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A WORD TO THE STAGE.

President Joseph F. Smith, in his opening address of the Conference on Sunday reminded the Latter-day Saints of many important truths which, for their own benefit, they should consider and endeavor to govern themselves by. They will gain both physically and otherwise by so doing.

One of the admonitions given had reference to the introduction of objectionable features on the stage. "Of late years," President Smith said, "it has been common for actors to light cigars and cigarettes on the stage. To me, such a practice is an insult to Latter-day Saints. If I had boys growing up I would not want them to attend theater where such reprehensible practices were taking place. I think, too, there are other things done by actors and actresses which are just as bad as smoking on the stage."

This is a very timely topic. Perhaps in no other city are theaters and amusement halls more generally, not to say frantically, patronized than here. The performances necessarily leave an impression on the characters of the spectators, for good or for evil. They should, therefore, be of an elevating character. Smoking, drinking, profanity, and language that is barred from polite society should not be admitted to the stage. And, furthermore, the subtle influences that too often are employed on the stage to make vice heroic and virtue ridiculous should be excluded. The stage should be a help, not a temptation. It should inspire good, noble sentiments and acts, and not throw wide open the gates to evil. It is, perhaps, too much to expect any such considerations from the companies that visit us, but local organizations can do a great deal toward the purification of the stage, whenever and wherever they appear, and they might be encouraged to do so by liberal patronage.

DR. KARL G. MAESER.

Perhaps no event in the history of the Latter-day Saints exemplifies better the poet's line that God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform, than the conversion of Karl G. Maeser to "Mormonism." At a time when the Gospel message was directed especially to the poor, the humble, and the unlearned, and was carried to the world, moreover, by messengers of a similar type, it found him, the learned professor, president of a notable institution of higher education, and drew him irresistibly into the fold. Judged by purely human standards, there was not one chance in ten thousand that the Gospel would appeal to him; especially when we learn the further fact that he had been so far biased against religion in general as to have become atheistic in his tendencies of thought.

But the Lord who touched the heart of Saul the persecutor, was able also to set free the spring of spiritual life in this great modern apostle of education. And in the nature of the new life thus set free in him is to be found the overpowering impress he has left upon educational ideals in Zion. Just as our Savior, who might have stood at the pinnacle of human glory in any line of achievement, confined his activity to the neglected spiritual side of man's nature, so this man, instead of repeating the scholastic and purely intellectual ideals of German universities, originated under God's daily guidance a new order of education; an order that has crystallized in the motto: "Character is power."

The teachers who were with him from the beginning in the Brigham Young Academy, can now look back and trace the gradual unfolding of our present Church school system of education. To their beloved principal, trained in German methods, nothing would have seemed more natural, than the laying down of a foundation on the lines of the secondary schools of his native country. But here was a new problem: how to set free the spring of eternal life in his students, as God had set it free in him. This great ideal engaged him during all his waking hours. Indeed, often in the middle of the night, when he could not rest, he would kneel down and plead with the Lord to show him the next step; and when problems arose in the school-room—and the first few crops of boys and girls that came to him were peculiarly prone to problems—he would retire to his little office and ask the Lord almost with tears and sobs, how he might touch their hearts, how he might make them claim their birthright of the Holy Spirit.

And then, when he returned to his classes, carrying with him the revelation of God's will, how sublimely uncompromising was the moral attitude he assumed! His splendid form, towering and quivering with the intensity of his feeling, his countenance aglow with a halo of spiritual fervor, his voice ringing with absolute conviction, caused his words to burn their way into every heart. Cowboys with the mud in their eyes, were suddenly awed by a revelation of virtue and purity, and sought the Lord in repentance, for the first time in their lives. Frivoly and light-mindedness were scorched, as it were, from the souls of the goodly-wood, and they also became earnest and deeply spiritual.

Nor was his matchless power in

forming character utilized only in his classes. His individual impress upon the student cloistered with him for advice and counsel, was even greater still. His was the greatest gift that God can bestow upon the teacher—the power to love. No student that ever felt the caress of his hand, or the benediction of his voice will ever forget the day or the hour of his interview with this white-haired man. In these things, and not in his intellectual attainments, lies his title to the grateful memory of our people.

