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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 30, 1900.

THE OLD FOLKS' OUTING.

The annual excursion of the Old Folks is set for Friday, July 6. They will go to Lagoona. Transportation, with the freedom of the grounds, has been generously tendered by Simon Bamberger Esq., and the Old Folks' committee have accepted and made arrangements for the trip on that day.

This is one of the institutions of Zion that commends itself to the admiration of all the world. The consideration shown to the aged and infirm, is a token of the spirit that actuates the people of Utah. It is a mark of the most advanced civilization. It is an expression of real Christian charity. And as it is not sectarian or national, but seeks the benefit and encouragement of the old men and women of all sects, parties, races and conditions, it appeals to the generous sentiment in every breast and gains universal applause.

There is always much expense attached to an affair of this kind, and merchants and business men generally are in the habit of supplying articles suitable to the occasion, that the committee may be supplied with things needed. Contributions for the purpose, in money or gifts for prizes, will be acceptable, but the committee do not desire to make any canvass for this purpose. However, the generous and benevolent, who desire to help in this good work, may leave their contributions at Savage's Art Bazaar, any time up to the day of the outing.

No one who has gathered with the old folks on one of these great occasions can fail to give praise to those who originated and have kept up this plan, for the gladdening of the souls of people traveling on the last stages of the road of life. Utah has set the pace in this movement, and it is being followed to some extent in many other parts of the earth. The example is grand, its effects are certain to be beneficial, to a much broader extent than the joy it brings to the beneficiaries; for it expands the heart and causes regard for the feeble to stamp out the common selfishness inherent in fallen human nature. Let all aid in making the Old Folks' excursion of 1900 the best of the benefits the aged here have ever enjoyed!

"CHRISTIAN" AND "MORMON."

The disciples of Christ were first called "Christians" at Antioch. This was in derision. They were believers in Christ, therefore they were dubbed Christians. Their proper title was Saints. This is evident from all the epistles of the Apostles which have been preserved, and included in the collection of writings called the New Testament.

The Greek name given to them was not adopted for a long time by the disciples of Christ. It was echoed by their enemies among all the nations that opposed them, and ultimately came to be commonly accepted. Once a term of reproach, it became in time a title to be respected.

A Christian meant at first a follower of a Jew who was an impostor, a traitor, a wine-bibber, a friend of tax-gatherers, harlots, the rabble and the ignorant, who consorted with sinners and was a teacher of sedition, an agitator against the Mosaic law and the Roman authority. They were commonly charged, as we read in Quo Vadis, with "worshipping the head of an ass," with slaying infants and using their blood in the service of the sacrament, with orgies of a horrible character, and with conspiring against the rule of Caesar in favor of Christ as their King.

After Constantine was so far converted as to mingle some tenets of Christianity with the paganism of the period, and to clothe with authority from the civil power some of the most plausible of the priests who claimed to be Christians, that name was made a title of honor, and the people who were despised were held up to public esteem.

In these latter days, nations claim to be Christian which are as far removed from the spirit and teachings of Christ as darkness is from light. And individuals claim to be Christians who laugh at His precepts, and would as soon think of living by them as of throwing their money and merchandise into the sea. All the conflicting creeds of Europe and America claim to be Christian, thus bringing the title into contempt. While there is something of Christianity throughout Christendom and it has a very beneficial effect, Christ would doubtless repudiate the whole discordant "contending" worldly mass, if He were to appear among men, and would view the application to it of His name as nothing less than blasphemy.

The term "Christian" as originally used was philologically rational, to say the least. But suppose the Saints instead of being called Christians had been dubbed Christs or Jesuses, would not that have been ridiculous? Or if the followers of Peter had been named Peters, and of Paul, Pauls, and of John,

Johns, how much consistency of language and of rule would there have been in such nomenclature?

The Latter-day Saints, almost from the beginning of their Church organization, have been as much misrepresented as were the former-day Saints, and are mis-called "Mormons." We use the term in quotation marks. Why? First, because it is a nickname, and second because it is absurd. Why then use it at all? Because it has come into common service, and is generally known as the name by which Latter-day Saints are designated. It is shorter than their proper title, and is so commonly adopted that it cannot well be ignored.

But "Mormon" is the name of a man, a Prophet, the compiler of a book called after him. To give his name, without an appropriate termination, to those who believe in his book is folly. Negit is the name of one of the most prominent writers of the volume abridged and compiled by Mormon. People who followed him were called Nephites; that was eminently proper, but it would not have been so to call them Nephis. Laman was the name of a leader among the ancient people of this continent, according to the Book of Mormon, but his followers were not dubbed Lamanis, they were called Lamanites.

