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HAS IT NO SHAME?

The North Western Christian Advocate still keeps up its hammering at shadows, under the impression that it is giving hard knocks to the "Mormon" Church and to the Deseret News, which has noticed some of its puerile attacks on both. This time it quotes from our columns the statement that, "Unquestioning obedience to men is not a doctrine of the Church, nor is it expected of any of its members." The Advocate then goes on to quote from a published statement made by a member of the Reorganized church, in which he is purported to have shown that our remark is erroneous.

But there is not anything cited in the excerpts picked out here and there from old sermons, delivered under peculiar circumstances that are not related, away back in 1857, that shows the Deseret News to be in error. The very fact that the concocters of the publication referred to were compelled to go to that ancient literature in order to bolster up their shallow pretenses, should be enough to establish in a logical mind the fallacy of their position.

We use the plural in reference to the production of the piece of sophistry which the Advocate copies with so much glee, because the alleged writer of the screed was only the echo and tool of a still more pitiable scribe, who utters out venom and libel in an almost unceasing volume of untruth and invective, to gratify a desire to injure that which he cannot destroy.

What those dead and gone orators proclaimed under conditions that no doubt justified their remarks, were their own views, governing their own acts, and are not binding upon this Church, nor are they cited as written authority in the Twentieth century. We reaffirm our previous statement, and if the North Western Christian Advocate can show that we are wrong from the accepted written standards of the Church, or from requirements that any member of the Church is compelled to comply with, we will readily acknowledge that we are in error.

We are under the impression, after an experience of fifty-five years in the Church, that we know nearly as much about its doctrine and discipline as the editor of the North Western Christian Advocate does, who draws his entire information (?) from the writings of anti-"Mormon" prevaricators, and from persons interested in burlesquing and defaming the Latter-day Saints and distorting the principles which they hold to be divine.

In an attempt to bring down to the present time the alleged requirement of unquestioning obedience of the Mormons to their leaders, the Advocate quotes this solitary excerpt from a sermon by President Joseph F. Smith at Provo, April 19, 1890:

"The fact of the matter is, when a man says you can direct me spiritually, but not temporally, he lies in the presence of God—that is, if he has got intelligence enough to know what he is talking about."

Now, even without the explanatory context of that sentence, what has it to do with the so-called doctrine of "unquestioning obedience" or its execution of Church members? Does that prove that such a requirement is a "doctrine of the Church"? Its citation is one more bit of evidence of the utter lack of logic and consistency of the individuals who selected it and of the Christian Advocate that copied it. Now let us quote a little from the same discourse from which that bit of a paragraph was extracted in order to confuse the minds of the readers of the Advocate and convey to them a false impression. Here are the remarks made by President Smith as they actually appear in the discourse alluded to:

"The fact of the matter is, when a man says you may direct me spiritually, but not temporally, he lies in the presence of God—that is, if he has got intelligence enough to know what he is talking about. If he has not intelligence enough to know, then he only makes a mistake; but if he has intelligence enough he knows that the spiritual and temporal are one, indivisible and inseparable, and that you cannot direct a man spiritually without you direct him temporally as well. The spiritual and the temporal are blended in men. No man can act upon the promises of the Spirit, but it will affect him spiritually and temporally. It is true, we are dual beings, and the body and the spirit make the soul of man; but while that is so, whatever will affect you temporally will affect you more or less spiritually, and whatever will affect you spiritually will affect you temporally as well. So that this splitting of hairs, this dividing of very small things, is not manly, is not brave, is not honorable, is not intelligent, but is ignorance and foolishness in the sight of the Lord. I am in this Church to be directed by the Father in Heaven, and I shall not stop short of that which affects me temporally or spiritually."

That is the full paragraph as delivered and published. It conveys a far different impression, viewed in its entirety, than that intended by the plotters who sought to use it for their own ulterior purpose. If the North Western Christian Advocate really desired

to convey to its readers an understanding of the doctrine and order of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it would either seek for a knowledge of these matters from authorized exponents thereof or take them from the recognized written standards of faith adopted by the Church formally, in conference assembled, which are the Bible, (King James' translation) the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.

