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AN EPISTLE ON ETHICS.

The following editorial appears in the Improvement Era for March and is recommended to all our readers as timely and worthy of practical attention:

If it were in good form to project "don'ts" at the young men of the Church, I should head the list with what is a very important one: "Don't meddle with other people's business, mind your own." The "Mormon" Creed: "Mind your own business," is a good motto for young people to adopt who wish to succeed, and who wish to make the best use of their time and lives. And when I say young people, it includes as well aged and middle aged men and women.

Let it be remembered that nothing is quite so contemptible as idle gossip. Byron said a good thing when he put into the mouth of Don Juan these words:

In fact there's nothing makes me so much grieve as to hear of a man, as that abominable little-tattle, which is the end exchequer by human cattle.

How idle to go about whispering mysterious words here and there—words often without foundation in fact, but uttered with injurious intent, and perhaps with the idea of creating for the whisperer some imaginary respect, because of his supposed possession of special knowledge! But such action seldom bodes good, or sets upon the round of human lips sentiments of appreciation for the excellent, the beautiful, and the true, in a brother, neighbor, or friend. Such gossip and meddling constantly lead to view the defects of its subjects, and the scandals that are born fly as upon the wings of eagles. To be thus engaged is a positive injury, also, to the person so employed because by constantly holding the defects of others in his own mind, he ruins his own ability to see and appreciate the virtues of his fellows, thus stifling his noble self.

It is so very much better for a person to strive to develop himself by observing all the good points he can find in others, than to struggle the growth of his better self by chattering a fault-finding, sullen and intermeddling spirit. The Scriptures support this thought. The great Psalmist says in substance in the Fifteenth psalm: "He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor, shall abide in the tabernacle of the Lord, and never be moved." To abide in the tabernacle of the Lord is to enjoy His Holy Spirit. Now, he that taketh up a reproach against his neighbor is in great danger of losing the Spirit of the Lord. "But my neighbor has done this, that or the other that is forbidden by the law or the Church, or good usage, why should I not set him right?" says one. Let that one ask himself: "Is it my business?" The answer will suggest itself: If it is not my business, let me be wise enough to mind my own business. For "he that refrains his lips is wise, and he that uttereth a slander is a fool," and, further, the Lord declares through the Psalmist: "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off."

But with all these warnings, and with the constant drilling into our ears of the virtue of minding our own business which was early a characteristic of the "Mormon" people, and which is so yet, thank God—there is still persons among us who delight in meddling with others' affairs, setting forth idle tales about their neighbors, and seeking to create strife and turmoil among the people. They are loath to let rest to anything themselves, but are constantly worrying about what others do, and how they do it. They are ever alert for the disagreeable, and seldom see good in anything, or behold virtue in the motive of anyone.

Such a spirit should be avoided, and especially by young men and women, who should rather seek to cultivate magnanimity, charity, and loving thoughts towards all. We meet in others just about the sentiments we entertain of them, and are paid in return with much the same coin that we circulate. Our duty, then, is to surround ourselves with an atmosphere of kindness and consideration for our fellows. Such a course will prove favorable to all that is best in us, and will produce a like effect upon all who come within the circle of our influence. It will, besides, best of all, insure us the good will and Spirit of our Father in heaven, thus enabling our souls to broaden, expand and develop.

Let it be the aim of the Saints to cultivate the spirit of generosity and goodwill, such as was exemplified in the life of Christ, and proclaimed when the angels heralded abroad the message: "Peace on earth, to men good will," and which has been reiterated in the modern restoration of the gospel. Watch carefully for that which is worthy and noble in your fellow man. It makes a person better to see and speak of good in his neighbor; while there is unwholesome delight in observing the defect that a few words of appreciation

and encouragement have upon men, women and children with whom we associate. Let those try it who really wish to get the genuine sweets out of life.

The mediator, the gossip, the fault-finder, on the other hand, soon ruin their own capacity for observing the better side of human nature; and, not finding it in others, search in vain for its influence in their own souls.

