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Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.

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AMERICANA.

The Americana magazine for November, published by the Americana Society New York, contains another installment of "History of the Mormon Church," by President B. H. Roberts. This part is devoted to the testimony of the witnesses who have declared to the world that they examined the original plates of the Book of Mormon. Beautiful engravings of portraits of Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris illustrate this part of the history.

The testimony, first of the three, and then of the eight witnesses, forms a rock against which the waves of unbelief, as regards the Book of Mormon, break in vain. Their statements are irrefutable. Before any impartial jury their combined force would compel a unanimous verdict in favor of the records. If Cook, the explorer, had had one small part of such direct and positive evidence in support of his claim to having reached the North Pole, no one would have expressed any doubt on that subject. The entire world would have hailed him as the first to actually reach the geographical point that has been the goal of so many Arctic sailors. The testimony is so strong, that if it is rejected, all similar testimony may be rejected, on equally good grounds, and what can then be established? What becomes of human knowledge, since most of what is accepted as fact rests on testimony? There would be no certainty in history, and even the testimony of our own senses would have to be rejected on the ground that we may be deceived by self-hypnotism, or what not? We could never be sure that we see what we see, or hear what we hear, if the witnesses to the Book of Mormon are to be rejected as deceived, and deceivers. For their testimony is still more fortified by the fact that they continued to assert the truth of their statements, even when they were outside the Church and when a denial might have been, seemingly, an advantage to them, from more than one point of view.

In this connection we may refer to an incident which Judge C. M. Nielsen has frequently related, in public and private. Mr. Nielsen, while on his mission in the eastern states, met a gentleman who knew Oliver Cowdery at the time he was outside the Church. Cowdery was practicing law, and on one occasion, the opposing lawyer endeavored to prejudice the jury against him, by referring to his connection with the Book of Mormon. "Do you believe," he was asked, "that your testimony was true?" Oliver Cowdery slowly and deliberately rose in the courtroom, in which the deepest silence prevailed, and said: "I do not believe it. I know it. It is not a matter of belief with me; it is knowledge." The gentleman who related this to Mr. Nielsen said it made an indelible impression on his mind, and he never forgot that scene in the courtroom. This adherence to the testimony by all the witnesses, in the Church or outside the Church, precludes the supposition of collusion, or fraud—a point that is made very clear in the part of the history before us in this number of the Americana magazine.

We are aware that recent anti-"Mormon" writers claim that Oliver Cowdery joined the Methodist church at Tiffin, Ohio, and that he was a recorder of that church in 1844. We are not prepared to discuss that question fully just now. Bishop E. L. Kelly who went to Tiffin in 1907, to examine the records, and who did so in the presence of Mr. C. J. Yingling, who had charge of them, says he discovered that the record simply contained Oliver Cowdery's work as an attorney, and that Mr. Yingling himself readily assented to that proposition when the fact was pointed out to him. But Mr. Yingling has later changed his opinion on this point. In a letter to R. B. Neal, of Pikeville, Ky., he says the minutes "should be conclusive evidence that Oliver Cowdery was a member of the Methodist Protestant church." That is not very positive. But be that as it may, if Oliver Cowdery was a Methodist at the time he gave his testimony in the courtroom, the fact simply proves that not even church affiliation could make him deny the miraculous manifestations to which he had testified as one of the three witnesses. And the fact that he returned to the Church at a time when the end of it seemed to be in sight, settles all controversy as to his real conviction with regard to that testimony. If he had not known it to be true, he would not have joined the Church.

There are many other excellent papers in this number. We notice, "Ancient Abodes of Annapolis," by Catherine Frances Cavanaugh; "The Genesis of Thanksgiving," by Helen Harcourt; "Rise of the United Empire Loyalists," concluded, by Viscount de Frontenac; "A Famous American Church," by Henry Waterman; "History of Slavery," by Mrs. C. F. McLean; "The Men Behind the Chisel," by Henry Wilson Carlisle; "Civil War Reminiscences," by Andrew M. Sherman; "Folklore of our Heathstones," by Miriam Cruikshank; "Hawthorne and Lincoln," by Charles Oscar Paul.

lin, and "A Swiss Village in America," by E. S. Hansen.

The Americana is a monthly magazine of history, genealogy and literature, and it is one that ought to be in every cultured American home.

DR. COOK'S RECORDS.

A Christiania dispatch brings news of the arrival of the secretary of Dr. Cook, in Christiansand, with the documents that are to be examined in Copenhagen for the purpose of settling the North Pole controversy. In a few more hours the records will be in the hands of competent and impartial scientists, and the public can afford to await their verdict, before forming a final opinion. We have no doubt the report will be closely scrutinized, and examined in every detail, and the findings will have the weight of authority. The American minister in Copenhagen, it seems, has been invited to be present at the sessions of the commission. He will be in a position to judge of the proceedings and of the outcome, whether the verdict be favorable or otherwise to Dr. Cook.

