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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
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TO "RUB OUT A BLOT."

There may be some generous individuals who would like to show their anti-"Mormon" zeal by their works; that is, by contributing to the fund that is being raised to pay the expenses of hunting up evidence against "Mormons" who are reported to be living in a manner contrary to law. It costs something, you know, to pay the continuous salary of informers, hired to go to every "Mormon" settlement and obtain from apostates and other disgruntled persons stories about plural marriages and the birth of babies as a consequence. That has been the occupation of at least one person hired, as he testified recently under oath, by Dr. Paden of Salt Lake City, the money being "put up," as he "understood," by the Woman's International Council. Well, anybody who wants to help on that kind of work has an opportunity to contribute. An appeal is being made for money to aid in this ladylike sort of inquiry, and it is being published in the papers. We clip it from the Los Angeles Times, which printed it "by special request" and headed it: "To Remove a Blot. Apply Five Hundred Dollars," as follows:

Recipes are given from time to time telling us how to proceed to remove black ink spots. The fact of the recipe assumes that the fabric on which the black spot rests is fair, and, but for the spot, clean.

Our beloved country is the fair fabric, the blot is Mormonism. To take out this spot is the work of the National Alliance of Women's Organizations. This committee of representative women has employed a lawyer to assist in the investigation now going on in Washington, and needs money to pay him. At present we require \$200 for salary and \$300 for current expenses. Large sums have been given privately and we now appeal to our friends everywhere that they may share in the glory of suppressing this Mormon iniquity. We take the laboring oar; may we not look to the public, to the friends of righteousness, to loyal citizens, to the pure in mind to help us with their gifts of money?

"It is a time of stress. An imperative cry goes up from those who live in misery under the galling un-American yoke of Mormon ecclesiastical bondage, children in servitude, women in slavery, men in the grip of a relentless, heartless, disloyal priesthood. Do you not hear them, O my brothers? Will you not help us to relieve them and set them free, and to rid this great land of ours of an unspeakable impurity, an unmitigated abomination, a menace whose blot is that it will one day, overthrow our government and erect one of its own? A horrible world has read recently the every day doings of the endowment house, and all the rest of it. Does it look as if \$500 were too much to use to open the doors and let the breezes of justice blow through that home and all it stands for? The committee appeals to a loyal public with confidence and hope that the funds asked for may be speedily forthcoming. Checks may be drawn to the order of Mrs. W. S. Hamilton, and sent to Mrs. Charles N. Thorpe, 1729 Pine street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Of course there is no social "blot" of any sort, inkblot or otherwise, in the east or west. "The city of brotherly love," as it is facetiously termed, does not need any local renovation. There are no poor souls "in bondage" there; no "children in servitude" no "imperative cries from those who live in misery" no need for "breezes of justice" to blow through open or closed doors, on the pulchre and slums of the pure and perfect Quaker city.

The money is not needed to redeem the thousands of fallen creatures that swarm in certain quarters there, nor to punish licentious and heartless men whose brutishness and villainous greed to heaven. But good people are urged to hand over cash to pay for noising out and running down some alleged cases of unlawful marriage, exposing them to the world and bringing trouble upon a comparatively few men and women in the West, who are so far away from those horrified females in Christian cities that the actual facts are really unknown, and whatever they are do not affect the lives, liberties or pursuit of happiness of the ladies who are so much concerned, and so anxious to raise money wherewith to remove the distant "blot."

The good women who have been induced to engage in this beggaring enterprise have been grossly deceived. There are none of their sex among the "Mormons" in "slavery" or crying to be "set free." They are not asking for relief. They want to be let alone. They would not change places with the ladies who are hiring lawyers and informers to make a furor which can do no good, and the conditions here are

not in any way like those that have been imagined or pictured by agitators for pecuniary purposes. The country is being humbugged, and people are being misled for the benefit of human crookedness and to gratify the fury of disappointed preachers and angry politicians.

However, here is a chance for some of our local "Mormon" haters and pure and holy reformers, to aid in the sweet work of spotting and the great and glorious effort to unseat a United States Senator whose record is blotless, whose life is admitted to be a model, whose election was as square as any party movement ever conducted in the country, on the ground that somebody else has done wrong. Send in your donations, you protesting immaculates! Keep the plate passing, secular collection-takers! Hand round the subscription lists kind ladies, and pay the costs of the lovely work that your sisters are engaged in, for the benefit of the harpies who are making a fat living off your earnest labors! Rub away at the so-called "blot" on Utah, and don't for goodness sake, open your eyes on that which is right under your noses or pay any attention to things at home!

RUSSIA'S CONDITION.

It does not appear probable that the fall of Port Arthur will influence the rulers of Russia for peace. Its fall does not come unexpectedly. On the contrary, that it has been defended so many months is regarded as one of the greatest achievements of the war. The Russian strategists must have, for months, counted on the fall of that stronghold, and the surrender can, therefore, have no bearing on the Russian plans.

