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

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WOMEN TO THE FRONT.

The general conference of the Young Men and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations, held in this city, has brought to the front a feature of the work of these organizations and their efforts, which is very striking and encouraging. It also serves to show the fallacy of a very common notion respecting the influence of the system called "Mormonism." We refer to the prominence which the "weaker sex" are attaining and the remarkable talents they are displaying, for the promotion of truth and right conduct among our young people.

There are very many bright and able young men in the ranks of the associations, whose powers of thought and expression are extremely gratifying. The fact that their abilities are devoted to the improvement of mankind, and not merely to personal ambition and vainglory, is cheering to the hearts of their friends and of all who are engaged in the cause of salvation. But the opportunities for male service and success on these lines have been considered to be greater than those open to the young ladies of the community. The evidences offered by the meetings in the Tabernacle on Sunday, showed that the women of Zion are not in any way behind in the march of progress and of public usefulness.

The addresses delivered in the Tabernacle by the ladies who spoke to the large congregation, exhibited a marked talent for the platform. They were full of clear ideas evolved from deep thought, were couched in good language, were distinctly and forcibly enunciated, and touched the hearts as well as the brains of those who listened to the sincere and earnest words that flowed so freely and were attended by such a splendid spirit.

It is a matter of regret that verbatim reports of those speeches could not be published in this paper, but many interesting items of news have already been excluded from our columns to-day, for lack of space. The address by Miss Belle Richards was a gem. It would have gained exceptional attention in any intellectual assembly. This is not mentioned in disparagement of the other discourses and reports, for they were all worthy of special notice and praise.

We speak of this particular occasion, not as something new and extraordinary, because there have been many gatherings at which ladies have been among the most interesting speakers. And there are others in various branches of the Church who are able to impress an audience with the gifts they enjoy in that direction. But the present Mutual Conference brings the subject into immediate notice, and it is worthy of particular mention.

It has been popular in the world to speak of "The down-trodden women of Utah." Persons who have been accustomed to view the ladies of "Mormonism" in that delusive light, would have been amazed if they could have looked upon the audience in the Tabernacle on Sunday, and heard the exalting and inspiring sentiments expressed by the ladies who spoke to the congregation. That would have dissipated the false notion, and opened their eyes to the fact that the tendency of "Mormonism" is to elevate both sexes to a plane of human excellence, that will fit them for each other's pure companionship, not only in this world but in the highest realms of immortal glory.

The addresses delivered suggested the idea, touched upon by President George Q. Cannon, that the field for missionary work, abroad as well as at home, will be greatly enlarged for the services of the young women who have been trained in the Mutual Improvement Associations. It is well known that the young men best equipped for that service, are those who have been active in Mutual work. And experience has already shown that the same is true in regard to the few young women who have gone out to the world, to sow the seeds of life and salvation. They will, no doubt, be more numerously selected for that purpose, and we may look for excellent results from the labors which they can especially perform as messengers of light and truth.

All the people of Zion should strive to promote the Mutual Improvement cause. They should urge their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, to identify themselves with the associations. They afford facilities for a kind of education that is beyond price. Their influence is in favor of morality, chastity and purity of conduct for both sexes equally. They turn the mind toward sources of knowledge that will be of everlasting worth, and the spiritual nature to the source of all goodness and glory. We are proud of the success that has attended these noble organizations, and we hope they will never be allowed to halt in their onward progress for the moral, intellectual and spiritual training of the young men and women of latter-day Israel.

BEFOULING OF STREAMS.

People residing in and near Teasdale village desire information in regard to the law as to the befoiling of water used by a number of families a mile from that settlement. It appears that a case of complaint against a sheep-owner has been tried in the justice's court at Torrey, Wayne county. The defendant was accused of bedding sheep within the seven miles limit on the waters of Birch Creek, and thus befoiling the stream, used for culinary purposes by six families at the point mentioned.

It is stated that the befoiling of the water was proved by witnesses, but defendant's counsel moved for the dismissal of the case, on the ground that six families did not constitute a village, and the court thereupon sustained the motion. The people, it is said, are very dissatisfied and want the "News" to explain the law on this matter.