There is a wonderful field in the organizations of the Church for the cultivation of all the virtues of the human heart. It is the business of every officer and member of the Church, and of her associations and organizations, to lead out in doing good; to stand first in serviceable practices in the gospel atmosphere of sunshine and peace; to lift up and not to cast down; to encourage and not to repress; to dispense joy, and to drown sorrow; to refrain their lips from slandering and backbiting, and by sweet temper and kind words, to unfold the better side of human nature; to mind their own business, and not to indulge criticism, nor to find fault, nor to delight in tale-bearing, scandal, envy, and gossip.

This advice heeded, our social ethics would soon show wonderful improvement: happiness, beauty of disposition, love, and moral cleanliness, would increase among the Saints; the Spirit of God would delight to dwell in their midst, and the best qualities of the people would unfold and develop like the fruit in the warm sunshine of June.

JOSEPH F. SMITH.

AGAINST SOCIALISM.

From Washington comes a report to the effect that a campaign is to be commenced against Socialism in this country. It has always been supposed that here, where equality before the law is the prerogative of citizens, and where a certain measure of prosperity is the reward of all honest effort, Socialism could not gain adherents enough to become a subject of consideration in the political arena. But it now appears that this supposition was too hasty. Hence the resolution to commence a campaign of education against that particular system, or systems. We are told that the plan is the result of earnest consultations between leading men, who propose to make an earnest and comprehensive effort to check the spread of socialistic ideas and to supplant them with sound, conservative opinions on industrial questions, governmental policies and all subjects affecting society and the individual.

The necessity for such a campaign is suggested, it is thought, by the large vote the Socialists cast in the elections last fall. The total was 400,000, while the total at the preceding presidential election was 125,000. The New York Mail and Express gives figures to show the increase of the Socialist vote in various states. In Massachusetts the two Socialist candidates for governor received a total of 39,708 votes, while the candidates for lieutenant governor, of the same parties, received over 48,000 votes. This is a three-fold increase in that state. In Rhode Island the unprecedented Democratic vote of 32,379 given for Gov. Davis, and his election by a plurality of 7,738, were largely the result of the support he obtained from the Socialist element. The Socialist vote in New York state last November was about 145,000 larger than in 1900; in Pennsylvania it was 20,000 larger; in Ohio it was 13,000 larger; and in Illinois it was 18,000 larger.

Of special interest is a statement that the anti-Socialist crusade is aided by church influence. In Chicago, we are told, Catholic societies have begun to organize labor unions within the ranks of the church, but an indispensable qualification to membership is an exclusion of all socialistic ideas. This is regarded as significant. It is believed it will result in the defeat of the system upon which war has been declared.

Experience, however, contradicts this. Whenever a particular system is made the object of antagonism, it derives additional strength. If a campaign of education is to be commenced against Socialism, the Socialists will be given the opportunity of their lifetime explaining what their aims and their beliefs are. And they will not always be the losers in an argument. The only mode of combating the social systems that are opposed to the prevalent arrangement, is to make the existing conditions what they were intended to be. As long as we preach individual competition, but render it impossible for the great majority to compete with a small and privileged number, there will be both Socialism and anarchism. For, after all, these are but efforts to correct existing evils. Let the evils be removed as contemplated by law, and there will be no opposing forces.

CONGRESS APPROPRIATIONS.

The Fifty-seventh Congress, at its two sessions, appropriated a total of \$1,254,000,000, but there is not as much talk now about a billion-and-a-half-dollar Congress, as there was about that billion-dollar Congress. The time cannot be far away when each session of Congress will appropriate a billion. In the amount is included \$50,154,000 for the Panama canal, \$135,000,000 for pensions, \$124,000,000 for the postoffice department, \$78,000,000 for the army, and \$50,000,000 for the navy. The Panama treaty will be ratified before July 1. That will release \$40,000,000 of gold from the treasury at once to be paid to French speculators. Ten millions more will be paid to the Colombian government, and then the United States must finish the canal, which will cost at least \$100,000,000 more. That will bring money in circulation and the markets of the world will be benefited thereby.

CONCLUDED TO DIE.

The story is told of a Russian Jewess, Clara Linskey, who came to this country and committed suicide in Minneapolis, the other day. The reason for this tragedy is said to have been that she mourned over the fact that the Jews in America, in her view, are drifting away from the faith of the fathers. That made life to her an unbearable burden.

