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WHY NOT BE FAIR AND JUST?

It is not to be expected that the "Liberals" as some of them call themselves, will be satisfied with anything that the "Mormons" do. The manifesto did not suit them. The dissolution of the People's Party did not placate them. The consistent course of the Latter-day Saints in reference to both of these matters seems to disgree with them. They want to find fault, and therefore it is easy for them to grumble.

It does not matter much what they think or what they say. But there are some people and some papers in the United States who might be expected to take a rational view of the Utah situation and to let reason take the place of prejudice. Yet while admitting that what the "Mormons" have done is right and that they have placed themselves in the position desired by the nation, these carpers seem desirous of making matters beyond the lines of law and of liberty and making the saints offenders because of their faith.

How many times has it been urged by professed friends as well as open enemies of the "Mormon" people, that all that was or could be required was conformity in act with the laws of the land, and that belief was free and beyond the purview of courts and of all human control? "You may believe what you please so long as you do not practice that which is obnoxious to public opinion," was repeated again and again. "Come within the law and your religious views will be regarded sacred," we proclaimed by the press and by the bar.

But now the fear is expressed that though the "Mormons" have ceased to practice polygamy they still believe it is right, and this is made a ground of offence and an excuse for depriving them of their church property and their political rights and privileges. Is this just? Is it American? Is it in accord with the civil and religious liberty of which all parties boast?

Polygamy and slavery have been aided in party platforms, pulpit orations and stump speeches. We will say nothing about the nonsense of making them appear as "twins." But when slavery was abolished in the North, was it required of the people there that they recant their belief in its rightfulness before they were accorded the common rights of citizens? Are there not strong and able men, some of them prominent as statesmen, who still hold to beliefs on that question that are diverse to the popular doctrine? And have these beliefs ever had the effect of an attempt to revive the practice of slavery? Why, then, should an alleged belief in the rightfulness of polygamy under certain circumstances, be any barrier in the way of the "Mormons" in the exercise of all the rights of freemen, seeing that the practice has been abandoned and that there is no more prospect of its restoration than of the revival of slavery?

We say the American people at large, their representatives in Congress, and the advocates of republican institutions through the press or on the platform, have no right to penetrate into the domain of conscience or of faith, but may only demand conformity to law and to custom. Nor should they carry their prejudices against the past, so far as to deny justice and liberty to the "Mormons" on the score of altogether improbable contingencies in the future.

The concessions that have been made to the requirements of the majority by the "Mormons," are admitted by unprejudiced and sagacious persons informed as to the facts, to be all that could be desired or expected of any people. Is it not now good policy as well as plain justice and pure charity to accept those concessions in the spirit in which they have been made, and leave mere questions of abstract belief to the sphere of opinion and thought, which in this, above all other civilized lands on earth, should be perfectly and absolutely free?

WAR AGAINST VICE.

The German Emperor has undertaken a Titanic work. Our dispatches today announce that he has commenced to cut out the Herculean task of cleansing the Augean stable of moral filth with which his kingdom, not less than other countries, is infested. In pursuance of this undertaking, he has given notice that officers in the army who are parading their immoralities before the world will be cut off from the army and retired from service. The police are hereafter to keep the keepers of houses of infamy, and immoral dramas and light songs in the numerous cafe chantants will be supplanted by the traffic in obscene pictures and photographs. In fact, the whole machinery of the law will be brought to bear upon the social evil of the empire.

Concerning this effort nothing ought to be said but commendation. It shows a proper disposition in the young ruler and proves that he has his eyes open to the fact that a great power cannot be kept in existence merely by "blood and iron," so long as the very foundations are undermined by the rot of immorality.

It will be interesting to watch and observe how the enthusiastic reformer will succeed in his work. The history of the world hardly indicates that evils of the kind in question can be successfully removed by the force of law alone. People who are the slaves of their lusts do not change their minds because a law says they must improve their conduct. Nor does the fear of punishment impart strength to break the chains of sin and shame. To quote the illustration, which shows how determinedly people pursue their vocations; when the use of tobacco was first introduced in Europe it was thundered against by moralists and vigorously fought by law-makers. But neither King James' "Counterblaste to Tobacco," nor the custom in Turkey of slicing the pipe stem through the nose of the smoker; nor the cutting of their noses off, as was customary in Russia; nor the fear of death, which was the penalty imposed by Amurat IV; nor the anathemas by Popes and prelates could stop the spread of the practice. It kept on growing till it outlawed the law. In view of this and many similar facts that could be quoted, one may well ask, is the Emperor likely to succeed? If he does, he shall be entitled to the honor that ought to have been won by the established churches of Germany; for to them, so much as to the civil power, one would naturally look for the inauguration of a warfare against moral evils among the people.