People might as well say the Latter-day Saints are Jeremiahs, or Isaias, or Ezekiels, or Matthews, or Marks or Lukes, because they believe in the books written by those inspired scribes, as to call the Saints "Mormons" because they believe in the writings and compilations of the Prophet Mormon. It is a wrong term to apply, and therefore, while we use it as one commonly understood, we place it as we do the term "Mormonism," in quotation marks, that we may not be considered as accepting either term and adopting it as right.

The organization which we represent is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The system of religion incorporated therein is not any more "Mormonism" than it is Christianity, and Peterism, and Paulism. The members of the Church are Latter-day Saints, or Saints, if the other term is too lengthy, and "Mormon" is a title which they do not accept and is not in accordance with either good language or good sense.

GROWTH OF ROMANISM.

A few days ago Rev. Alexander P. Doyle, a Roman Catholic prelate, spoke in New York on the growth of the Roman church in this country during the last 100 years. Some of the statistical figures produced are exceedingly interesting.

He pointed out that in the year 1800 there were in this country forty priests, and a Catholic population of less than 100,000. According to the census of 1890 there were 11,000 priests and a Catholic community of about twelve million souls. This numerical growth, he said, is marvelous, but still more remarkable is the internal strength of that church.

The speaker found that the Roman organization today is preeminently "the church of the common people of the land." In the teeming cities she has placed her strongholds, and her coercing, restraining, uplifting and spiritualizing power among the masses of our population is a tremendous civilizing force, inculcating reverence for authority and obedience, and the sacredness of the rights of property.

In recounting the work of the Roman church, the speaker said:

"When the church found the liquor traffic a bane to the people's hearts, as well as of their purse, it boldly hurled its thunderbolts against its stronghold, denouncing the saloon as a disreputable business. It has always stood for the saving of the Sunday against the assaults of irreligion and avarice. It protects the home by vigorously denouncing the divorce evil. Today she is an intellectual and social force that is to be counted upon."

He further alleged that Romanism and republicanism are "twin sisters," born of the same mother; that in the history of the world each has fostered the other, and that both have been united against the same enemies—barbarism and slavery.

This will be news to most readers of history. Republicanism, if the great course of world events is followed back to their sources, appears to spring rather from Protestantism than from Romanism. If republicanism is the twin sister of Romanism, she had certainly not had any fair chance, until the other twin sister was rudely deposed from the civil seats of government, often by revolutionary outbreaks that left destruction and blood in their paths. But some allowance must be made, perhaps, for oratorical license, when the aim is to produce an effect.

The interesting point is the phenomenal growth of Catholicism in this country. If it continues at the same ratio for another century, where will the Protestant denominations be, as far as their influence upon the affairs of the country goes? Some of the largest bodies are shrinking now, and it is doubtful whether spasmodic "revivals" cure the disease that seems to have set in. The Catholics are already now numerically the strongest.

SCRIPTURES MORE FOUND.

Biblical scholars are at present interested in the alleged discovery of fragments of a Gospel, supposed to be the lost Gospel by Peter to the Egyptians. The discovery was announced some time ago in the New York Journal.

According to the account some moldy papyrus manuscripts were purchased in Cairo for the library of the Strasburg University, and among these were found two leaves written in the Coptic language. Professor Spiegelberg, of the Strasburg University, deciphered the text, and Dr. K. Schmidt pronounced the leaves to be fragments of a hitherto unknown Gospel.

Upon further examination it was found, that the writing belonged to the fifth century, and that the translation was from a Greek text belonging to the second century, antedating the earliest extant manuscripts of the New Testament, about two centuries.

From a consideration of all the facts it was concluded that the fragments found were part of Peter's Gospel to the Egyptians. It has not been possible so far to locate the place where the leaves came from, but an effort is being made to find out with a view, if possible, to recover more of the interesting manuscript.

If further investigation should prove the correctness of the theory set forth, with regard to these writings and others found in recent years, the Protestant contention against the revelations of God in this age, that the Bible is complete and can neither be "taken from" or "added to," must be modified. For if additional genuine writings of the Apostles are being found, the sacred volume has evidently been "taken from," and must be "added to," as the genuineness of the discoveries is established. The Protestant position is this, that when it is shown that a book is written by an inspired author, the evidence of its canonicity is complete. There may be doubt, as there has been, and is, as to the authorship of some of the books, but there can be no doubt of the authority of a writing known to be of apostolic origin. The conclusion is unavoidable, that any book that may be found, of which the inspired origin can be proved, must be "added to" the sacred volume as the word of God.

But this is direct corroboration of the well known "Mormon" article of faith: "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." Revelation cannot be considered ended, as long as the possibility of discovering lost channels of revelation is admitted. Theology cannot claim to be complete, for who knows what research still may bring to light in the way of material for further theological knowledge?

