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A RELIGIOUS LESSON FROM A QUESTIONABLE SOURCE.

THE New York *Mail and Express* of the 4th inst., contains a leading article, which, to say the least, is of a character quite uncommon for the columns of an American newspaper of these times. It is headed "Obey God," and opens by reference to a passage from the Bible which appears at the top of the same column. The following is the text in question:

"At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy it; if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

The pious editor of the *Mail and Express* commends the study of this passage to the National Commission and to the Board of Directors of the Chicago Columbian Exposition, who, he says, "are put to the test by the proposition submitted to the American Sabbath Union, that the gates of the Fair shall be closed on the Sabbath, and that they shall immediately announce that decision."

This august body are promised a judgment unless they shall conform to the Fourth Commandment, and it is to be in the shape of "a continuance of the querulous and paralyzing counsels that have afflicted their body, and the pestilences that have afflicted the city of Chicago."

They are also threatened with a financial disadvantage, in the following terms:

"They may also expect that the Christian people of these United States will both refrain from sending exhibits to the Exhibition, and also from attending the Exhibition themselves; which will inflict a very severe loss upon them financially and greatly detract from the beauty, variety and completeness of the Exhibition."

This is followed by a promise, in case of obedience, and the putting of an important interrogatory:

"If the Commissioners and Directors will immediately resolve, and so an-

nounce to the world, that the gates of the Fair shall be closed upon Sundays, and themselves keep that law individually, they may expect to see a cessation of the pestilences with which so many of them and the city of Chicago have been visited; and that the sentiment of the people will be harmonized and greatly strengthened till it shall pervade all classes of the people, throughout the whole United States, in favor of making that Fair far surpass anything of the kind ever before known to the world.

"God constantly repeats to nations the test which He put to the Hebrews by the Prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel, and He now calls aloud in thunder tones by His Providence, in every sky which limits the human vision in all parts of these United States.

"Which is God? Is your idol, Baal, God? Or, is God the Lord Almighty, Glorious and Blessed for ever?

"The Baalites were slain.

"History repeats itself."

An effort to induce people to conform to the Divine will is commendable. He has always favored the keeping of the Sabbath day sacredly by all professing Christians, while it is a mark of the true gentleman and gentlewoman who may not be religiously inclined, to conform as far as practicable to usages the breach of which is painful to a large class of the population. We have regretted the encroachments upon the Sabbath that have gradually obtained a foothold in this community during the last few years, and that the present city government has taken no small part in producing the undesirable change.

It would have been more satisfactory, however, if the lesson which has been read and the admonition given to the chiefs of the Columbian Exposition had emanated from a more consistent source than the editor of the New York *Mail and Express*. He lays heavy stress upon a portion of the divine law, while he has frequently shown an utter disregard of a divine obligation upon which the law and the prophets hang, being the fundamental basis of the life of the true Christian:

"Love the Lord thy God with all thy might, mind and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself."

A man's neighbors are the human race. But we knew that this very religious editor of the New York daily we have quoted excludes at least one class of people from this category—the "Mormons." Yet God has never signified that he favored any such exception, but very much to the contrary.

This pious journalist has omitted no opportunity to bear false witness against the Saints and to urge the application of a fanatical, crusade against them. He has shown such a disposition toward the "Mormon" people as to warrant the presumption that had he been in possession of the power in his limited personality to wipe them from the face of the earth he would not have waited

the operation of any exhibition of anticipated divine wrath to annihilate them, but would—with an excellent appetite for unreasonable vengeance—attended to the business himself. But notwithstanding all of his bitterness, the innocent objects of his impotent thunder would not harm a hair of his head, as they belong to a superior class of practical Christians than that in which he can be properly rated.

Our advice to the editor is, that he put into his personal conduct the condition to which "all the law and the prophets" are appended, and then he can properly pick up the secondary requirements of Christianity and insist on their being observed. Until he shall do this he belongs to the order of professional religionists to which a pious trader was attached. This religious huckster called to his shop-boy: "John, have you watered the vinegar?" "Yes, sir." "Have you sanded the sugar?" "Yes, sir." "Then come to prayers."

"MORMON" POLITICAL LIBERTY.

No matter what its opponents and maligners may say, the genius of "Mormonism" is the spirit of liberty. It upholds the freedom of man. It declares that the Constitution was written under Divine guidance by men whom God raised up for the purpose "that every man may act in doctrine and principle according to the moral agency which He has given unto them."

There is nothing coercive in the system. It forges no fetters for the soul. It has no chains for the conscience. It binds no man in either religious or political bonds. It enjoins reflection. It encourages thought. It requires education. It urges freedom while it promotes unity. Compulsory union is foreign to its whole purpose and tendency. Intelligent understanding of what is right in principle and what is best for community is the only uniting force it seeks to exercise.

It is so in religion. It advises it in politics. Its only political command is this: "Honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold." That is all. The Church does not claim power over the State. It seeks no organic alliance with the State. It dictates nothing as to party. It issues no edict as to candidates. It gives no order as to votes.

The liberty it demands for its members is the liberty it accords to others. Civil and religious freedom within the limits of constitutional law, is funda-