Section 4274 of the Revised Statutes of Utah provides penalties against the befoiling of waters used for domestic purposes. Paragraph five relates especially to maintaining any corral, camp or bedding place for sheep, hogs, etc., where the refuse or filth will naturally find its way into any stream of water used by the inhabitants of any city, town or village, within seven miles of such place.

It is true, perhaps, that six families do not of themselves constitute a village. But if they are part of the village of Teasdale, being but a mile distant, the person who befoils the stream they use is guilty of a misdemeanor. For it has been held by the higher courts that, "Where a settlement consists of fourteen families and extended to about two and a half miles along a stream, the settlement containing a school house and a postoffice, the nearest settlement being six miles distant," it was "a village within the meaning of the law."

But the first paragraph of the section cited, makes it a misdemeanor to "construct or maintain any corral, sheep-pen, stable, chicken-coops or other offensive yard or outhouse, where the waste or drainage therefrom shall flow directly into the waters of any stream, well or spring of water used for domestic purposes." This does not relate to a city, town or village alone, but to any flowing water used for domestic purposes.

It would seem, with the limited particulars of the case furnished by our correspondent, that the party or parties befoiling the water used by the families complaining, would be liable to a suit for damages, and also to the criminal law under one or both provisions of the statute we have mentioned. But without further details as to the facts, we would not like to say positively anything further as to the merits of the decision rendered.

DISSATISFACTION IN CUBA.

Advices from Cuba are to the effect that there is much discontent in the island, owing to the slowness with which the day of independence seems to dawn to the people. Havana newspapers are giving expression to the general sentiment in but thinly veiled terms. References are being made to "blood-sucking vampires," and it is openly stated that "there is much discontent among the people."

The recent scandals in certain departments of the administrative offices give foundation for the uncomplicated figures of speech.

Almost two years have now elapsed since the war that liberated Cuba. The nation is pledged to give the people their self-government, as soon as orderly conditions were established. Two years should be a long enough period to bring that time within sight, and unless some action is taken, proving the sincerity of the promises for which the nation's honor is pledged, it must be admitted that there is some ground for the discontent said to exist.

There is, we believe, in this country, in some quarters, a sentiment in favor of the incorporation of Cuba in the Union, but it is evident that this can be brought about only by the free choice of the Cubans. In no other way can that be consummated without breaking solemn pledges. But if this is to be the final outcome, Cuba must first be given self-government. Then, if our treatment of the people has been such as to inspire confidence in our government, union may come as a natural result of mutual good feelings. As long as promises are delayed, misunderstanding must be the result, and as long as that exists, there can be no approachment. The opinions are divided as to the desirability of making of Cuba an American State, but even those who view this solution of the Cuban problem as the only desirable one, should, as a preliminary step, work for the independence of the island. The desired union can never be successfully accomplished by compulsion.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

If the latest dispatches from China reflect the situation there, the old empire is in a general state of turbulence. The old anti-foreign sentiment has broken out anew. Revolutionaries are endeavoring to kill the foreign missionaries, or at least drive them away from the interior of the country, and it is alleged the government troops are aiding them.

Word has been received from Shanghai concerning a recent encounter with the insurgents. It seems that a party of thirty, including six women and one child, left Pao Ting Fu in twelve boats under military escort. After traversing fifty miles in safety they missed their way. The boats grounded and the Boxers opened fire upon the occupants, using rifles and wooden cannons. One lady and three men got separated from the main body. They were brutally killed. The survivors formed a square, with those able to bear arms outside and the women inside, and made off toward Tien Tsin. They traveled three and a half days, fighting all the way. More than 2,000 cartridges were expended and the ammunition was running short. They estimated that they killed at least 100 Boxers.

Sir Claude Macdonald, the British minister at Peking, a few days ago tele-

graphed this explanation of the present uprising against the missionaries:

"The movement against the foreigners, which has been allowed to grow to such an extent, has resulted in the burning of railway stations and in the interruption of railway communication for five days. Two British missionaries and several foreign missionaries have been murdered in the district near Peking. In the country around numbers of converts have been murdered and destroyed, while in the capital itself the British missionaries have been obliged to leave their houses and to take refuge at the legation, which is defended by seventy-five marines. The Chinese government is affected by these events as far as to send high officials to parley with the Boxers, but it does not show any intention of summarily suppressing them. Probably it still has power to do so, but the throne is still strongly influenced by sympathy with the movement, and the spirit of the troops is doubtful."