The American scholar, Professor Clifton Tarby Levy, speaking of the alleged find of the Gospel of Peter, is quoted as follows:

"The discovery of genuine fragments of a lost gospel is of great moment, especially when they are portions of one referred to by early Christian writers of authority. Since Professor Spiegelberg and Dr. Schmidt support the fragments by the weight of their scholarship and acumen, they must be accepted as real portions of the Egyptian Gospel. Small though the portions are, they still add much to our knowledge of the personality of Jesus, and help to complete the picture of the Founder of Christianity. At the same time these fragments serve to supplement the account given by the accepted Gospels, and furnish additional information about the development of Christian thought. It is to be hoped that other parts of this book will now be brought to light, so that they may be compared with existing accounts of the events in Jesus's life. The portion dealing with the scene in Gethsemane, furnishing several modifications of the speech of Jesus on that occasion, is an instance of what may be expected when the other parts of the Gospel are found."

Impartial scholarship, then, confidently expects further knowledge and development of Christian thought. That is the advanced ground on which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands, with this difference, that the members of that Church receive such further information, not only from ancient books, but also from the inspired utterances of the living servants of the Almighty. Is that not in full accord both with revelation and reason?

KRUGER'S HOPE.

Old Man Kruger is reported to have issued, recently, encouraging manifestos to his burghers, telling them if they will hold out a little longer, the probability is that Great Britain will be glad to offer favorable terms of peace.

The Boer president may be too sanguine, but there appears to be some reason for his hope. Not only are the Chinese Boxers threatening the interests of the empire in that part of the world, but the conditions in India are becoming alarming, too.

In the opinion of experts the continued spread of the plague, added to the famine, is fraught with the most momentous results, political and otherwise. If no preventive measures are taken, the chance is that millions will die off, and if such measures are forced upon the people, riots, bloodshed and political upheavals may follow. Agitators are abroad, who easily persuade the ignorant and superstitious people that the government is bent on destroying them, body and soul, and they are eagerly listening to.

Great Britain is a mighty empire, but it is not impossible that her rulers, when compelled to face a Chinese problem and an Indian crisis, may feel inclined to postpone the final adjustment of the African question.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION.

The annexed extracts are from Vaccination, a monthly magazine published in the interest of the Anti-Vaccination Society of America, at Terra Haute, Indiana, Frank D. Blue, editor. It records many startling instances of evil results from vaccination, and gives the experience and conclusions of many medical men as to its operation and effects. It says:

"The Supreme Court of Utah has decided that unvaccinated school children can be expelled; but a strong minority opinion was filed (the first on record) stating a line of legal argument that all the courts must eventually follow. The courts will decide in favor of vaccination when they know it is never less than poison."

We believe the editor is right in his

prediction, but it will take some time before the courts will fully sense the injustice and invasion of personal liberty, involved in the compulsory measure which many doctors are endeavoring to force upon the public, from a mistaken notion as to the prophylactic virtues of vaccination. We look for the reform to come from the ranks of the profession, which has entirely discarded so many of the nostrums that once were rigidly adhered to as sovereign, and which includes within its ranks so many broadminded and investigating thinkers.

The same magazine has this to say, further:

"The Deseret News of Salt Lake City deserves special mention for its heroic defense of the right to remain healthy, despite the health board's effort to get all vaccinated."

The Deseret News expects to see, before many years, some of the gentlemen who now regard it as obstructive, quite as pronounced in its praise as the paper we have quoted from. For the art of curing is progressive, and the advocates of present methods would have been numbered among the "heretics" in past times of medical darkness. The light is increasing in the world and fads will fade while real science will be uplifted and will prevail.

The wheat situation is a little mixed, since the shortage in that grain is likely to be made up in corn, and thus prevent a further notable rise in price.

The Chinese may fancy that Providence is on their side in having the battleship Oregon run on a rock. The fact is that it was a case of bad seamanship.

People who believe the moon has a controlling influence in weather matters are predicting that the first half of July will not be troubled by many rainstorms.

Britain's army scandals are worrying the British public, notwithstanding the official assertion that they are no worse than might be expected in handling such a large army in South Africa.

Lord Wolseley expresses a fear that the Chinese will overrun the world, as a result of the world's overrunning China. Ti-fu-tai might be fair, but there is no occasion for trembling at its probability.

London is jolly enough now, judging by the reports of society doings there. The contrast with last Christmas is notable, if not remarkable, due to the changes in the fortunes of war in South Africa. Now it is the Boers who mourn.

Kansas City is the center of universal attraction in the United States just now. The fact that it is the center of the heated section about this time of the year will also be appreciated by the convention delegates, though possibly not in an enjoyable form so far as the weather affects the situation.