To the casual observer it might appear an easy matter to fake a report that would deceive "even the elect," but it is not so. A thousand little things that experts are quick to detect would betray a faker. Statements regarding the altitude of the sun each day can be tested, and so can the nautical instruments by which observations are made, as to their accuracy. The very photographs of scenes and landscapes can be made to tell their own story, for the shadows of objects as seen in the pictures can be measured and they will indicate with accuracy the position of the sun at the time of the impression on the plate. When the records are examined by experts there is very little doubt that the truth will be known.

There are some signs that the findings of the Copenhagen savants are to be discredited in advance, in case they are favorable to Dr. Cook. Thus Walter Wellman, who has entertained the world with spectacular failures in balloon experiments, says:

"There is a general expectation that Cook's records, when examined by the university of Copenhagen, will determine once for all whether he is honest or an impostor. In view of the physical impossibility of doing what he claims to have done, and in view also of the ease with which so-called astronomical observations may be fabricated, I cannot share this view."

That is to say, in the judgment of Wellman, Cook has not reached the North Pole, no matter what impartial scientists may say, after an examination of his records. Is that fair? Or honorable? True, the Utah leaders of the persecution of the Church, some years ago, sent to the United States Senate a number of accusations with the understanding that the verdict of that august tribunal would be accepted if favorable to the accusers but rejected if not favorable; but that course is not generally deemed either fair or honorable.

In the meantime we hope the report that Dr. Cook has collapsed owing to the mental strain to which he has been subjected since his return to this country, may prove not true. It would be too bad should the controversy culminate in a tragedy. Some men, when persistently hounded, though innocent of wrongdoing, find themselves unable to bear up under the persecution, and even an Arctic explorer may be sensitive to continuous blasts of malice. We hope Dr. Cook may not have been seriously affected physically by the premature opposition. Whether his claim is true or not, he is entitled to the benefit of the doubt until the verdict is pronounced, and the courtesy due to a persistent and fearless explorer.

SHOULD ARBITRATE.

The railroad strike now on is but a continuation of a trouble of long standing. The demand for an increase of wages was made a couple of years ago, but the matter was then arbitrated, or, perhaps, deferred for future settlement. Then the panic came on and there was no time for a serious conflict. The country, precluded by the effects of the late financial depression. The wheels of industry are again in motion everywhere. There is no presidential election to occupy the minds of the public, and so the question of increased wages has again been brought to the front.

The railroad employees deserve all the traffic can stand. Their services are of the greatest importance both to the corporations that employ them and the general public. The cost of living is constantly rising, and the wage earner thereby finds his earnings diminishing in proportion to the rise in prices. No matter what the cause of this increase is, whether it is the growth of the population without a corresponding increase in the production of the necessities of life, or whether it is the enormous output of gold that cheapens money, it is a feature of modern life the oppressive effects of which are felt by the laborers. Wages should advance with the increase in the cost of living. But the wisdom and justice of tying up the lines of transportation—if that can be done—and thereby causing stagnation in the various industries of the country must, nevertheless, be questioned. That is punishing an innocent party for the sins and shortcomings of another. The general public has no word in determining the wages of the railroad employees. Is a strike just to the public?

There is, perhaps, no other way at present, but the very injustice and absurdity of transferring the alleged sins of a corporation to others and of making war upon industrial interests against which there is no grievance, should suggest the necessity of laws making arbitration in such cases compulsory. Arbitration is the only way by which difficulties can be settled. It is cheaper than strikes. And it is just to all.

TO REACH THE MAYAS.

Report has it that the Mexican government is building a railroad for the express purpose of bringing civilization to the Maya Indians. These interesting inhabitants of Yucatan have never been fully subdued by the Mexicans. But a railroad is now in process of construction and has already reached the heart of the Maya territory, making possible the quick transportation of troops to future scenes of trouble. The government is establishing military stations all through the region and is opening up the land to development.

If August Le Plongeon is to be relied on, the Mayas are the most ancient inhabitants of the world. They ruled, he believes, an empire in Central America before the flood, and our modern civilization he endeavors to trace back to that empire. He believes that in those ages colonists went out from the region inhabited by the Mayas, to India, Egypt, and elsewhere, and that ancient and modern languages may be derived from the Maya language. Our alphabet, for instance, he thinks, is but the remnant of a wonderful Maya epic describing the destruction of the Atlantis, a vast continent once situated in the Atlantic ocean.