The Chinese representatives in the West indignantly deny the insinuation that the empire is backing the insurgent movement, and as it seems, with some strong arguments. The minister at London, for instance, states that his government has already lost ten million pounds through the depredations of the rebels, and characterizes it as absurd to believe that the empire supports those who are engaged in wholesale destruction of public property. It is not easy to judge accurately of the true inwardness of the situation. It is quite conceivable that the foreign diplomats, who may have agreed to finally dispose of the Mongol giant, have also agreed to charge the government with complicity in the outrages, in order to have an excuse for interfering, and the logic of the situation works in either of two ways for that purpose. If the government is in sympathy with the rebels, Europe has a sufficient ground for interference; if the government is honestly striving to put down the rebellion and is unable to do so, that, too, furnishes a ground for intervention, for the foreigners must be protected and their rights maintained. Either form of the dilemma means certain destruction.

That the Chinese situation should finally be brought to a crisis can excite no surprise. The wonder is that it has not come about sooner. For years foreign governments have thrust upon China treaties by which her harbors have been forced open, and vast stretches of territory have been seized and placed under the flags of foreigners. And not satisfied with the coast land, the powers have penetrated to the interior along the navigable rivers, and planned nets of railroads through the most desirable provinces. Chinese traditions, Chinese sentiments have not been taken into consideration in these matters. The people have been treated as if the country were not theirs.

True, China is a pagan country, but even heathens have certain rights as human beings, which enlightened Christendom should feel in honor bound to respect. We close our doors to them, and force their doors open to us. Were this done in any European country, except Turkey, its people would be up in arms to the last man. This seems to be what the "Boxers" of China are doing now.

The Chinese government is well aware of the situation, though it may not be able to cope with it, or grapple off the impending disaster. Lately the Empress is said to have issued an address to provincial rulers of the empire in which she said:

"The various powers cast upon us looks of tiger-like voracity, hustling each other in their endeavors to be the first to seize upon our innermost territories."

She pointed out that the foreign powers had an impression that the Chinese would not fight for their country, and added:

"They fail to understand that there are certain things which this empire can never consent to, and that, if hard pressed, we have no alternative but to rely upon the justice of our cause."

This, probably, gives the key to the present situation. Who can blame the Chinese people, if they make one effort, such as may be within their power, to keep their country for themselves?

In the meantime, our government should protect its citizens, as far as possible, under the treaty rights, and take a firm stand on the ground of justice to all men, no matter what is their color or creed.

A JUST CENSURE.

The San Francisco Call has a sensible article on the trouble in China.

To the representation that the "Celestial" empire must be dismembered because "Christians" are persecuted in that country, the Call remarks that even the United States is not without its persecutions. The paper says:

"We are seldom without some form of religious persecution at home. Not long ago a Jew Mayor of Savannah had to stand between Catholics and A. P. A. Protestants to keep them from slitting each other's throat. Within a year 'Mormon' missionaries have been hunted out of several American States, glad to escape the vengeance of their pursuers and in some cases clad in neat-fitting but uncomfortable suits of rat and feathers. If China is occasionally spitting a native Christian on a bamboo skewer, why is that any more a sign of her decay than our 'Mormon' chasing is a sign of our decay? A Christian is just as offensive to China as a 'Mormon' is to our orthodox Christian taste. Professional hypocrisy is doing a large business in the world at this time. One of its manifestations is this outbreak of holy horror about the internal condition of China. In this country we exclude Chinese and 'Mormons,' and in Germany the weather has not wound out the tracks of the Poles, expelled and marched out by Bismarck as objectionable foreigners, and yet we are astounded and pained to learn that poor, old, broken China objects to foreigners, and in her Jewish industries religious persecution as a prelude!"

The indictment of one of the greatest nations on earth for hypocrisy in its dealings with pagan peoples is serious. But the worst of it is, that it is true. We have undertaken a comprehensive mission in the world, professing to bring the light to benighted regions. But unless those whom we would wish to benefit receive the impression that we are true, ourselves, to the principles we would have them adopt, our mission must be a failure. We must either extend to others the privileges we demand from them, and abstain from that which we condemn in others, or cease

to claim the role of standard bearers of light and liberty in this day and generation.

HOW TO "GARGLE."