Rear Admiral Philip was stricken at Brooklyn last evening and died today. This gallant officer will be remembered as being in command of the battleship Texas during the battle with Cervera's fleet, and as warning his men against cheering at the victory until the Spanish soldiers were rescued from their peril of drowning.

Too much relief for the Porto Ricans who were left destitute by last August's hurricane is making them buggars, so the United States is compelled to cease the distribution of supplies to the end that those who have been supported by government charity may realize that they must work for their own living.

The Lansing, Michigan, State Republican has an account of the gathering of the alumni of the Agricultural College, on June 15. It was a fine assembly, and Utah was represented on the auspicious occasion by E. D. Partridge, class of '96. It is pleasant to see how frequently our mountain State figures in the educational establishments of the East.

Admiral Kempff did not agree with the other officials at Taku, China, in the decision to attack the Chinese before the latter began hostilities. The wisdom of the American admiral's attitude is now shown in the admission that the attack by the powers had the effect of making the Chinese regulars the allies of the Boxers, when such a result might have been averted by more judicious procedure.

Dr. Jas. E. Talmage's new book will soon be published by the Deseret News. It will be a very attractive work, finely illustrated. It treats of the Great Salt Lake; gives its history, geography, animal life, scenic attractions, birds, guano deposits, etc., etc. Although handsomely printed and bound, it will be furnished, exclusively by the "News," for twenty-five cents a copy. Send orders at once.

The July number of Zion's Young People, published in this city, opens with an illustrated article by B. W. Ashton, entitled "Around the World With Our Boys and Girls." It takes the reader on a brief tour to Japan. "A Child's Life of Brigham Young," by Wm. A. Morton, is continued. There are several other interesting articles, both selected and original. Among the latter we notice one, "Dan's Fourth of July," by W. J. Sloan. The number closes with a "Patriotic Song," words and music.

OUR CHINESE POLICY.

Springfield Republican. The United States can do its duty without entangling itself with the jealousies and rivalries of other western powers, or joining in any partition of the territory of China, or even becoming a member of the joint protectorate over that country. The situation thus far, it seems to us, is perfectly clear: No attack has been made by China upon the United States, according to the latest advice, and the United States has made no attack on China; but the danger apparently threatening our legation at Peking warrants the President in making every preparation to meet the worst, should it come, in a way befitting the dignity and the honor of the United States.

Los Angeles Express. There is not a foreign nation with interests in China that has not suffered serious damage to property and loss of life to its citizens or subjects by the Boxer movement. Intelligent Chinese

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must already be appalled at the gigantic total of indemnities that will be presented to the government as a result of its suicidal disregard of its responsibilities. Taken at the start a firm exercise of authority would easily have controlled the Boxers and prevented the outrages and bloodshed that have occurred.

Kansas City Star.

The powers which are really concerned in the reconstruction of China on a plan which will permit foreigners to live in that country in absolute security, and which favor the establishment of a more liberal and enlightened government, are not friendly to the designs of Russia in the Celestial empire. The czar is, in fact, little less of a despot than the dowager empress. It is the belief of many intelligent students of the situation that they are in cultural, that the uprising of the Boxers has been inspired by Russia.

Boston Herald.

The alleged detailed news which comes to us from Shanghai and Hongkong is sent from localities so far distant from the scene of disorder that, in the absence of telegraphic communication—which, as we have just shown, if it existed, would be used for official purposes—it is incredible that any intelligence of the character suggested can have been acquired. If one were to make a comparison by geographical localities in this country, it might be assumed that Burlington, Vt., was Peking, that Boston was Tien Tsin, that Washington was Shanghai, and that New Orleans was Hongkong. With telegraphic communication destroyed, it would be absurd to assume that people in Washington and New Orleans would be likely to have any knowledge that was of the least value concerning events that were taking place in Burlington.

New York Mail and Express.

One of the most remarkable women of history is Tai-An, empress dowager of China. She is remarkable by virtue of her unprecedented ascent from the estate of a concubine to that of mistress of an immortal throne. She is remarkable by virtue of the role she was to play in setting the torch to the military establishments of all Christendom. It may be within the power, and it seems, it is within the disposition of this vigorous woman to cause an overturn in the affairs of the world no less momentous than that which followed the flight of Cleopatra's fleet from the Bay of Actium.

Chicago Record.

Meanwhile the fleet of warships off Taku and in the Pei Ho is being augmented by gunboats and cruisers of our own navy from Manila and others from the navies of Russia, Japan, Germany, France and Great Britain. Infantry from Manila has been ordered to the scene of action and the other nations are moving likewise to send troops to the threatened region. England is drawing on its Indian contingents, Japan on those from home, Russia on those at Port Arthur and Vladivostok, while France depends on the colonial forces at Saigon, and Germany on the small detachments at its Chinese port, Kiao Chou.

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