The case is a very remarkable one. This poor Russian girl was brought up by devoted parents. To her religion

was the first consideration. In this country she found that money was the first object. The Sabbath was desecrated by her own people. Religious indifference was visible on all hands. She became homesick. She longed for her poor home in the country where her parents had taught her to worship according to the Law. But that was impossible. She could not return. And so she ended her existence.

It is not often that you find men and women to whom religion is so much of a reality as it was to her. To a great many it is but a matter of form. Few, comparatively, are willing to make any sacrifice for it; fewer still are willing to die for it, as did this Jewish maiden. For it is evident that materialism fought to get possession of her soul. She must have had a terrible conflict, before she concluded to take her own life.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEKEEPING.

Co-operative housekeeping is now urged on the ground that it would encourage bachelors to become husbands. The argument is that, the cost of living has rendered it absolutely necessary for many to remain single. Very few men remain single from choice. It is thought. They are but too happy to furnish all kinds of luxuries for a woman they love. But their incomes are not big enough, and the expenses appall the prudent bachelor.

Co-operative housekeeping, it is argued, would reduce the cost. Under that arrangement the lady of the house performs the lighter work, but she needs no cook, and but little help. The meals are sent from the common kitchen. They are cheaper and better than those generally cooked at home. Coal is saved, as 100 kitchen fires are replaced with that of one furnace. Labor is saved. The food comes to the home neatly put up in the receptacles provided for it. There is no dish-washing. The used plates, glasses, etc., are taken away and come back clean. All the family has to do is to pay so much a day.

We believe the co-operative system is gradually gaining in favor, but it certainly does not solve all problems of home-life. To the "wage-earning" woman, it would certainly be a great boon, for she cannot be supposed to labor both at home and in shop, or office, but to the housewife, home without a reasonable amount of labor would be monotonous.

It is all nonsense to argue that the expenses of housekeeping prevent men from marrying. Most girls are practical. They will sacrifice many luxuries for the man they love. They will work faithfully for husband and children. They will save money for the husband that trusts them. But for all that, if by co-operative expenses can be saved and the burdens of housekeeping be lightened, the experiment is worth while trying. For the time gained can be spent profitably in other pursuits.

ONE ROBIN DOES NOT MAKE A SPRING.

A patriotic order—a pension voucher. Most men take positive assertion for proof positive.

The Idaho legislators have adjourned and their works do follow them.

The Mississippi is on the rise, which is not an evidence of prosperity.

The more snow now the more water next summer. Let it continue to fall.

It seems that the three buffalo bulls were butchered to make a Sunday holiday.

Robin Redbreast has had to breast several cold storms since he came. But it shows that he is abreast of the time.

"Inasmuch" is the name assumed by a contributor to the latest charity. But how much? is the main thing.

"The Whitewashing of Julia" is the latest London comedy. Something in the political satire line probably.

No man can look upon an ordinary legislature without realizing that some men have greatness thrust upon them.

Judge Alton B. Parker is very liable to be overturned before the great race for the presidential nomination in 1904.

The Buffalo police are very sure there is a woman in the Burdick murder case, and now they are hunting for one to fit their theory.

Captain Richmond P. Hobson is going to write a novel. Will that not be quite as trying on his eyes as his naval construction work?

Mr. Morgan has seen Cuba. If he likes the island he may purchase its bonds and when they are defaulted he may take it in payment.

And Arizona let Utah have that strip of territory north of the Colorado river that much of our southern neighbor would now have been a part of a State.

The mild Yankees of Waterbury can get up a very good riot and be quite as lawless when they think occasion requires as their southern or western brethren.

The original Uncle Tom of Mrs. Stowe's celebrated novel has just died. According to our best recollection this is the seventh time the original Uncle Tom has died. Next!

When the master of ceremonies at the White House says: "Symons says, thumbs up," or "Symons says, thumbs down," it will be quite the proper caper to do as he says.

Colonel Shires, of Kentucky, is in favor of "putting up all county offices for sale to the highest bidder and using the money for building roads." The county officers would probably divert the proceeds of the sale to other purposes.

Perhaps some reforms might be instituted to advantage at the State Reformatory school, but sight should not be lost of the fact that the boys and girls sent there are not there for taking prizes for good conduct at Sunday school.