The Advocate might as fairly go to the Catholic church for an exposition of Protestant doctrine, or to the Presbyterian church for an explanation of Catholic doctrine, or to rampant apostates from either church for information concerning their tenets or doings, as to draw from the foul fountain of anti-"Mormonism" anything reliable concerning the "Mormon" religion. But that paper appears to be engaged in the same work as they, of vilification, distortion, pulling of extracts from the sayings of individuals under peculiar circumstances, linking them together and weaving therefrom theories that are inconsistent with the real teaching, and practice of the religion of the Latter-day Saints. If that is a characteristic of a "Christian Advocate," the Lord keep us from being that kind of a "Christian" or that kind of an "Advocate."

SLAVES OF AMBITION.

It is astonishing what men will sacrifice for the gratification of ambition. This may be true of every other passion that becomes the ruling principle. But it is especially true of the slaves of ambition. We wonder at the poor heathens who used to torture themselves, or sacrifice their lives, their offspring, and all to please their deities. But some of the poor devotees of ambition make no smaller sacrifices, when they embitter their lives, betray their friends, sell their souls, and finally plunge into eternal perdition, all to gratify their ambition, which very often is unjust, having neither intellectual nor moral qualities as a foundation.

How vain is this sacrifice of everything for a base passion! It brings no happiness, no real satisfaction. Perhaps this truth is best illustrated in the life of the great Napoleon. Inger, soil, at one time, stood by the tomb of that man, and his reflections at that moment were to the point. He said:

"I saw him take an empire by the force of his genius. I saw him upon the fruitful field of Waterloo, when chance and fate combined to wreck the fortunes of that former king; and I saw him at St. Helena, with his hands crossed behind him, gazing out at the sad and solemn sea."

"I thought of the orphans and widows he had made; of the tears that had been shed for his glory; and of the only woman who had ever loved him pushed from his heart by the cruel hand of ambition; and I said I would rather have been a French peasant and worn wooden shoes; I would rather have been that poor peasant with my loving wife by my side, knitting as my children died in the skies, with my children upon my knees and their arms about me. I would rather have been that man, and gone down to the tongueless silence of the dreamless dust, than to have been that imperial impersonation of force and murder known as 'Napoleon the Great.'"

What a lesson presented in the life of such a man! His dying thoughts were still on the army, as if he could never cease plotting for the gratification of his ambition. Contrast the life of such men with the life of those who have unselfishly served the cause of humanity. "It is a great consolation to me in my last hour," were the words of Frederik V. of Denmark, "that there is not a drop of blood on my hands," and Empress Josephine said: "I can say with truth to all of you now present at my last moments, that the first wife of Napoleon never caused a single tear to flow." What a happy reflection as the day expires and the shadows deepen!

WARNING FROM BERLIN.

According to a recent article in the Berlin Kreuz Zeitung, Germany may possibly deem it necessary to interfere in the Russian imbroglio. The article is, no doubt, "inspired" and may be regarded as a note of warning. The writer calls attention to the fact that there are 150,000 German subjects in Russia, who have a right to expect the home government to protect them. But, what is still more significant is this, that the author of the article refers to the 2,000,000 Russian subjects of German extraction, and considers it the duty of Germany to interfere in their behalf, too, in case they are threatened. Another reason for interference is found in the fact that German capital is invested in Russia, to the extent of a billion dollars.

No wonder that the Russian government is anxious to put down the violent element whose acts of murder and pillage furnish an excuse for foreign invasion! The article in the Berlin paper must be interesting reading in St. Petersburg, and it is not without importance to all other countries in which citizens of German parentage reside in considerable numbers. If the doctrine is admitted, which evidently is implied in the article referred to, that a government has the duty of extending its protection even to those who have voluntarily given allegiance to another government, then international affairs are intricate indeed.

THE MOROCCO CONFERENCE.

It is not probable that the dispute between France and Germany regarding Morocco will develop into actual hostilities between the two countries, but it is evident that the feelings are becoming intensely strained, as the date for the proposed international congress approaches. European dispatches have intimated that preparations for war are actually being made. But such reports may be accepted only for what they are worth.

France is the country chiefly interested in the Moroccan question, because of the difficulty of maintaining order in French territory in Africa, as long as agitators and robbers can find a refuge over the border line of Morocco. Recognizing this fact, Great Britain conceded the right of France to adopt

whatever measures it thought necessary for the establishment of peace and order in that region. Then the German emperor hastened to assure the Sultan of his imperial support. This was a challenge to both Great Britain and France.

