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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 4, 1901.

WE GIVE CREDIT.

We are always pleased to give credit to newspapers that show any disposition to be fair in reference to the "Mormons." We have had occasion to take up the defense when our cause has been assailed by the Troy, N. Y. Press. We now have an opportunity to say a word in commendation of that paper.

On January 28, it published in full an editorial from the Deseret News, commenting on the publication, by the Press, of a book purporting to be an exposure of "Mormonism." The Press took the ground that it was a new thing under the sun when it first appeared—in 1867, but it is really little more than a rebash of anti-"Mormon" diatribes served up, at different times, many years before, and most of them long since shown to be as incorrect as they were unsavory. It is the reproduction of our remarks that we now mention to the credit of the Press.

Side by side with it, however, that paper gives place to a column of scurrilous, from the pen of a person who once spent some time in Utah, and whose character for veracity (?) was fully shown up while he was here. We have no desire to repeat the expose. Nor will we drop down to the level of his position. We are quite content to let the two articles go before the Troy public by way of contrast. Our arguments and his personalities; the plain statements we made and his libellous and malicious assertions; the simple truth and the bitter overflow of gall. The contrast ought to be enough for thinking and fair-minded readers, and we will leave that matter without retaliation or reply. The Press no doubt thought it was proper to give place to both communications, and we believe that will do our cause and our Elders in Troy no real harm.

The Press speaks of our comments as ignoring its own remarks of Jan. 11. By this time it will have seen that, in a later issue of the "News," we gave them full attention, and we will be pleased if it publishes our full reply. It is entirely mistaken in stating that we paid no attention to its charges, for we quoted and replied to them in our daily issue of Jan. 22.

Our controversy with the Troy Press was over its attack on the Elders laboring as missionaries in that town, its attempts at intimidation, and its covert invitations to the people there, to meet with indignities and violence the peaceful efforts of gentlemen, who violated no law, to promulgate the principles of their faith. The Press remarks now:

We say again that the common principles of freedom offer no justification for strange men, proselyters of any faith, to forget the sanctity and outrage the hospitality of our homes during business hours, when men are at work earning bread for their families. Interlopers who resort to this snake-in-the-grass method of winning the ear and sympathy of weak women have no right to complain if doors are slammed in their insolent faces, and a fearless press exposes their true character.

Just so. That might be all right if there was any ground for the position taken. We expressed our disbelief in the insinuations of the Press as to the conduct of our Elders there, so contrary to the most explicit instructions given to all our missionaries. And we called for a bill of particulars. Let the Troy Press give us the names and addresses of persons who have had cause for such complaints, with dates and times when these calls are alleged to have taken place. Then we will investigate, and if the wrongs alleged have been committed we will join the Press in condemning them.

One of the duties of the Elders, however, is to distribute tracts containing an explanation of the fundamental doctrines of our Church. In doing this they intrude upon no person's privacy. They attempt to "outrage" no one's hospitality. They do not try to force their way into any home, or impose their presence or conversation upon unwilling men or women. The charge is too vague for refutation, and merely forms an excuse for the treatment which the Press has sought to bring down upon the Elders.

The Press says "Toleration has never been a trait of Mormonism." The eminent ministers of different religious denominations, who have spoken in our Tabernacles and meeting houses, and the numerous other visitors to this city, who have learned something about us, would smile very broadly at the ignorance of the Troy Press, if they should happen to see the rash assertion. The trouble with the Press is that it knows nothing of the true history and real principles of "Mormonism," but depends upon old exploded stories and the ribald and abusive statements of the enemies of the Latter-day Saints, like those contained in the book it is publishing in occasional instalments, and the defamatory effusion we have briefly noticed.

There is no system extant that is more tolerant in spirit and in teaching and act, than that which is called "Mormonism." And in closing, we will

cite for the benefit of the Press, the 11th published Article of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

"We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where or what they may."

JOHN MARSHALL DAY.

It is John Marshall day. And throughout the nation his memory is being honored. As Washington was the great central figure of the revolution, and president of the convention that framed the Constitution, so is John Marshall the great central figure in constraining that wonderful instrument. Jay (himself chief justice before Marshall), and Madison and Hamilton, in the Federalist, expounded the Constitution's arguments in favor of it. They may be said to have given it form, but it was Marshall pre-eminently who set it, and so far as it was construed up to his death, fixed it for all time. Other constitutional questions as great as Marshall ever handled will come before the Supreme Court (there is one before it now—that question of the relations of our new possessions to the Union—greater than he ever dealt with) but will that august body ever again have so great a man, so profound a lawyer, so wonderful an expounder of fundamental law at its head as was John Marshall of Virginia?