The Japanese, on the other hand, have about gained the object of the war. They demanded the withdrawal of Russia from Manchuria, and when this demand was unheeded, they commenced hostilities. Now the Russians are practically out of Manchuria. Japan can afford to offer peace terms, and recall her victorious armies.

Russia must necessarily be careful. It is doubtful whether the rulers of that country could with safety conclude peace now. It is apparent that there is a revolutionary element at work in the country. What would the consequence be, if the government at this juncture were to recall its armies from the battle fields where they have been ingloriously beaten, scattered, and put to flight? For years Nihilists have been active among the laboring classes. Revolutionary associations are said to exist in Poland, Finland and Armenia. The weakness of Russia in the field is said to have inspired them with hope.

Furthermore, the general ferment, the apathy of the populace in regard to the war, waged against a distant nation, against which it could not easily be inspired with hatred, the refusal of reservists to go to the East, the laxity of the police in riots, particularly against the Jews, the activity of the terrorists abroad and at home, everything inspired the liberals, which form the majority of all the cultured elements of Russia, with confidence to demand radical reforms. These the Czar has thought best to discourage, and the internal condition is, therefore, such that it would, no doubt, be dangerous to agree to a dishonorable peace. In France the humiliation of the nation after the war with Germany brought about the fall of the empire and the establishment of the republic; who knows what form the agitation in Russia would take?

A revolution in Russia, with the possible overthrow of the government, would be a calamity to Europe. It would almost certainly call for interference by Germany and Austria. It might thus spread the war over Europe, and who knows but that in such a convulsion the smaller states would be swallowed up by their neighbors? Russia can hardly afford to enter upon peace negotiations at this time, and it is doubtful whether her European neighbors would advise her to do so, as long as she has no victory to her credit.

GROWTH OF CHURCHES.

At the beginning of each year statistics are published indicating the growth of Christian churches in this country. The Church Economist finds that the past year brought more encouragement than some previous years. Nearly all religious bodies in the country show advancement, we are told, and there are today more Christian believers, more students of the Bible, more Christian churches, and more money raised and applied to Christian enterprises than ever before since the first Christmas.

The statistics show that there are in the United States now, 149,943 ministers—practically 150,000. There are more churches than ministers, in round numbers, 200,000, and the number of communicants is given as 23,328,153. Whether this is an encouraging showing in view of the fact that the population of the country is in the neighborhood of 80,000,000 souls, must be open for discussion.

The Lutherans are said to lead in ratio of growth. They now claim a membership of 1,785,793, as against 1,638,283 reported last year at this time. This is a gain of 96,414 members, or over 5 per cent. Lutherans report a gain of 132 in the number of ministers, a gain of \$85 in congregations, but benevolent contributions fell off \$20,000 from last year's figure of \$1,644,895. All the Lutherans in the world are reported to number 70,358,727.

The Episcopalians are said to have gained a trifle over three per cent on membership, the total number of communicants being now reported as 567,915. In contributions for all purposes the Episcopal church leads all other religious bodies, having given last year at the rate of \$18.62 per communicant. This figure, however, is less by \$1.37 than the amount reported last year. In the Presbyterian church, north, the increase in membership last year was at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent, the gain in members being 27,431, and the present total 1,064,908. Contributions, for all purposes, were at the rate of \$16.17 per

member. The Presbyterian Church, South, is a much smaller body than the northern one, and has but 239,883 members, but its figures show that it gained last year at the rate of 2 per cent, and that its total contributions amount to \$163.39 per member.

The Congregationalists show, by their latest figures, which are, however, a year old, that they gained but little over 1 per cent in members, the total number being reported as 690,400. This body gives the statistics of male and female membership, and it is interesting to note that there are just about twice as many women as men in the churches, the numbers being 438,450 and 239,950 respectively.

The Methodists increased only at the rate of 1.45 per cent, which, however, is an advance on the previous year, when the growth was at the rate of 1 per cent. This body now claims 3,044,735 members, of whom about 200,000 are connected with foreign conferences and missions. The Methodist Church, South, reports a present membership of 1,553,462, a gain for the year of 31,635.

The Reformed Church in America (Dutch Reformed) gained in membership at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent, having now a total of 115,293. This contribution in this body are at the rate of \$14 per member.

In this increase we presume accessions from all sources, including immigration, are counted, and, as the immigration last year was unusually large, it is but natural that the increase in church membership should be correspondingly large. In order to obtain a true conception of the religious life of the nation the growth of churches as a result of genuine conversions are alone to be considered.

It is a silly man who finds a silly woman interesting.

The government brief in the Beef Trust cases is long.

It is not much use to vote water bonds if there is no snow.

The margin for water bonds was not as wide as a barn door, but 'twill do.

Uncle Sam is now locking horns with the Beef Trust. May he win out.

Is lawlessness in Denver yet to overshadow lawlessness in Cripple Creek?

The Oregon land frauds seem to have lapped over into Idaho quite extensively.

Strange how a man's creditors do not credit his statements when he falls on evil times.

Whoever gets the gubernatorial chair in Colorado will have a rather uncomfortable seat.