The Charlotte Medical Journal gives this advice relative to "how to gargle the throat." The usual way of performing that act, it seems, is of but little use:

"If one is to really do good by gargling—that is, if one is to insure that the fluid shall reach the posterior wall of the pharynx—the nose must be held and the head must be well thrown back while performing the gargling process. By gargling in the usual way only the anterior surface of the uvula and soft palate and the base of the tongue are reached. But by holding the nose and throwing the head well back when gargling, the medicament reaches every surface of the pharynx very effectively. The comparative value of the two methods can be tested by painting the posterior surface of the pharynx carefully with a strong solution of methylene blue, and then letting the patient gargle with water in the usual way, when it will be found that the water ejected will be clear and unstained; then let him gargle again, holding the nose and throwing his head well back when the ejected fluid will be found stained, and an inspection of the pharynx will show that the blue has been washed away. This is a thing worth remembering, for many observers have maintained that gargling is not only useless as a method of medication, but is quite ineffectual even as a means of cleansing the pharynx."

The Chinese situation shows no improvement in the way of peace.

Japan expects war with Russia. In this case, the expectation seems to be near fulfillment.

Will Lord Roberts have to march back from Pretoria to reopen his line of communications?

Now London says the war in South Africa isn't over. That would seem to be the case, judging by the news that came as a thunderbolt to London today.

The Boer trap seems to be in working order again. Today's dispatches from South Africa announce the taking of over 500 more British prisoners from Lord Roberts' army.

Uncle Sam has given the nations definite notice that he will go no farther in the Chinese matter than to protect American citizens. He has no land-grabbing scheme such as affects the other nations.

The panic on the German bourse seems likely to spend the greater part of its force there, but there is sufficient peril in other European markets to cause considerable restlessness for some little time yet.

The terribly disastrous collision of electric cars at Providence, R. I., on Sunday, would seem to establish the need of a complete overhauling of the system which allows such a state of procedure as produced the accident.

It is useless for Missouri officials to try to evade being blamed for the lawless events in St. Louis. These have been going on so long now that there has ceased to be any excuse for the official inaction that has permitted the trouble to grow steadily worse.

A Mississippi mob has lynched two negroes for a crime of which there has not been discovered sufficient evidence to establish a reasonable certainty of their guilt. Mississippians may call that justice, but no law-abiding citizen will accept the definition as correct.

It is said the Chinese empire dweller has sought the protection of Russia. If the report be true, there will be some European nations made angry at being outgeneraled by Russian diplomats, but they will have to grin and bear it, since there is no one at present to say the Muscovite nay.

It will be observed in the dispatches today that it was the action of the American representatives in China which saved the British nation from humiliation. The recent war taught other nations that in the matter of fighting the American marines are not to be trifled with, and their insistence of a British force along with them at Peking had to be given respectful consideration.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Kansas City Star.

Now comes the duty of all the friends and advisers of the Boers to utter the warning not to attempt later a defense they failed to make at the proper hour. Pretoria will never be retaken. It will prove the Boers nothing to carry on a guerrilla warfare. They have been worsted in a fight of their own seeking, and the part of wisdom is to make the best of a bad bargain. The British occupation of the South African Republics has not meant the sacrifice of liberty for a single soul, Boer and Uitlander. Let there be peace.

New York Mail and Express.

The spectacle of this lonely, embittered but unbroken old man, with his people gathered about him, cannot but enhance the attention of all men. In him is embodied all that stands for Boer nationality, all that is opposed to the British imperial civilization, and in him also is embodied the tragedy of the two republics. The men on whom he leaned are gone—Joubert dead, Cronje a prisoner on a distant Atlantic island—and in these dark days when the people whom he has flung into war await the collapse of their liberties, conjecture may picture "Oom Paul" gloomily balancing in his mind the one fate or the other and questioning the future for an answer.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The fall of the seat of government is logically the fall of the government itself. Practically, therefore, the South African Republic ceased to exist when the British army entered Pretoria and the British flag was raised over the government buildings. The form of removing the capital of the republic excused the Americans at least ten to one. The British army entered Pretoria and the British flag was raised over the government buildings. The form of removing the capital of the republic excused the Americans at least ten to one.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The flight of President Kruger and the members of his government now seems to have been only a step toward

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