A CUBAN DIFFICULTY.

The Cuban situation seems to be fraught with difficulties. The island has by the Supreme Court been declared foreign, and it has formulated a constitution which reserves for the people on another country?

This is in full harmony with the solemn declarations of this country that Cuba, freed from Spanish rule, should remain free, and the general sentiment of the American people, that this pledge must not be violated. So far there should be no difficulty.

But it seems to be desirable that the United States be given power to interfere in behalf of Cuba, in case the island should become involved in a dispute with a foreign country. This would imply that the Cubans give us a right to direct, to some extent, its foreign policy and control its power to contract debts, or its indebtedness, might become involved in alliances detrimental to the United States, and the question therefore is, How can Cuba both be an entirely independent country, and yet be in some things dependent of another country?

In the settlement of this problem wise diplomacy will be needed. The plan according to which the Transvaal republic was made free in everything but in its power to make foreign treaties, did not work well. It has just cost the British empire millions of dollars. Fortunately there is now a court of international arbitration consisting of the best juridical talent of the world. Any dispute between Cuba and foreign countries may be submitted to it, and thus there is no need of appeal to arms. When the relations between this country and Cuba are defined, any misunderstanding regarding our interests in that island or its surroundings, can be settled peacefully, as long as there is a disposition to do so. The danger of war on account of the new republic, is much less than it would have been at any previous time.

THE BODY OF TAMMANY.

How absolute is the power of Tammany in New York few people realize. A fresh and remarkable instance of the fear in which it is held has just occurred. Mr. Gustavus Myers has written a history of Tammany Hall. He found it impossible to get any of the regular publishing houses to undertake its publication for him, so the book is to be published by himself. Why the publishing houses do not care or decline to publish his book is explained by these two sentences, taken from his work: "The records show (says Mr. Myers), that nearly every prominent Tammany leader has been involved in some theft or swindle, public or private. These speculations or frauds range, in point of time, from 1789 to 1865-6 to the present day; in the matter of persons, from the founder of the Tammany Society to some of the most recent bosses; and in gradation of amount, from the petty thousands taken by Mooney, Stagg, and Page, in the first decade of the century, to the \$1,200,000 taken by Swartwout in 1830-35, and the undetermined millions taken by Wood and Tweed in the fifties, sixties and first two years of the seventies." Doubtless they fear an attack from Tammany should they undertake to put the book on the market. Only a few years ago a leading New York paper incurred the enmity of Tammany, and was on the point of moving to Jersey City because Tammany was about to institute some "improvements" which called for the demolition of the particular building occupied by the paper. And the sole object of the proposed "improvements" was to destroy or cripple the obnoxious journal.

FREEDOM BY FORCE.

From China dispatches it appears that some of the missionaries engaged in the Mongolian empire are anxious to have a word to say in the final settlement of the trouble with the Chinese dragon. They ask that foreigners, as a condition of peace, be granted to travel in the country, and establish mission stations; and also the abrogation of edicts prohibiting Chinese officials from accepting "Christianity." There is nothing wrong in this per se. No part of the world should be closed by bigotry and fanaticism, to the efforts of civilization. But when alleged messengers of the gospel ask for guns, bayonets and shells, with which to break open a pagan territory, in the interests of religion, a great mistake is certainly committed. If the powers yield to this demand, and incorporate into their peace conditions anything so tended as special protection for those engaged in proselyting the country, trouble is sure to follow. The Pekin

government is powerless to protect travelers in the remote provinces of the interior. Violation of the agreement would be an ever present danger of new outbreaks and more punitive expeditions. If the specious "Christianity" preached in China has not, in all these years, been demonstrated to be something superior to oriental systems of religion, something of practical value to the people, and therefore desirable, it is certainly not time to force it upon the country by violent means.

Some idea of missionary activity in that country can be formed from a story told by the San Francisco Call, to the effect that the clause in the treaty of 1860, relating to liberty of missionaries was a forgery. The treaty had been negotiated, that paper says, in the usual manner, and its terms agreed on. It had been read in French, the diplomatic language of the country, and then it was given to a missionary to translate into Chinese, and he interpolated the clause relating to liberty of traveling and proselyting. The Chinese plenipotentiaries are said to have signed the document without suspicion of the forgery, trusting in the honesty of the translator. With such evidences of dishonesty, it is not strange if the Chinese refuse to open their country to the foreigners for the purpose of propagating the strange beliefs.