THE PLAGUE IN RUSSIA.

For some time an epidemic of a most virulent type has been raging in the famine-stricken districts of Russia. It is admitted in official reports that the people are dying by thousands. The disease was supposed to be either typhus fever or Siberian plague. The New York Tribune is of the opinion that it is neither, but genuine Asiatic cholera; because this pestilence has invariably followed in the wake of all great famines.

Furthermore, though the ravages of the disease have always been a thousand fold more expensive than those of the famine, yet a regular proportion has existed between both.

The famine threatened districts of Russia, it is estimated by an official announcement, embrace 35,000,000 of people. Should the pestilence turn out to be Asiatic cholera, and should it decimate with the usual proportion, nearly half the population of Russia would be swept away.

Asiatic cholera in Russia means a visitation of the terrible malady into western Europe; and as this epidemic can be traced directly to the treatment of the Russian people by the government, it is claimed that the civilized world will have a terrible account to settle with the Czar.

POPULATION OF MISSISSIPPI.

Census bulletin 123 is devoted to the population of Mississippi. In 1890 that State had 1,289,600 inhabitants. In 1880 it had 1,131,597, thus showing an increase for the decade of 14 per cent. There are 75 counties in the State; eleven of these show decreases.

There are 19 cities and towns, each having a population of 2,000 or more. The three principal cities are Vicksburgh, Meridian, and Natchez, with population respectively of 13,373, 10,624, and 10,195. The cities showing the greatest increases during the decade are Greenville, Meridian, and Biloxi. They increased respectively at a rate of 208, 105, and 110 per cent. Two cities show decreases, a rather unusual thing in the present census. As a rule cities everywhere show vast increases.

BRAZIL IN A FERMENT.

POLITICAL news from Brazil is not reassuring. Considerable excitement was caused by the dissolution of the Brazilian Congress a few days ago. It was intensified by the issuance of a proclamation appointing President Fonseca military dictator. Every member of his cabinet, except one, immediately resigned. But the army and navy support him in his new role. His government has forbidden the holding of public meetings, and newspapers are commanded not to comment on his dissolution of Congress, nor on his assumption of the dictatorship. The Republican party in the country are disgusted with Fonseca's impudence and tyranny. The only minister who remains true to him is an Imperialist, and this fact tends still further to complicate the situation.

It is reported that a strong party exists in Brazil favorable to the restoration of the old regime. As for Dom Pedro himself, he is now mentally and physically a wreck. But his heir is not satisfied. He has two daughters, both of whom have sons. Isabella, the younger, died in 1871, leaving four sons, the eldest of whom was always regarded as heir-apparent. He is now 25 years of age, and was until recently an officer in the Austrian navy. Rumors to the effect that he is on the way to Brazil to claim the dominion of his grandfather as the lawful heir, Fonseca's adherents are using this report to justify his action, saying that a conspiracy exists for the restoration of the monarchy.

But the way of royal claimants is not always smooth. Yonne, the eldest daughter, has also a son, now 17. If legitimacy is regarded he is the rightful heir. But this lady was married 12 years before a child was born. This fact from Pedro and the action at large to regard the son of the younger daughter as the heir apparent until 1875, when a son was born to Yonne. The story current with regard to the birth of the latter reeks somewhat of the marvelous and romantic. It appears that when the lady began to see that there were little prospects of becoming a mother, she visited one of the churches, prayed to the patron saint, and vowed that if her prayer were granted she would sweep the church floor at periodical intervals during her life. A son was born to her in 1875, after twelve years of married life. Until the expiration of the family a year ago she performed the duty of sweeping regularly.

The birth of this son under these circumstances is said to go a long way with the people of Brazil, and it is thought he would be put forward, not being only seventeen and inexperienced in military matters, the other son, who is twenty-six, and a trained soldier and marine, is considered the best fitted in case another revolution would be required to restore the royal line.

DEATHS OF UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS.

American Notes and Queries gives an interesting summary of the causes which brought death to the Presidents of the United States.

George Washington, aged 68, died on Dec. 14, 1799, of acute laryngitis, caused by cold.

John Adams, aged 91, died of old age, July 4, 1826.

Thomas Jefferson, aged 83, died of chronic diarrhoea July 4, 1826.

