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Charles W. Penrose, Editor. Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager.

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COMPARISON IN POLITICS.

The future which certain demagogues and their dupes are raising about "ecclesiastical influence" among the "Mormons," is scarcely a circumstance when compared with the riots and outrages perpetrated upon Catholics in England and America. In the times when anti-Catholicism raged with a fury far ahead in ferocity, of the outburst proceeding from the anti-"Mormons." How much real cause there was for the charge of "priestly control in politics" in the one case, may perhaps be gauged by the merits of the outcry about "Mormon" Church dictation; at any rate the latter is nothing but sound and fury.

The ground of the old objection against the Latter-day Saints was their adhesion in one party for election purposes. The reason for that unity has been given, and is generally understood among people posted upon Utah history. They had to meet a common enemy—an organized body composed of persons of different faiths and parties, and so they acted together in self-defense. Before these consolidations occurred in Utah, the "Mormon" people comprised but one body of residents, of one faith and purpose, and national party divisions were unknown.

After the division of party lines, political doctrines were promulgated by exponents of the two great national parties, and many supposed Democrats who had taken that side because of open Republican hostility exhibited in legislation, learned what the principles and policies of both parties were on national questions, and became Republicans from choice. Political education proceeded until most of the older residents of Utah became pretty well settled in political convictions, and have been for some time ardent Democrats or positive Republicans. The younger people, as they have arrived at their majority, have made their choice as they elected, often differing from their parents and other members of their family. So today the "Mormon" Church is not of any one political party but its members vote as they please.

The claim that they are under obligation to vote as directed by religious superiors, or that the "Mormon" authorities claim the right to command them in political matters, is positively and infamously untrue. Nothing has ever been advanced in proof of the accusation but inferences, exaggerated stories or invented incidents, the grain of truth if any in either of them being, simply, the presence of some Church officer in political affairs as a candidate or a supporter, in which he appeared as a citizen having no more than equal rights with other citizens of the nation, and the state.

These are the facts, known to the older residents of the State and especially to the "Mormon" people, who are perfectly free to vote as they choose for any person or party as they may elect, and they are naturally indignant when orators and writers intimate to the contrary, thus branding them as a set of religious serfs with no mind or will of their own. Against such charges every man and woman of spirit and common sense should set their faces, and emphasize their freedom by voting in such a way that the maligners may go down to ignominious and signal defeat. This should be their pleasure, and we look upon it as their duty, as independent voters desirous of the public welfare and the public peace.

We have been led to these reflections by the publication in the current number of the Inter-Mountain Catholic, of an editorial entitled "Catholics in Politics," in which is copied a communication to the New York Sun signed "T. H. J.," which reflects the views of our local contemporary and makes good reading at the present juncture. Here are two paragraphs from the letter which form its concluding portion and embody the gist of the article.

"When immigration was Catholic the Democratic party secured the Catholic vote because its platform had championed the cause of the immigrants. Immigrants voted as a body not because religion had ruled them in politics, but because they were despised and insulted, regarded as foreigners and intruders and were driven together by the contemptuous treatment which they received whenever they were outside their own circles. They lived together in certain localities because the only work which they could obtain kept them all for a while upon the same financial footing. Their acquaintance was all of the same race and religion because the prejudice of the time had excluded them from all society except their own. It should be a source of pride to their descendants that they had the spirit to fight their own battles, instead of cringing under a hand which struck because it felt itself too powerful to fear a returning blow. If they had acted otherwise they would have shown themselves unfitted for citizenship in a nation whose institutions demand pride and courage in every station of life. If they had acted otherwise they would have deserved the insults they received.

"That a change has come is to be

seen in the fact that in this campaign every party is composite in character. Every candidate has support which no appeal to prejudice could gain. If the auditors at any great political meeting were to give voice to their sentiments, the result would put to shame the confusion at the Tower of Babel. The ill-feeling which was once widespread is now known only in quarters where it does little harm. It is now fortunately confined to women, clergymen and college professors."

## A BIT OF HISTORY.

One of the campaign speakers, a few days ago, in a public address made the suggestion that this country open negotiations with Colombia with a view of restoring Panama to that country, and buying a canal strip from the Colombian government. He said that in his opinion it would be "entirely possible by peaceful negotiations to restore the opera bouffe republic of Panama to the United States of Colombia, to secure immunity for the citizens of Panama who are responsible for the insurrection and by a payment of money secure a good title to the land which we need for a canal. In this way," he said, "we should show to the world that the United States still has a sense of honor and that it is not disposed to count money when it is necessary to do justice."