It might help Mrs. Chadwick to pass away the idle hours to read "Le Roi S'Amuse."

Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary wanted a change of diet so he just dissolved the Diet.

It's a good thing that the New York Times building isn't out of joint, it is so narrow and high.

The flag of the Rising Sun has displaced that of the Setting Sun on the citadel of Port Arthur.

In his letter to Nogi Stoessel said that further resistance was useless. It was useless from start to finish.

And General Stoessel is to be court-martialed. A prophet is not without honor save in his own country.

The federal grand jury at Portland is catching a good many prominent Web-feet in a web of their own weaving.

The press of the country is heaping coals of fire on the heads of the southern planters who propose to burn their surplus cotton.

It cost Japan a hundred million dollars to take Port Arthur. The item will probably be charged against Russia when a final balance sheet is struck off.

Speaking of the scholar in politics, what's the matter with John Sergeant Cram, Harvard graduate, elected to the head of the general committee of Tammany Hall?

A jury in New Jersey has been accused of deciding an important case by flipping up a coin to see which verdict should be given. This is carrying flippancy too far.

In Colorado the Republicans will swear in as governor Governor Peabody, while the Democrats will swear in as governor ex-governor Adams. Swear not at all.

The meeting of the American Forestry congress brings to mind the remark of John Muir that God created the forests but only the United States could save them.

Charles Eliot Norton says that we Americans need culture more than any other nation on earth. It can be had out of the professor's prose rendering of the "Vita Nova."

Senator Stone of Missouri has introduced in the Senate a resolution calling for an investigation of the Lawson and Parker charges concerning campaign contributions. Is not his resolution itself a campaign contribution?

Lieut. Peary needs \$100,000 more than the Peary club has got, in order to equip the expedition for "the geographical conquest" of the north polar basin. The club, with the money raised mainly from its own membership, contracted for and are now having built the first ship ever constructed in this country expressly for the purpose, and Mr. Peary declares it "the ablest ever built anywhere." But without additional funds the project will fail.

FOOLISH ECONOMY.

San Francisco Bulletin.

Farmers at Fort Gaines, Georgia, a few days ago, burned a large quantity of baled cotton, in the hope thereby of putting up the price of the staple. They wished to demonstrate, they said, a willingness to destroy their proportion of the two million surplus bales of the crop. The auto da fe was made the occasion of a popular fete. Bands played, speeches were delivered, and the whole countryside flocked to the town and enjoyed what a theatrical press agent would call the great spectacular production. Political economists and thrifty Yankee housewives must have groined about whom they read in the papers of this immense waste of a valuable staple. It was, indeed, a wanton and senseless destruction, offensive not only to the scientific economist, but to any person of common sense. By what curious reasoning the cotton planters have convinced themselves that they will make money by setting fire to their own cotton, the press dispatches do not state. Granted that the supply of cotton exceeds the demand, and that prices have sunk to the bottom on that account, but the demand is not augmented by the destruction of the surplus, and so long as the supply equals the demand, the price will remain stationary.

New York Evening Mail.
Let us sincerely hope that the cotton-burning "bluff" of the southern Georgians will be repudiated by the rest of the farmers of the South. They can much better afford to sell their cotton at seven cents a pound than they can to destroy what they have raised in excess of nine or ten million bales and get 10 cents for the rest. The country has no cotton to burn.

New York Evening Post.
We admit, of course, that the unexpectedly large crop has its awkward side for the cotton trade, and especially, just at present, for the cotton manufacturers. Yet it is fairly astounding to find scarcely thus held up as the great blessing. For that is what this worship of high prices really comes to. Apparently intelligent men act as if the great aim and result of civilization were not to enable the world to be fed and clothed as cheaply and comfortably as possible. When drought or flood or fire cuts off the food supply, or when war makes the necessities of life vanish, we account it a terrible calamity; but if we can approximate the same state of affairs by taxation laws or artificial interference with the bounty of nature, we pose as benefactors.

New York World.
The Georgia farmers who gathered at Fort Gaines and burned 3,000 bales of cotton hope to inspire similar sacrifices all through the South. It is actually proposed that 2,000,000 bales be destroyed, each State burning its fair proportion. The purpose is to reduce the supply of the staple and so put up the price. Some time ago, as the result of a "bumper" crop, a movement was started to limit the production of cotton and raise the price on the plan that each farmer should reduce his acreage by a certain percentage. The result was that the prospect of better prices led many farmers to plant more than ever. It remains to be seen whether Texas and Mississippi growers will not look on Georgia's cotton fires as beacons of hope, and store their own crops on the chance of a rising market.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The "News" is in receipt of a prospectus of a Greek newspaper, "Parthenon," to be published in Boston. It is said to be the first daily Greek paper published in this country. The name is, as well known, that which was given to one of the finest sacred structures of ancient Athens, and it is selected because it is the intention of the publishers to make the paper a work of art, typographically as well as replete with literary interest. That it will be devoted to pan-Hellenism and the "resurrection of the fatherland" is self-evident. The place of publication is 8 Burroughs Place, Boston, Mass.

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