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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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THE "NEWS" AND FAITH CURE.

In reply to a question from an esteemed contemporary, the Deseret News explained on Tuesday evening the doctrine and practice of the Church in reference to the sick.

That faith is curative. That when exercised in sufficient force the sick are healed.

That the absence of faith is not a sin. That the ordinance of the laying on of hands is the means employed by which such faith is exercised and aroused.

That it is a divine institution. That testimonies are numerous in support of the doctrine, and that it is a Christian establishment.

At the same time, and in the same article, we advocated the skilled use of remedies which the Creator has provided for human disorders.

In all cases where faith does not exist or is insufficient to heal. We invite special attention to our article on this subject, that the position taken by the "News" may be fairly understood.

The reason for this is that the Salt Lake Tribune has endeavored to place the matter in a false light before the public, using the explosives which it usually mistakes for argument, and also refers to other matters with which it untruthfully connects the Deseret News, and exhibits throughout its whole attack a spirit of personal spite and malice characteristic of the author of the assault.

The Tribune picks out and isolates from the context, the annexed sentence of a paragraph in the "News," the rest of which it purposely eliminates:

"There are many Elders in this city, who have laid hands upon persons afflicted with the malignant as well as the mild form of smallpox, and the patients have recovered, while the Elders administering have escaped the contagion."

To this it makes the following comments under the appropriate heading of "Pure Wickedness."

"Now we believe that in all his shining record the editor of the 'News' never told a more monumental or wicked falsehood than the above. We believe that the 'Mormon' people ought to insist upon his going to the pest house today and proving his power on men of his faith, or made to publish in this evening's 'News' that he has lost the charm. He says only a little faith on the part of the patient is necessary, that if the Elder has the power to rebuke the disease that is sufficient and that he has that power. We believe he is a liar. We believe that the men who keep him as editor of the 'News' know that he is a liar, that he possesses no such power, and hence when they permit him to spread such stuff among the credulous and unprotected people outside, they are accessories after the fact to his crime."

In order that the animus and wilful misrepresentation of the foregoing elegant remarks may be fully appreciated, we here copy from the article under consideration, some of the remarks which accompanied the sentence selected by the Tribune as an excuse for its gentlemanly criticism. The "News" said:

"The fact is, it is not claimed that the Elders who lay their hands on the sick, as commanded, possess the infallible power of healing the sick. The curative force is faith. When there is sufficient faith the sick will be healed. When there is not sufficient faith the cure is not accomplished. Faith is the moving cause, restoration the visible effect."

"When it is necessary to call in a physician and his prescriptions are followed, would we recommend the faith treatment and the laying on of hands? Yes, most decidedly. There are doctors in this city who are ready to acknowledge that it has been a potent help to their skill and attention, and that in some cases death would have resulted without it."

"Now we would like our contemporary to understand, that the Deseret News does not oppose and has never objected to the services of competent physicians and surgeons. On the contrary, it has cautioned the people against relying upon persons who are unskilled and without experience. We have pointed out the fact that remedies are provided in nature, which we believe were ordained of God, for the ills that afflict the flesh, and that these should be used when necessary with the wisdom essential to an understanding of their properties and effects. Especially should this course be pursued by persons who have no faith to be healed in the simpler way."

It is well understood by the Latter-day Saints, and others who have made themselves acquainted with the doctrines of the Church, that none of its ministers lay claim to any such power as that which the Tribune says they assume to have. They simply perform a duty which is enjoined upon them by divine command. It is similar to that required of the Elders in the primitive Christian Church, as may be seen in James v. 14, 15:

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

That order with the accompanying promises, have been renewed in the present age. And there are thousands of living witnesses to the efficacy of the treatment. The same effects narrated in the New Testament have been witnessed in the Church of the latter days, in all kinds of cases of sickness,

accident and bodily distress. As we have heretofore explained, it is faith that constitutes the moving force in these healings. It is as potent now as in ages past. The lapse of time does not change a principle.

We will make another quotation touching on this subject:

"And there sat a certain man at Lysara, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked.

The same man heard Paul speak; who steadfastly beholding him and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." Acts xiv, 8-10.

In all probability, if our courteous contemporary had lived in that day and had heard Paul testify of this event, he would have demolished the whole statement with his usual unanswerable argument, "We believe he is a liar." He would also no doubt have demanded that Paul should be hauled out to a pest house and required to heal every man "of his own faith," or confess that he had "lost the charm."