To the ordinary mind it will appear rather late to reopen negotiations with Colombia on the canal question. It is, in fact, too late. But, besides, the argument advanced rests on a misconception. It presupposes that the state of Panama was the property of the republic of Colombia, and that the Panamanians, with the aid of the United States, robbed the southern republic of that valuable state. This presentation of the case is wrong and misleading. History tells a quite different story.

As recent at 1881 both Panama and Antioquia were independent. In that year the "United States of New Granada" was established, but each state reserved the right to secede from that union, for reasons satisfactory to itself. Two years later the constitution was remodeled and the name of the country was changed to "United States of Colombia." In 1885 there was another revolutionary upheaval in that country, and an effort was made to deprive Panama of her sovereign rights. This succeeded only in part. And ever since 1886 both Panama and Antioquia have been looking for an opportunity of escaping the military oppression of the rulers at Bogota. They had never relinquished their right to secede. And when the canal treaty was rejected by Colombia, the time came for the Panamanians to exercise their right of secession, and resume full control of their own affairs, including the disposition of the canal strip.

The long-existing, bitter dissension between the Federalist States of the sea-coast and the Centralist oligarchy of the plateau of the Andes has been the incessant cause of revolution in Colombia, antedating even the revolution which was largely due to the centralized tyranny of the colonial governments of the old Spanish viceroys in South America. The causes are deep-rooted and of long standing. The canal treaty's rejection was only the culminating cause of the secession of Panama.

## GREAT SOLDIERS FOR PEACE.

In a little pamphlet entitled, A Primer of the Peace Movement, several famous soldiers are quoted on the question of peace and war. Their utterances prove conclusively that the more thoroughly that question is studied, the clearer it becomes that war must be relegated to the class of human activities that belong only to barbarous ages, like human sacrifices, cannibalism, etc. Napoleon at St. Helena, where he had ample time to review philosophically his life, his achievements and his failures, said:

"The more I study the world, the more I am convinced of the inability of brute force to create anything durable."

Washington is quoted as follows:

"My first wish is to see this plague to mankind banished from the earth. . . . I am against the profession of arms and would clip the wings of some young soldiers soaring after glory, to see the whole world in peace and the inhabitants striving who should contribute most to the happiness of mankind."

General Sherman's terse characterization of war is familiar to all the world. Here are two sayings of that warrior which, placed together, form strong testimony:

"I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of the war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither heard a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded, who cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation." "War is hell."

General Sheridan is on record with the following prophecy:

"War will eliminate itself. . . . By the next centennial, arbitration will rule the world."

This is General Miles's estimate on the wastefulness of war:

"The contrast between war and peace is illustrated by the fact that what has been expended on the Philippines would have put water on every quarter section of arable land in our country where it is required; it would have built for the farmers a splendid system of good roads or for commerce two shipcanals across the isthmus."

Those who have an impression that friends of peace are found only among dreamers, should study such testimonies carefully. War is not "glorious." The greatest soldiers that ever lived have abhorred it.

## A WORLD LABOR BUREAU.

Among the suggestions made by Mr. William Booth, the commander of the Salvation Army, is one that will probably strike most of us as impracticable under present conditions. He has observed that the world in some parts is overcrowded, while in other places there are not enough inhabitants to develop the natural resources of the country. In order to remedy this, he suggests the establishment of a "World bureau of labor," to facilitate the distribution of labor more evenly than at present. This, he believes,

would not only give to many a much needed chance for useful and remunerative activity, but also relieve the competition that in some localities is felt so keenly.

The scheme may be said to be Utopian, and yet, it is in harmony with the tendencies of the age. Unification is the clearly discernible goal toward which the various currents of the latter days are carrying the groups of mankind that for centuries have been drifting apart, each group in its own little craft. And in all probability there will, finally, be a world bureau of labor, as well as a world parliament and a world court. But a world parliament will have to be established first. A congress of nations will be the beginning to world measures of an industrial nature.

The world is moving slowly, but surely, in the right direction. The great ruler of the universe holds the helm in His hands. And the course is clearly marked out from the beginning.

## A MEMORABLE SIEGE.

The investment of Port Arthur commenced on May 28, last. General Stoessel had, to commence with, 30,000 men with which to defend the place, and the fortifications were in every respect all that modern engineering skill can make them. Today the defenders of Port Arthur have in all probability dwindled to a number far below 10,000. The Japanese are supposed to have lost in the neighborhood of 40,000 men during the long siege. Still, the end is clearly approaching. The Russians within the walls have no rest. They can receive no reinforcements. As their lines are decimated, they are forced to contract their work of defense within narrower limits. But they are fighting hungry. Food must now be scarce; water is not abundant; clothing cannot be plentiful, and the winter is coming.

The siege of Port Arthur will be recorded in history as one of the memorable contests of modern wars. General Stoessel has done all in human power to hold the position entrusted to him by his government. It is to be hoped that, when the surrender comes, he will not have made the fortress his grave, as threatened, but that he will be spared for his country. Russia greatly needs such men at the present time.