Germany's contention is that the affairs of Morocco should be arranged by an international congress, and not be left to the management of France. This proposition has been accepted, so that Germany has gained a great diplomatic triumph at the outset. Still, it is difficult to see on what valid grounds Germany's claims are based. France alone is concerned about the border difficulties of that country. If Europe were to clamor for the right of doing police duty in the Russian Baltic provinces, for the protection of German interests, we fancy the cabinets would hear from Berlin in no uncertain terms.

Morocco is a large country looking out over the Atlantic on one side and the Mediterranean on the other. It has a fine climate and the richest soil, and many valuable resources. It is no wonder that it has become a bone of contention. The United States will be represented in the coming international congress. We hope its influence will be used for the benefit of the inhabitants of Morocco—for the cause of justice and liberty.

DOES THIS MEAN YOU?

After all the instructions, requests and persuasions of the "News" to correspondents, many of them persist in sending communications for publication or for answers to questions to "Deseret News" or "Deseret News Co.," when they should be addressed to The Editor, and letters about business to The Editor, when they should be addressed to the Business Manager or simply to Deseret News. We once more call attention to the notice above published in every issue of the "News" and respectfully ask that letters in regard to anything of a news or editorial character be addressed "Editor Deseret News" and when on business affairs to the Business Department, or simply Deseret News. Also please write plainly, with ink, if possible, and on one side of paper only so that it may be easily read. And remember that communications without the real name of the writer go at once into the waste basket.

New York is for Hughes and insurance reform.

Anaconda has just about recovered from its scotching.

Ex-Governor and ex-Osage Odell declares that this is the winter of his discontent.

No more righteous fine can be imposed than one on a man who sells liquor to minors.

Do what he will, Dr. Minor Morris cannot make of his case more than a minor grievance.

Mrs. Tolla has been relieved, the result, no doubt, of Samuel L. Clemens' appeal for clemency.

Next summer the ice-man will say it was a very mild winter and that there was scarcely any crop.

"I am determined to save Russia," says M. Witte. It looks not unlike a *saucy* qui petit situation.

President Eliot has been lecturing on the curse of riches. But he has not used Harvard as a terrible example.

"See America first," then let the Commercial club see if something cannot be done to relieve the coal famine situation.

The worst is over in Russia, as the St. Petersburg authorities view it. As viewed in this country the worst is all over Russia.

The secession of the San Blas Indians from Panama is not so important an event as was the secession of Panama from Colombia.

Did Midshipman Decatur countenance hazing? That can only be determined by the expression of his countenance at the time he witnessed it.

"Glasgow, Scotland, spends on drink \$10,000,000 a year, an average of \$12.25 a head," says an exchange. An average of \$12.25 a stomach, we should say.

The position of John Sharp Williams, minority leader of the House, on the Philippine tariff bill seems to be that half a loaf is better than none at all.

Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson says that hazing is all right if indulged in moderately. Neither he nor any one else ever saw that kind of hazing.

"A former President should be made a life senator-at-large on an adequate pension," says the New York World. And represent a state of innocuous desuetude.

So after all Thomas W. Lawson did not have any personal knowledge of Standard Oil affairs. What an amount of hollering he did on a basis of bare belief! Never again will heed be paid to his yelling.

In France a presidential election will soon take place. M. Loubet will soon have served his full term, and it is claimed that he refuses to be considered a second time. There is, as far as known, no excitement in the country about the election. There are no nominating conventions and no popular campaign, as here on the eve of a presidential election, for the simple reason that the French president is chosen by the legislature, and not by the people. There has been some discussion as to whether the election shall be by secret or by open ballot. There has also been more or less talk about candidates, but there is no campaign excitement.

TO READ FEWER NOVELS.

New York American.
Philadelphia.—City Librarian William H. Ketter of Camden has founded an organization of boys, known as the

Reading Fraternity, for the purpose of decreasing the percentage of fiction read by the patrons of the free public library of that city. Every member of the fraternity—and there are now nearly 300 of them—has signed the following obligation: "I do solemnly promise that for every volume of fiction I shall read hereafter I will read two 'class' or nonfiction books. I also promise that I will respect the work of the free library and protect its property, and I will urge all other persons to do the same. To all the foregoing I pledge my sacred honor."

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