Data gathered from the general catalogue and the alumni association shows

that of the 1,835 women that have graduated from the University of Michigan only 531 have married since graduating. An odd fact is that a larger percentage of the women graduates marry from the professional departments than from the literary, which is thought to verify the sociology tenet that marriage is restricted largely in proportion as the standard of education among women increases. This would go to show that co-education at Ann Arbor is a failure.

THE LATEST CONGRESS.

The house of representatives was chosen in 1900, when McKinley was re-elected president. All its business, however, has been done under the administration of President Roosevelt. Unless an extra session is called, the Congress extra session is called, the remainder of Roosevelt's term will not meet until next December. Whether it will prove to be more tractable to his leadership is doubtful. The chances are that it will not. The difference between McKinley and Roosevelt as administrators is in nothing more evident than in their relations with Congress. McKinley did not have his own way with Congress altogether, but he was rather more successful than Mr. Roosevelt has been.

St. Paul Globe.

The momentous affairs of legislation have been generally neglected in the discussion on the part of the senate leaders to push on their own schemes. At no time has that body been free from the threat that unless some pet or partisan measure was given place the business of the senate would be obstructed—and it is worthy of note that in no former session of Congress has filibustering been so effective in the upper body. The members have talked much and accomplished little. If it did not menace the country with the effective strangling of all needed legislation this record of the senate would not be so unmitigated evil. There have been times innumerable when vital interests in these United States would have felt more secure in the assurance that the senate would do nothing but talk. The house has not been so conversationally industrious as the senate, but it has been engaged very largely in the consideration of private bills, or matters of local importance.

New York World.

The most important action of the session now closing was the creation of the Department of Commerce and Labor, whose bureau of corporations may, under energetic management, somewhat curb the "trusts." The edicts anti-trust may also prove useful; but the Littlefield bill, the one measure that proffered certain results, has fallen by the wayside.

Chicago News.

It will not escape notice that the credit for the best legislation of the Congress now closing was due to the day is due in large measure to the president. It was Mr. Roosevelt's insistent demand for action that secured something more than a mere record of inactivity. It is due to him also that the Panama and Cuban treaties are not to be allowed to fall.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Among the good works of the Forty-seventh Congress was the definite commitment of the country to the policy of national aid to irrigation, and the enactment of a law which, without further legislation by Congress, funds for the construction of great reservoirs will be available for years to come. This bill will entitle the Fifty-seventh Congress to be remembered with gratitude by the inhabitants of the western half of the continent. By the passage of three important measures it greatly strengthened the people of the country in their struggle for the control of organized capital. The anti-trust legislation has not been revolutionary, as it should have been. Statesmanlike statesmen, without destruction of capital but its regulation. The authority of Congress in this matter is still unsettled, but the laws passed will, if sustained by the Supreme court, to which they are certain to be submitted, establish the authority of Congress to effectually deal with the trusts and enable it to obtain the information necessary for wise action.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The surplus revenue will soon disappear. The Panama treaty will be ratified and will take \$50,000,000 from the treasury in the first year; \$40,000,000 for the French speculators and their friends, \$10,000,000 for the Colombian government and \$10,000,000 for the first year's work on the canal. The surplus will soon be a thing of the past when the Panama canal gets under construction. The people do not like to be taxed for this enterprise, but the taxation will all come in due time, and then a great wall will rise from the people of the United States who are becoming daily burdened with more and more taxation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The March McClure's contains an article by Lincoln Steffens, "The Shamelessness of St. Louis," something new in the history of American municipal democracy." Of importance, also, is Samuel Moffett's article "The War on the Locomotive," which is a surprising revelation of what the trolley people are doing. Miss Tarbell's fifth chapter of Standard Oil History treats of the Republic of Trust Building." Frank H. Spearman has a character sketch of a remarkable man, John L. Whitman, mayor of the Cook county jail, Chicago.

Lloyd Osbourne has a love story of the South Seas called "Four Years Between." Stewart Edward White begins his new series of "Blazed Trail" stories with "The Scaler." "The Conversion of the Scaler" is the best of all Herminie Templeton's Irish stories. "Love Among the Blackboards," by Myra Kelly, recounts the very diverting experiences of a teacher in an East Side school. Arthur Stansfeld Piers' new novel, "The Triumph," is in its second installment.—New York.

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