A case of indiscretion on the part of these emissaries is also told by the San Francisco Call. It had a trivial beginning, but it ended with China being forced to pay a large indemnity. Some children, it is said, were playing near a missionary compound and threw rocks at the stockade. One of the missionaries, seeing this, ran out and seized a child, dragged it inside and locked the gates. Its playmates, naturally, ran off and told their parents. When they came and demanded their child the missionaries refused to release him. Then the whole town rose in a mob, tore down the compound wall, recovered the child and wrecked the buildings. The government concerned compelled China to pay a large indemnity, when justice required that the whole missionary party should be punished for the original aggression.

The trouble with these zealous messengers of peace is that they are too impatient for results of their efforts. They have an idea that unless the people to whom they preach immediately accept their offers of salvation, they are eternally lost. They leave nothing to the eternal mercy of Omnipotence. Had they not this bigoted view of life and eternity, they might be content with the slow but sure work of true philanthropy, which is as much honored and beneficial in pagan countries as anywhere.

A SYNDICATE ARTICLE.

Readers of the "News" will doubtless remember the advent here of the Great Eastern Newspaper League, headed by Dr. C. S. King, and representing four very prominent public journals—The New York Sun, Philadelphia Times, Baltimore Herald and Boston Journal. Those gentlemen were favorably impressed with what they saw and heard here, and wrote many good things about Salt Lake City and its interests. It was expected that "Mormon" affairs would receive special attention; but through the illness of Mr. King, this was delayed. However, we have noticed recently that the write-up has been made, and we have received copies of papers containing the article, which occupies five columns of solid matter with a portrait of President Lorenzo Snow and a cut of the Salt Lake Temple.

We have just received a letter from one of our missionaries in Boston, with the page from the Boston Journal of Jan. 20 containing the syndicate article, which he very highly commends as a fair account of our city and our faith. We concur in his opinion, and believe that a more succinct and generally accurate review of "Mormon" affairs has never appeared in an eastern newspaper. Our correspondent thus concludes his letter:

"It is seldom we receive the unbiased criticism allotted other religious bodies; and most of the hate-begotten comment upon our people fails to give the credit due the Mormon people for opening up one of the new best parts of this great land."

"The truth must prevail in the end. The heaven of the Gospel must do its work, and sooner or later the true season will be given for the indefatigable energy of the founders of the great western commonwealth."

"The 'News' is a valiant defender of truth. All who read it pronounce it a first-class paper. To those who have a testimony of the Gospel burning brightly, there is none like it. The Elders all appreciate it highly."

"Your brother in the Gospel,"

"DANIEL RASMUSSEN."

Bridge jumper Steve Brodie has made the great leap in the dark.

The Boers appear to be about the most surprising people on the earth.

Why tar and feather Mrs. Carrie Nation? Even now everybody, including Kansans, admits that she is a "bird."

Crazy Snake has been landed in jail. It is to be hoped there is no loop hole left through which he can crawl out.

Queen Alexandra has been made colonel of a German regiment of dragoons. Long live Alexandra the Great!

The Cuban military government demands that Embezzler Neely furnish a cash bond. This is no more than right and poetic justice. He took cash.

One of our citizens captured two burglars Saturday night, holding them up with a shot gun. Give him a medal and the burglars all the law will allow.

"Are the tropics a bar?" asks a Yale man in the Boston Transcript. There are certainly lots of bars in the tropics, if the news from Manila may be relied upon.

Andrew Carnegie has declared his allegiance to the State of New Jersey. It is the home of more trusts and corporations than any other State in the Union.

It is hardly likely that the threat to tar and feather Mrs. Nation will be carried out. Still there is no telling what Kansans will do. Who would ever have believed that the State of John

Brown would have burned a negro at the stake? Yet Kansas has recently done that.

Col. Roosevelt could easily emulate Ernest Seton Thompson in writing about "Wild Animals I Have Known." The Springfield Fox wouldn't be in it with the Colorado mountain lion.

A correspondent of the Springfield Republican tells why there are saloons in Kansas; and takes over a column to tell it in. It could have been told in much less space. The reason is that the laws are not enforced.

It is said that the diplomatic corps at Washington is inclined to criticize the President's action in having the flag on the White House lowered to half mast on the occasion of Queen Victoria's death. This rumor of diplomatic dissatisfaction may be all fiction, but if it be fact it might not be entirely out of place to drop a gentle hint to the doyen of the corps that it is a matter for the President and not them to decide.