He might find some excuse for this demand in the writings of the Apostle Paul. For instance:

"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." I Tim. v. 23.

Erastus abode at Corinth; but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." 2 Tim. iv. 20.

The wise and charming critic of the Tribune would certainly perceive in those admissions that the "charm" which he wrongly imagines the Elders profess, was either lost in these instances, or that Paul was a fraud. That would be quite in line with our contemporary's staple logic.

Now it is not only untrue that the Deseret News or its editor ever advised people not to avail themselves of medical skill and experience, as frequently asserted by the Tribune, but it is equally false that we ever opposed the sprinkling of the streets, as now stated by that paper. For years the same authority declared that the "News" opposed the construction of sewers. There was no truth in that assertion. This paper did oppose the jobbery in certain schemes that were advocated, for the benefit of individuals and firms, but we supported and encouraged sewerage, street sprinkling and sanitation always.

We mention this in passing, because the Tribune revises its old and oft-refuted charges against this paper and connects them with the main subject on which we have briefly treated.

We have no disposition to notice the personal insults in which the highly refined and amiable writer on our morning contemporary takes such supreme delight. If we were inclined to retaliate we might show in what esteem he is held by the great masses of Utah's population and by the most respectable of his own readers. But such personalities amount to nothing by way of argument, and belong to a plane far too low for us to descend to. Let those who take pleasure in such diversions engage in them to their heart's content. It is their only refuge when they cannot meet, fairly and squarely, facts and principles which they are unable to overcome and which they are determined not to admit.

MEDICAL AUTHORITY.

The Westminster Review has a department in which "writers of high mental power and culture" are given an opportunity of expressing their views on timely topics.

In the October number of the magazine we find in this department a contribution on the vaccination question by Edward Haughton, M. D. The very fact that he is given the pages of the Westminster Review proves that he has a reputation for "high mental power and culture," and that he is entitled to a hearing.

In the first place he quotes Dr. Josef Hermann, the head physician of the Department of Skin Diseases, of the Imperial hospital, to the effect that the merits of vaccination are more than doubtful. Speaking of his hospital experience in one of the largest hospitals in the world, he says:

"It has imposed on me the duty of taking an active part in the bold and spirited onslaught on vaccination which is now being carried on (1875) in Switzerland, Germany, England, and other countries, and of yielding such assistance as I am able to give to the unraveling of a question which concerns in an equal degree the interests of science and humanity. \* \* \* I am convinced that vaccination is the greatest mistake and delusion in the science of medicine, a fanciful illusion in the mind of the discoverer, a phenomenal apparition devoid of scientific foundation and wanting in all the conditions of scientific possibility."

Dr. Hermann goes on to say that there is no foundation in fact for the allegation that vaccination is a preventive of smallpox. He says:

"When a man has treated hundreds of cases of smallpox, both under epidemic and endemic conditions, through many years and at all seasons, he comes to the decided conclusion that vaccination has not the remotest effect on the outbreak course, and issue of the disease. Vaccinated persons, bearing unmistakable marks of the process on their arms, frequently have concurrent smallpox, while at the same time unvaccinated people have it in the mildest form. These observations, resting upon the most indubitable truth, appear to have given occasion to the distinction between a genuine and a modified smallpox (varicella), a distinction evidently made with a view of maintaining at all hazards the dogma to which vaccinators have committed themselves, as to the influence of vaccination in modifying outbreaks of the epidemic. The category of chineras, have long since proved to be illusory. In reality there is no such distinction; for even in a mild epidemic of variola (or chickenpox) a careful observer will be able to discover amongst the sufferers fully developed pustules of smallpox, possessing every attribute of the true and genuine pustule. In my opinion, the severity and extent of smallpox outbreaks depend on the season, the dwelling, and the mode of life of those attacked, and especially on the care that is taken of the state of the skin."

The opinion of a specialist in skin diseases, of so high authority, cannot but have peculiar weight. And it is to be especially noted that he states, further, that "people do not venture to vaccinate weak and sickly children, fearing to make their condition worse."

Now as to vaccination as a protective measure. The article from which we have quoted states that in Berlin, in 1870, the attacks of smallpox were 1,

357, of whom 1,064 had been vaccinated, 127 revaccinated, and only 227 unvaccinated. Out of 6,213 smallpox patients who entered the General hospital at Vienna in the twenty years from 1836 to 1856, 5,217 had been vaccinated. Out of 1,930 cases in the Wiede hospital, only twenty were unvaccinated. In England, during the years 1842 to 1865, there died of smallpox 104,213, of whom 84 per cent, if not more, had been vaccinated. It is added that in 1863, with 194 smallpox patients in the Imperial hospital, four were seized by the contagion, but none of these unvaccinated. From the fact that none of the medical attendants, nurses, or servants were infected, the inference is drawn that the danger of contagion is not so great as sometimes alleged.