James Madison, aged 85, died of old age June 28, 1836.

James Monroe, aged 73, died of general debility July 4, 1831.

John Quincy Adams, aged 81, stricken with paralysis, died Feb. 21, 1848.

Andrew Jackson, aged 78, died of dropsy, June 8, 1845.

Martin Van Buren, aged 79, died of asthma, July 24, 1862.

W. H. Harrison, aged 68, died of pleurisy, April 4, 1841.

John Tyler, aged 72, died January 12, 1862. Cause of death not given.

James K. Polk, aged 54, died of cholera June 15, 1849.

Zach. Taylor, aged 66, died of cholera morbus July 9, 1850.

Millard Fillmore, aged 74, died of paralysis March 8, 1874.

Franklin Pierce, aged 65, died of dropsy October 8, 1869.

James Buchanan, aged 77, died of gout June 1, 1868.

Abraham Lincoln, aged 56, died of a gun shot wound April 15, 1865.

Andrew Johnson, aged 67, died of paralysis July 31, 1875.

Grant, Garfield and Arthur died so recently that all citizens remember the circumstances.

It will be observed that most of the gentlemen who have occupied the Presidential chair of the White House have lived to a ripe old age.

THE LATE ELECTION.

THERE has been a great deal of speculation upon the results of the late election as to its effects upon the Presidential contest of 1892. There is very little to the returns upon which to base a definite prediction on that line.

The election of Major McKinley in Ohio has been a perceptible disappointment to Democrats everywhere, and is a slight surprise to Republicans. After his defeat in the congressional election it was considered rather reckless for the Republicans to bring him forward for governor. His nomination was a challenge to free-traders, and his election is of course regarded as a general triumph for protection. Ohio is at least a Republican State. That was seen its position when it elected Campbell, a Democrat, for governor. The singular turn of the election on that occasion was simply a notice on the part of certain Republicans that Foraker was not the czar of their choice. So the election of McKinley as a protection triumph is not absolute even in Ohio.

In New York there was an effort on the part of Democrats to construe the election as an issue of the tariff sentiment. But it was not. The groundwork of the campaign was purely local. The indications are that every Republican who voted cast his ballot for Fassett and every Democrat for Flower, and the heavy majority for Flower indicated simply that the Tammany ring was on his side. The election favors of Tammany amount to nothing in questions of principle. If there are any tariff, free silver or other issues of national moment that in Tammany politics are equal to local concerns nobody has yet discovered them. The men who is most likely to serve the personal interests of the Tammany leaders will get the votes of that organization.

In Iowa the main issue was whisky. There is no doubt about that. It was a high license platform as distinguished from prohibition that made Boies governor of Iowa in the first place, and he has to a considerable extent kept his promises to the liquor interest while in office.

In Massachusetts the tariff was the controlling issue. Governor Russell was originally elected on the tariff reform platform, and his reform principles have triumphed again.

As to the effects of the N. Y. election upon the campaign of 1892 while it is favorable to the Democrats, it is not to be relied upon as a sure indication that the State will be tenable in the Presidential election.

GREAT CHICAGO.

A CERTAIN Boston newspaper, after sulking in personal pique in the fact that that city has so long been recognized as the "Athens of America," generously concedes that Chicago "though not heretofore a literary centre, and not distinguished by its publishing houses or its authors or its institutions of learning, has recently laid foundations which will soon make it not only a literary centre but a point of influence upon the scholarship and the literature of the country."

The ground for this acknowledgement is that Chicago has suddenly acquired from Berlin a collection of books containing 200,000 bound volumes and 125,000 pamphlets. This acquisition makes Chicago possessor of four of the largest libraries in the United States. The recent purchase was made through the efforts of President Harper of the Chicago University and will be added to the properties of that institution. Chicago may now be regarded as holding a prestige over Boston, New York, or Washington for its literary resources. It has been the book-stores and bookmakers that have given to Boston much of its greatness. Chicago may never become the "Athens" of America. She possesses none of the sentimental traditions that would suggest such a comparison. She is peculiarly and, in the estimation of some Eastern lates, vulgarly modern in her sensibilities and habits. She is the embodiment of contempt for sentimental folly. She could not if she would borrow antique glory from our similitude to any city of renown that is or has been.