Whether these theories are accepted or not, it is certain that there are some wonderful ruins—monuments of a past civilization in the territory inhabited by the Mayas, and the construction of a railroad through that region ought to make it easier for explorers to study these and to search for others. Our knowledge concerning these remarkable evidences of a great past, should be increased as the facilities for travel multiply.

FOR THE HOME.

Dr. Elliot but spoke the truth when he declared that the women who follow the professions of men contribute less to the development of themselves and the race than the woman who practices the "household arts." Some day, possibly, this truth will be generally acknowledged. It will be understood that the home is the most important place on earth; far more important than the office, the shop, and the amusement hall. When this fact is understood and accepted, men and women will return to the home.

At present there are few homes, though there are big houses. The tendency is to "save work" and to have as small a place as possible, to sleep in, and to spend as few hours as possible there. People eat in restaurants, entertain in clubs, and spend the evenings in amusement halls. Many birds have more of a real home than some human beings. It is all due to the modern notion that the labor that is required to make a home comfortable

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

THE VIGIL OF LOVE THAT KILLED A GREAT SCIENTIST.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards' notes, and either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, gathered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

Two years ago this month the cable broke the news to this country, where he was widely known and loved, that Lord Kelvin the great British physicist, had died after a brief illness. A day or so later the cabled accounts of his funeral told that the only flowers on his casket at the funeral was a wreath from Lady Kelvin. How Lord Kelvin's great love for his wife really led to his death is not told for the first time, and the story is vouched for by Mr. George Westinghouse, of Pittsburgh, who was one of Lord Kelvin's most intimate American friends. "When Lady Kelvin accompanied Lord Kelvin to America," said Mr. Westinghouse, "everybody who met the two were invariably impressed with their simplicity and domestic life. Each of them was a devoted husband and wife. It was easily apparent that Lady Kelvin was not only a sharer in her husband's interests in mechanics, physics, industrial development, and all science, in fact, of which he was in so great a degree a master—but also that their domestic relations were ideal, she constantly looking to his comfort and ministering to him, and he responding with gentle caresses.

"During Lord Kelvin's last visit to this country, his friends here learned that he was deeply solicited regarding the state of Lady Kelvin's health. Some time after his return to England word reached us that Lady Kelvin had, in fact, become a hopeless invalid. Then

came the report that Lord Kelvin himself was seriously ill, and within a week or two the announcement of his death followed.

"It was his solicitude for the comfort of his invalid wife—his helpmeet of a life time—that really killed him. Though he was a man of advanced years and had need to husband his strength, from the day that Lady Kelvin became an invalid he was in constant attendance upon her. He could scarcely be prevailed upon to leave her for a few minutes even; he seemed to feel that time was wasted which he could not devote to the care of his wife. He was so devoted that her illness was mortal, and to those who endeavored to persuade him to rest now and then, he replied that during the simple and domestic life that he and Lady Kelvin led together, he felt that he ought to give her his constant attention. And so, hour after hour, he sat by his wife's bedside, holding her hand and talking with her.

"At last there happened what Lord Kelvin's friends had feared all along—the strain of his constant vigil of love broke him down completely, and he, having no surplus vitality to rely upon for recuperation, he passed away.

Today Lady Kelvin lingers on, a hope that she will live to see the day when her thoughts all her waking hours of the man whose whole married life was dominated by the one thought of her comfort and happiness."

REPUBLIC FOR ENGLAND.

London, Cor. New York Herald. There is no denying that society is more than a little concerned at the great freedom which certain leaders of the labor party and others have recently been allowing themselves in speaking of King Edward's place in the constitution. I understand that these speeches are not sporadic or accidental, but are rather the result of the first hints of the opening of a more definite campaign against monarchy in this country. Informal exchanges of opinion have already, I believe, been made between certain labor and Irish members, and the speeches to which I have referred and the questions which have been put in the house about the Prince of Wales' position in the navy are the first results. There is no doubt that an attempt is about to be made to raise again the banner of republicanism, which has been furlled and hidden away in England since the early days of the reign of Queen Victoria. There is an extreme section in the radical party which would give its support to this propaganda, and the idea that it has also the sympathy of Lloyd-George may have given rise to the rumor that there are strained relations between him and the King.

PREPARING.

Life. We have been watching him for a week or two now, and can detect the symptoms. There is a sanctimonious twist settling upon his lips, his eyes, brows arching in a sort of deprecatory sincerity, and when he sees a little boy or girl he fidgets as though he wants to say something. He is perhaps a practical, self-restraining, but he knows, and we know, that he will break loose before long. He is the man who goes about telling children there isn't any Santa Claus. He's going to be honest, no matter how much happiness he spoils.

MISS CLEVELAND A SUFFRAGIST.