OUR CUBAN POLICY.

Chicago Times-Herald.

According to the most potent pronouncement of this government the members of the Cuban constitutional convention represent a people who "are and of right ought to be free and independent." They are the very people who received assurance from the same source "that the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island (of Cuba) except for the pacification thereof." They are the people who were assured further that when the pacification was accomplished the United States would leave to them the government and control of the island.

Boston Transcript.

Cuba for the Cubans is a taking cry. It naturally appeals to the patriotism of the Cuban people, and those who raise it are not likely to be any limitations of their program become perceptible to the dwellers on the island if it can be helped. Thus for instance they will not let the Cuban people see that in the relations of Cuba to the great powers of Europe, she must depend on the goodwill of the United States whenever their strength confronts her weakness. Again Cuba cannot raise a loan without the indorsement of the United States being given or implied. Say what they may, do what they may, the necessity of dependence on the United States stares them in the face. A frank recognition of the fact will make for harmony in Cuba since it will conciliate a large element of Cubans.

Baltimore Sun.

The right of this government to impose any restrictions upon the Cubans in the matter of their foreign relations, or to dictate what their relations shall be to the United States, is not conceded by the Cubans, nor is it consistent with the pledge of independence made in the most explicit form by Congress on the eve of war with Spain. The declaration of the Cuban constitution that "the people of Cuba shall constitute a sovereign state," merely affirms what Congress recognized as the right of the Cubans a little less than three years ago. Moreover, the Supreme Court has recently decided that Cuba is a foreign country. As such it is under no obligation to consult the United States in framing its constitution.

Springfield Republican.

With the Cuban constitution presented to the United States government as a demonstration that the Cubans have performed their part of the program, the question of setting the new Cuban republic in motion and withdrawing all United States authority from the island will become a pressing one. It is understood that the administration at Washington is embarrassed by the prospect of having to determine its course in Cuba at an early day. What would please the advocates of an indefinite American occupation is the postponement of the consideration of the Cuban situation until next winter.

Chicago Record.

Just now the lively question is the debt with which the new republic is to begin life. The convention has disposed of the suggestion to assume the old Spanish bonds against the island revenues very emphatically. Hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of these bonds were issued by Spain during the unhappy years of misgovernment, for the purpose of putting down Cuban insurrections. No one can fail to approve of the refusal of the constitutional convention to admit any responsibility for these bonds, or to continue them as a lien on the customs receipts which were mortgaged by the Spanish to pay the interest. If any delay were daring enough to suggest that the debt should be assumed it would be sure to mark the end of his career in the Cuban republic, so deeply do the people feel upon the matter.

Chicago Evening Post.

Universal suffrage in Cuba would be far from ideal. The Cubans would be wise to make some intelligent voting qualification a part of their new constitution. But these things apply with equal force to ourselves, and the Cubans are bright enough to see the point. If we would escape the imputation of being inconsistent we should ask some other nation, in a quiet way, to advise the Cubans on those lines which we wish them to follow, but have not been wise enough or courageous enough to follow ourselves. The problem is not a simple one, but all heated and tall talk from American politicians is extremely indiscreet, since its sincerity is decidedly open to question. Let them remember that Cuba is still a right free and independent, and that suffrage is a purely domestic, internal matter regarding which the people of the island need consult no one.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

There are several attractive features of the February number of Table Talk. Among these are "Winged Luncheons," "The Art of Living Well," "Pandora Box," and "The Boquet Garth." The regular departments of "Housekeepers' Inquiries," "Ask Through the Year" are filled with useful information.—Table Talk Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

The February number of Success has two contributions from Ligeia and Greeley. The former is by General John H. Littlefield, and the latter is from the pen of Colonel Alexander McClure. The story of the struggles of MacKay, Flood, O'Brien and Fair, prior to their great Comstock lode discovery, is told. Chief Justice Fuller, Mr. Justice McKenna, Attorney General Griggs and Representative Kahn pay tribute to the memory of America's great jurist, John Marshall, Alfred C. Harmerworth contributes a bright view of the journalistic outlook on both sides of the Atlantic, and discusses success chances in connection therewith. Howard Fielding's "Twentieth Century West" is a strong piece of fiction. Evelyn P. Baldwin tells of the perils and rewards of Arctic exploration, and other writers, including T. C. Martin, W. M. Chase and Edwin Markham, furnish matter that will certainly challenge attention.—University Building, New York.

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