The "News" has maintained that as long as medical authority is divided on the merits of vaccination, it is in the highest degree inconsistent to insist on making the operation compulsory. We have maintained that great care should be taken not to submit children physically weak, to the experiment, except after a careful examination by a responsible physician. It will be seen that the highest medical authority as well as common sense support this position.

RUSSIA EAST AND WEST.

The rescript of the Emperor of Russia, addressed to the Russian minister of foreign affairs, Count Muraviev, is to be read in the light of a declaration to the world, rather than as a private document. It is inscribed to the minister, but it is for the contemplation of foreign governments.

The emperor takes the ground that the solution of the Cuban question, as well as the arrangement of the difficulties between Greece and Turkey were due to Russia's "peaceful and continuous policy." The Czar evidently sees Russia at the head of European affairs.

He then commends the minister for having carried out with singular success the imperial "indications," realizing "the traditional tendency of Russia to obtain in the far east an ice-free outlet to the sea." Russia has now, the document explains, by the cession by China of Port Arthur and Dalny attained to the position of a great maritime power, and "will create in the Pacific a new center for the commercial and industrial enterprises of the entire world."

With regard to the peace congress the Czar expresses satisfaction that all the powers have recognized the possibility of settling international differences peacefully, and he hopes solid foundations have been laid for a real and durable peace. The Czar takes care to state that the minister has carried out his instructions, as if desirous to let the world know who, after all, is the real ruler of the empire.

In view of this, it would be of some interest to know if the Governor of Finland, too, is carrying out the Czar's instructions. By order of that gentleman, General Bobrikoff, Finlanders are prohibited from sending their sons to England to be educated. Intended immigrants are to be refused passports at present, and if a ukase cannot be secured forbidding immigration, the tax, which now is small, can be raised so as to amount to a prohibition to leave the country. The Finnish press is gagged, and a Russian paper is to be established, to be supported by the taxes of the people. Literary societies are being suppressed, and the people are prohibited from paying their tributes of gratitude to the memory of Alexander, who gave Finland the measure of liberty that is now being sacrificed upon the altar of tyranny. Is General Bobrikoff carrying out the instructions of the Czar? In any case, the history of Poland is being repeated, to some extent, as one of the closing scenes of the passing century. After Finland, what? Evidently the feeling of insecurity on the Scandinavian peninsula is not without foundation.

The United States Senate is busy with the Philippine question, but it should not allow much more time to pass without the ratification of The Hague convention. A memorial signed by some of the foremost citizens of the country has been addressed to the Senate on this question, setting forth for more than a hundred years, the United States has been foremost among the nations in the settlement of international disputes by means of arbitration, and pleading that emphasis be given to this policy by a speedy and favorable consideration of the treaty. The carrying out of the provisions of that convention would be a good beginning towards the salvation, in the future of many a small nation from the fate of Poland and Finland, with attendant bloodshed, and defeat of the forces of civilization.

It is plain that the British war office has decided to relieve Gen. Methuen, and that before he relieves Kimberley.

The British announcement of the release of the steamship Bundesarth is a full confession of the German claim that the seizure was not justified by the facts.

Two lines of therapeutic agencies have been interfered with by the war. Carbolio acid has doubled in price in New York, and quinine has done almost as well.

The report of the committee in the Roberts case is no surprise. As between public sentiment, however misdirected, and constitutional rights, the average congressman dare not stand up against the former.

It is true, as reported, that there are certain doctors in this city who, while declaiming against those who fail to report cases of suspected contagious disease, have themselves been covering up such cases for some time? This is worthy of being looked into.

We are sorry for the mental blindness of those persons who cannot perceive the difference between enforcing lawful sanitary regulations, and attempting to compel people to submit to a surgical operation unauthorised by law. But none are so blind as those who will not see.

There is considerable of a mix-up in the opposition to the proposed form of government for Puerto Rico. By the time the various selfish interests

pressed on Congress are provided for, it is hoped there will be enough left for the Puerto Ricans to call liberty.

Those newsboys in Portland, Ore., who assaulted people because the latter possessed copies of a newspaper whose managers had offended the boys' ought to be given a good term in jail. It is evident the newsboy fraternity in Portland needs a sharp lesson in respect for law and the rights of others.

