreant to place an obstruction in the path of her machine was fiendish.

Lord Curzon's resignation will be a terrible blow to Chicago society. It deprives it of its vicereine, on which it doted more than on its stockyards.

Russia has forgotten the onerous terms she imposed upon Turkey. But then Turkey was a heathen nation, and now another heathen nation has adopted the Christian precedent. What fatality there is in this imitation.

There was just a note of sarcasm in Baron Kaneko's remark that the American newspapers were almost omniscient. Of course the papers are perfectly well aware of the fact but they do not like to have the fact announced in any but the most solemn and respectful terms.

A Kentucky firm complaining in court against a California firm for using its trade-mark winds up its petition by saying: "And by reason of the inferior quality of said liquor the reputation of your orator's whisky has been greatly damaged." Inferior whisky, of course, makes inferior oratory.

School boards throughout the State should give heed to the circular of the State Board of Health relating to the thorough cleaning and disinfecting of school buildings before the schools open in the fall. The circular is most timely, and doubtless will be complied with.

PREDICTS PEACE.

New York Mail.

There will be peace. This is no blind prophecy, no idle guess. The solution will be found in the peace treaty which have reached the fame of wise and prudent men and patriots will be theirs for all time. And greater than their fame will be the peace which the President who saw clearly the path to peace, and was prompt and bold in putting the warring nations' feet upon it.

FORECASTING A JOURNEY.

Madras Mail.

In India astrology and a belief in fate are still forces which influence human life to an incredible degree. When the intending traveler leaves his house and gets into the yard, he should measure the length of his shadow with his feet. He must then multiply the number it gives by three, add eleven, and divide the total by eight. If one remains his journey promises to be good. Other remainders have other omens.

MISERS OF WORDS.

Morals of Marcus Ordway.

We have the richest language that ever a people has accreted, and we use it as if it were the poorest. We hoard up our infinite wealth of words between the boards of dictionaries and in speeches doled out the worn bronze coinage of our vocabulary. We are the masters of philological history. And when we can save our pennies and pass the counterfeit coin of slang, we are as happy as if we heard a blind beggar thank us for putting a pewter sixpence into his hat.

A PLEA FOR SOBRIETY.

Baltimore American.

The work of today demands men of clear brains for its performance. It matters not whether that work be in the office, the counting room, the legislative hall, the store, the shop, the factory, the laboratory, or the field. Each morning brings to his task a strong mind and a steady nerve will always find his services in demand, while the one who allows himself to become the victim of an unbridled appetite will soon discover that his place has been filled by one who can do the work better than he. Sober is the better man that made by President Roosevelt is

always timely. While it is undoubtedly true that excesses in the use of liquor are not as common today as they were a quarter or a half century ago, there is still vast room for improvement, and every effort in that direction deserves the encouragement of all who seek the elevation and betterment of their fellowmen.

ADMIRING THE BABY.

Atchison Globe.

A preacher to be popular has to admire plain and pretty babies alike, and an Atchison preacher who is busy about being truthful has his way of handling the plain babies. He says if you take the little red squirming baby from its proud mother, hold it out at some distance from you, and looking at it smilingly, say in a hoarse tone, "Well, this is a baby," the mother will be perfectly satisfied.

MARSHAL OYAMA.

New York World.

Now we hear loud and lofty declarations that Russia will never accept humiliation—never! As if she were not used to it! As if she had not been humiliated when the treaty of Paris tied her hand and foot in the Black Sea after the Crimean war, and also when, after the Russo-Turkish war, Disraeli drove her from the gates of Constantinople with a word, and the Berlin Conference compelled her to relinquish all she had conquered! Behind all the redoubtable and pretense and guess she showed over and over at Portsmouth, looms the figure of Marshal Oyama. He is the man who will make peace if he wins the long-delayed battle.

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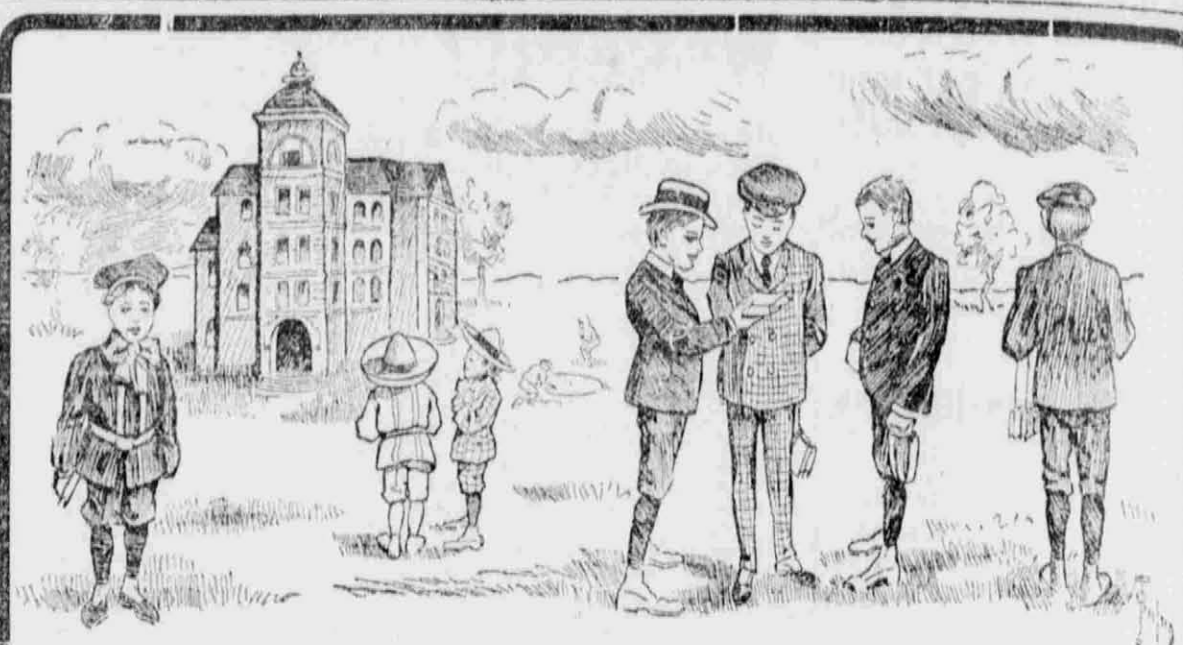
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