Vote early!

Let political conscience govern political action.

Every legally registered voter should cast a ballot.

The Japanese are putting winter close on Port Arthur.

New York's subway is not for the submerged tenth.

Every citizen, male or female, should perform a citizen's duty.

Don't leave voting until late in the day. Take time by the forelock.

The open door policy has no more strenuous advocate than the burglar.

Vote early and as you believe the best interests of the State and Nation dictate.

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Tomorrow it will all be over and the people will be entitled to enjoy a well-earned rest.

After tomorrow how many candidates will feel as though they had been in a head-on collision!

The wise candidate will brush up his philosophy and be prepared for anything that may happen.

Both parties are claiming tomorrow's election. How much of bluff and brag there is in a campaign!

By going to Tanager with his fleet it looks as though Rojstvensky wanted to carry the war into Africa.

Follow up the transients who have been paid to register falsely and prosecute them to the law's full length.

No man has a right to dictate how his fellowman shall use the elective franchise. All citizens are equal before the law.

Let bribers and bribe-takers be "smoked out" and punished as the law provides.

The Russians are now, through the capture of some of their guns by the Japanese, being hoisted with their own petards.

It begins to look as though those Cody bandits had gone through the Hole-in-the-Wall and pulled the hole in after them.

One reason for Mr. Bryce's popularity in this country is the fact that while he lectures to Americans he never lectures Americans.

A correspondent, describing the battle of Liao Yang, says the dead were three feet deep. They are never less than two feet deep.

The Russians object to British cruisers shadowing Rojstvensky's fleet. They should not. Coming events always cast their shadows before them.

The Japanese are making serious charges against the Russians through the press. They should be satisfied to make charges against them on the field.

Every citizen, no matter what his party affiliation, is interested in an honest election; and every citizen should do all in his power to see that it is an honest election.

Do not be influenced by attacks on personal character, the libels of a vicious newspaper, or anything but good common sense and a citizen's free choice at the polls!

The case is made up and goes to the jury tomorrow; and there will be no

more complaints and answers, rejoinders, surrejoinders, rebutters and sub-rebutters, replications and surreplications, etc., ad infinitum.

Dean Swift thought it strange that people engaged in telling falsehoods always are so clumsy at it. "As universal a practice as lying is," he said, "and as easy a one as it seems, I do not remember to have heard three good lies in all my conversation, even from those who were most celebrated in that faculty." Abundant falsehood has been spread broadcast lately hereabouts, by writers and speakers, but the comment of Dean Swift holds good. He would have to go out as Diogenes, with a lantern, to find as much as one clever lie in the entire conglomeration. It is all so poor imitations of truth, that only the one who wants bogus coin, is deceived.

## THE NORTH SEA SCARE.

Topeka State Journal.

If the Russians are so badly scared in waters where there is no possibility of the presence of Japanese, what will become of them if they should ever meet Admiral Togo?

Hartford Times.

The opinion of the naval officers of the world is undoubtedly that the Russian naval commanders were on the verge of nervous prostration for fear of a hostile attack in the North Sea; that they probably sought to sustain themselves by alcoholic stimulants, and that they were better fitted for the Keeley cure than for naval command when sent forth from the Baltic.

Philadelphia Record.

The latest surmise as to the cause of "the ghastly blunder" made by the Russians in their attack upon the English fishing craft is that the officers on the war vessels were drunk. This is very likely the true solution.

Boston Herald.

In connection with the czar's manifesto, according to France the glory of preventing the outbreak of hostilities on account of the North sea incident, it is interesting to note that M. Cluysot reports the present indebtedness of Russia held in France at the enormous total of \$1,500,000,000, of which \$154,000,000 has been taken since the opening of the war. Among the most powerful peacemakers in this world may be reckoned a belligerent nation's creditors.

## MONEY IN POLITICS.

Chicago News.

There should be a law compelling campaign managers and political committees to make a full public report of their finances, showing both the amounts handled and the specific purposes for which they were used. A continuance of the present conditions not only tends to make fraudulent elections common but threatens to undermine popular government by destroying confidence as to the possibility of securing a true expression of the popular will at the polls.

## THANKSGIVING FOR PROSPERITY.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The President has issued the customary annual proclamation, setting aside Thursday, November 24th, as a day of festival and thanksgiving by all the people of the United States, at home and abroad. In this proclamation the President enumerates some of those things for which the nation has just cause to be thankful. He specially directs attention to the fact that the year that has closed has been one of peace within our borders as well as between us and all other nations; that the harvest has been abundant, and that those who work, whether with hand or brain, are prospering greatly.

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