New York Press. Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of President Cleveland, is one of the latest to give formal adherence to the cause of woman's suffrage, having affixed her signature to the national suffrage petition last week. Though she has not yet joined the organization, Miss Cleveland is said to have expressed hearty sympathy with the aims and methods of the Political Equality association, recently founded by Mrs.

and attractive is so much drudgery, unworthy of womanly efforts.

The results are lamentable. One of them is the ever multiplying divorces. Another is the prevalence of the social evil. There is no stronger bulwark against the curse of the saloon and the "stockade" than the home. Whatever tends to the breaking down of the home adds the forces of evil in breaking through the barriers of virtue.

There was a time when the home was a place where the family altar of worship was the central feature. The family Bible was an ever open book. Virtue and righteousness were inculcated, and the Sabbath was remembered by young and old. That was the age of great men and women. That was the age of the builders of empires. That was the age of the home.

The fight of the evil one, through his various agencies, at the present time, is directed against the home more particularly. That is in evidence everywhere, and not least in this City. Those who are anxious for the victory of righteousness must rally to the defense of the home. Dr. Elliot has sounded a clear note of warning.

No amount of high thinking can offset the higher cost of living.

Always observing the eternal fitness of things, Col. Roosevelt shot his great hippo with a Holland rifle.

The king of Denmark's work is not always along serious and heavy lines; sometimes it is the lighter vein.

A Swift hoyden never acted worse than some of the English suffragettes do. Are they the lineal descendants of that celebrated race of females?

Disguised as a stevedore, King Gustav of Sweden spent most of a day carrying coal from a lighter. He will go down in history as Old King Coal, a merry old soul was he.

Col. Scott, superintendent of the West Point military academy, estimates that it costs the government ten thousand dollars to produce a second lieutenant. They come high but the country must have them.

In his message to Congress President Taft said the attitude of the United States towards the Congo Free State was one of benevolent encouragement. The attitude of Belgium towards it is one of benevolent assimilation.

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O. H. P. Belmont. This organization, it is said, will remain completely independent of all existing suffrage societies, but there are plain signs it is growing in strength. It is said to be behind the systematic campaign now being organized in every assembly district throughout the state of New York, and its membership is recruited from all conditions of men and women, some of the subscriptions rising to \$1,000, while those who can contribute no more than \$1 enjoy the same rights and privileges as the wealthiest members. In the meantime far off California sends the cheering news of the presence of a woman in a jury box for the first time in that state, Mrs. Johanna Engelman of Santa Monica being a member of the panel now sitting in the Superior court of Los Angeles county.

JUST FOR FUN

Defined. Louis—Uncle, what's chagrin? Uncle—Well, it's what a stout man feels when he runs and jumps on a car that doesn't start for half an hour.—Ex.

Breaking Gently. Hobson—I planted 10 shillings' worth of bulbs on Saturday, and they were all up on Monday.

Jobson—Great Scott! Some new electric dodge, I suppose?

Hobson—No; your confounded cat.—Sketch.

Victory Bad Enough. In a corridor of one of the University of Texas buildings there is a large replica of "The Winged Victory." A waggish inclined student observed the headless, armless, footless statue, and wrote underneath:

"God pity defeat!"—Lippincott's.

Too Tall. Farmer (to editor of local paper)—I want to put a notice in your newspaper of the death of my brother. What's your price?

Editor—Ten shillings and sixpence an inch, sir.

Farmer—Oh, I can't afford that; my brother was 6 feet 2.—London Opinion.

On Installation. Bolle—The Kinkies must buy everything on the installment plan. Hammer—What makes you think so?

Waiting at the Church. So Wilkins deserted Miss Barkis at the altar. Did his courage leave him?

"Leave him! No; it returned."—Boston Transcript.

The Accent.

Rivers—How do you pronounce that word "Taxicab?" Brooks—The emphasis is on the "tax."—Pittsburg Observer.

Bolle—I heard Jimmy Binks ask his father whether their new baby would be taken away if they couldn't keep up the payments.—Kansas City Journal.

Would Do Own Training. "Would you like to marry a widower, Elsa?" "Rather not. When I marry I mean to train my husband myself."—Fliegende Blaetter.

"When 'Omer Smote 'Is Bloomin' 'Zyre." "Oh, no," said the impetuous author, "I don't mind my poor, bare garment. Homer, you know, wrote his masterpieces up under the roof."

"Where's your authority for that?" "He certainly wrote them in the attic."—Boston Transcript.

A Test for Mediums. What does Prof. James say to putting an eight-day clock of ascertained reputation under a sealed glass bell and inviting the Cosmic Consciousness to make the clock go backward?—New York Sun.

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