The local boards have lawful authority to close the public schools, and perhaps to prohibit public assemblies, in times of epidemics. But they have not a syllable of authority to keep children out of the schools, or adults out of a public gathering, who are healthy and have not been exposed to contagion.

The bloody tragedy at Frankfort, Ky., yesterday afternoon suggests that when a feud is known to exist between Kentuckians, the parties thereto should be placed in jail, for the protection of the innocent public. This might remove a lot of politicians from the public gaze, but there would be compensation in reducing Kentucky's notoriety as a human butchershop.

Whatever may be said of other matters, in the line of censorship Lord Roberts has proved a great success since he reached South Africa. Not a word of news has come through without his scrutiny, and he has not wasted much time on reading what has passed, since it would occupy less than five minutes in perusal. His method is suppression rather than censorship.

The "News" acknowledges the receipt of the Annual Report of the Department of Posts of Cuba, with the compliments of the director general and other functionaries of his department. It is the first annual report. It shows revenues to the amount of \$250,000 and disbursements \$265,572, leaving a deficit of \$15,572. The figures give a fair idea of the business transacted during this first year of American administration.

All proper and lawful sanitary regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease should be complied with by the people. Filth is the great propagator of zymotic diseases. Cleanliness of person, of home, of surrounding premises, of all business places, and of public buildings should be promoted, and care should be taken both in diet and clothing so as to prevent the germination of disease. Rules adopted by public health officers in this direction ought to be strictly carried out.

In spite of the repeated announcements through the press that all communications for publication must be accompanied with the name and address of the writer, letters still come to hand with a request that they appear in the Deseret News, without any indication as to the authors. Let it be understood that however valuable they may appear to be, they will henceforth go into the waste basket. Names not intended to be published will always be preserved by the "News."

The act of Capt. W. A. English of Indiana, in returning \$1172 pay for his services as a volunteer in the Spanish-American war, is being heralded as "remarkable patriotism," and the only case of the kind in the war. Capt. English, who is very wealthy, is deserving all credit, and doubtless would resent the "remarkable" assertion, since it is a reflection on many others who were equally as patriotic according to their circumstances, both with money and actual service contributed.

The laws give power to the Board of Health to exclude from the schools of the State "any person suffering with a contagious or infectious disease, or liable to convey such disease to those in attendance." But it does not give any authority to exclude a healthy person who is not liable to convey disease. The law makers purposely refused to give power to any board or person to compel vaccination, or to exclude any unvaccinated teacher or pupil for that reason.

Among those Americans who have had experience in South Africa, and who see the present British campaign against the Boers as an unrighteous war, is Consul Hollis, formerly U. S. representative at Capetown, who is to address the mass meeting at Boston this evening. Taking the expressions of the newspapers in this country, it is plain that public sentiment is drifting largely to the views expressed by Mr. Hollis, that the people of England were misled into the present situation. The war having been begun, however, they are determined to see the thing through.

We agree with the statement of the Herald that "vaccination is not required by health officers for the protection of the individual vaccinated." Very good. What injury can come to a vaccinated person from one who is not vaccinated, if the latter has not been exposed to contagion? Is there not just as much likelihood that a vaccinated person may carry contagion to the unvaccinated? Isolate or quarantine all persons who have been exposed to infection, but do not attempt to force a surgical operation which does not prevent contagion, upon unwilling and resisting victims.

GILLMORE'S STORY.

Springfield Republican.

Lieut. Gillmore's first statement to the press after his captivity among the Filipinos will rather disappoint certain people. He says that Aguinaldo treated him "splendidly," and that he fared ill only when under Gen. Tino and some other officers during the last great round-up. Of course, this does not fit at all with Roosevelt's characterization of Aguinaldo as a "savage." Most important, however, to all who take this deplorable situation seriously, is Lieut. Gillmore's statement that in his opinion the war will last as long as there are any Tagalos left. On this point he can speak perhaps, with more authority than most people, since he has spent many months in captivity among the Filipinos. If Lieut. Gillmore is correct in this view, and the present policy is continued, the war must last for many years.

Sacramento Record-Union.

The statement of Gillmore emphasized the contention that the Tagalos do not represent the country of the Philippines. This one-sixth part of the inhabitants of the islands have no more right to set themselves up to dominate the five-sixths not consenting to their rule, than would a strange and savage band to come in and seek to rule

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