THE New York *Sun* has the following: "Carruthers, a Scotch editor, looked so much like Thackeray, that upon one occasion when Carruthers called upon Thackeray, the maid who met him at the door laughed in his face because she thought her master in a fit of absentmindedness had come home and asked for himself. The likeness must have been less remarkable, however, than that between a Southern Presbyterian minister and the elder of a neighboring flock. The two were constantly mistaken for each other, and finally one day when the elder was in New York he caused himself from an acquaintance upon the plea that he must go and speak to his friend, the minister. He so earnest was a large sinner, and was actually about to hold out his hand when he discovered that he had mistaken his own reflection for his flesh and blood double. Both parson and elder have injured their reputations for veracity by telling this unpleasantly true story."

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

California has 15,000 members of the Masonic order.

The Philadelphia mint coined 94,000,000 pennies last year.

The rain crop this year in California will exceed 3,000 car loads.

Massachusetts stands first of all the States in the number of free libraries.

The *Mystic Tie* says that Mr. Blaine is a Mason.

Nebraska has 103 lodges and 7000 members of the Masonic order.

Sioux City will build a corn palace in Chicago in 1893.

A newly discovered oil field in Pennsylvania produces 32,000 barrels daily.

The history of George R. Knight, the once popular actor, is now beyond hope of renewal.

Don Pedro, the late Emperor of Brazil, is now reported to be a mental and physical wreck.

Mark Twain is traveling in France, and making lists of the principal rivers of the country.

Ex-Governor Stephenson, of Missouri, was the third ex-governor of that State to die by his own hands.

The Reigs case will be finally disposed of by the Presbyterian general assembly which meets in 1892.

The Khedive of Egypt neither drinks nor smokes, and can recite the whole of the Koran from memory.

A Boston street railway will soon use the largest flywheel in the United States. It will be 28,000 horse power.

On the St. Lawrence system of Canadian canals $35,000,000 has been expended to make them from 14 feet of water.

Senator Sherman thinks that silver will be the main issue in the Presidential campaign. The people are getting tired of tariff.

It was said that Monticello, the home of Jefferson, was for sale. Long, its present owner, says it is not, and never will be while he lives.

At Melbourne, Australia, the people became incensed at an exhibition termed "A Dusky Show," and tore down the whole theatre.

Lord Beauly, Major Nesitt, and other English aristocrats have started on an African sandstorm tour. They hope to rival Lord Randolph Churchill.

Mrs. Alice Elwain Miller is in the Chattanooga county jail charged with forgery. She has been heretofore a highly respected lady, and her friends are astonished.

Mrs. Freeman Crosby of Valparaiso, Indiana, entertained a party of friends a few days ago who were assembled upon an 11½ grain. The average was over 75 cents.

Paul, only son of Old Kruger, has announced his decision to become a Catholic. He is about to marry Miss Pott, daughter of the great brewer, who is a Catholic.

Two boys were recently arrested at Croydon, England, for trying to wreck anyhow trains. They said they simply wanted to see a wreck, and did not mean any harm.

Mr. and Mrs. Osborne of Knoxville, Tenn., will soon celebrate the 72nd anniversary of their marriage. He is 101 years of age, and she is 92. They have 281 living descendants.

The Brazilian minister to the United States says that there will be no war in his country. His people are cool and rational, he says, and will settle their troubles without bloodshed.

A St. Louis paper offered prizes to whoever would guess the name Mr. Cleveland would give his daughter. Several thousand guesses were received, but not one mentioned Ruth.

Major McKinley says that agitation on tariff vs. free trade can do no good. The country is committed to protection, and while a Republican president and Senate are in power, protection will prevail.

Mrs. Hettie Logan filed a petition for divorce in the Kansas City District court on the 5th inst. She says that on July 15th last William Logan called on her and took her for a walk. While out together he administered a drug to her, then while unconscious married her. Owing to bad treatment she left him.

Judge Dozier, of the Memphis (Tenn.) criminal court, entered Col. Gantt, a lawyer, to be taken to the "sweatbox" for contempt. Gantt was defending a colored porter of the Pullman company who was charged with stealing. The jury found him guilty, then Gantt wanted to say something, but the judge would not hear him. Gantt persisted in talking. The sheriff finally took him to the "sweat-box."

Boys.

Treat your mother as politely as if she were a strange lady.

Be as kind and helpful to your sister as to other boys' sisters.

Don't grumble or refuse to do some errand which must be done, and which otherwise takes the time of some one who has more to do.

Have your mothers and sisters for your best friends.

Find some amusement for the evening that all the family can join in, large and small.

Be a gentleman at home.

Cultivate a cheerful temper.

If you do anything wrong, take your mother into your confidence.

Never be about anything you have done.

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