A splendid monument, the gift of his students, was unveiled Monday with fitting ceremonies over his grave. Another and greater is begun on Temple Hill, Provo, in the shape of the new administration building of the Brigham Young University. It is, moreover, eminently fitting that reminders of his life work shall be repeated in other forms of art, wherever our ideals shall seek expression. But let us not forget that the most enduring memorial of him that can ever come into our lives is a system of education which shall awaken in our children, and in our children's children a testimony of the Gospel.

AMERICANISM, UTAH BRAND.

The so-called American party expects to carry Salt Lake County this fall. The unlimited impudence and arrogance of some of the leaders of that party enable them to appeal even to Latter-day Saints to help them in their designs upon the County treasury.

For that reason we ask our readers to consider well what the aim of those leaders is. It is not expressed in the party platforms. Tribune platforms are often formulated to deceive than to enlighten the voters. But it is expressed just as forcibly as if it had been stated in the platforms.

In the first place it is the purpose of these leaders to continue the persecution of the Latter-day Saints. If they obtain the offices they will turn back the wheels of progress to the time before the "Liberal" conflict. The chairman of the "American" party mass state convention held in Salt Lake Theatre, Sept. 28, declared a war of extermination to be waged against the Church and its districts for the "American" party and start the machinery of the courts in motion to accomplish THE IMPRISONMENT or EXILE of the band of "Twenty-six." This is the program of the "Americans" as announced at the state convention and reported at the time.

Is there one man or woman who has a spark of humanity left, who can contemplate with equanimity the return of those days of strife, as a punishment for the refusal of the Church authorities to enter the field of politics in favor of such men as ex-Senators Kearns and Dubois? For that is what the threat amounts to. There are many of the "Twenty-six" who have never been charged with having violated any law, and all have faithfully kept the anti-state hood agreements, or understandings, regarding plural marriages. Why, then, should an "American" orator with fiendish glee announce the intention of the party of imprisoning or exiling those "Twenty-six," especially those against whom no charge can be preferred, except that they are honored and well beloved leaders among the Latter-day Saints.

There is only one reason for the threat and this was stated by Senator Sutherland before the Senate, as follows: "When the ex-Senator, my predecessor—and I should not have spoken of this but for the question of the Senator from Idaho—when that ex-Senator desired to come back to the Senate, according to the statements made in trial, and which I have no reason to doubt, he went to the present head of the Church and sought his aid, and that president told him he was not in politics, and that neither of them would be dragged into politics by him. The head and front of the American party in Utah is ex-Senator Thomas Kearns, and the Salt Lake Tribune and the Salt Lake Telegram are his personal organs."

The so-called American party leaders have announced their intention of persecuting innocent men by imprisonment or exile. It remains to be seen whether they can obtain a large following in this City for such a program.

In the second place, their intention is to raise the taxes in the County to the utmost limit. This is not stated in platforms, but it was given away in the party organ some time ago, when it was noted as "queer" that the farm lands have decreased in value for the purpose of taxation, while there has been a large increase in the value of property for taxes in Salt Lake City. This simply means that the party leaders are anxiously awaiting the time when, through their contemptible party tools, they can increase the taxes on all property in the County outside the City limits, and make property-owners beasts of burdens for the benefit of those in control. It is necessary that the tax-payers should understand clearly what the issue is. We have heard several farmers say, that if the American party is enthroned in the County and carry out their financial operations as they have done in the City, as they most certainly will do, they see no choice but to leave their homes and commence anew somewhere else. They realize fully the calamity of pseudo-"American" dishonesty and tyranny.

There is another fact to consider. The Tribune has announced that: "Neither the mayor, nor the head of any department of the city government, nor the city council, is responsible to the people of this City for the faithful and honest management and conduct of its affairs."

The capture of the County would mean the turning over of the County government to an irresponsible crowd that claims the right of dictatorship over the officials elected by the voters. It is well known who those dictators are, and it is equally well known that they are not the friends of Utah.

The so-called "Americanism" that is striving for the control of Utah is of a very peculiar brand.

WILL THE EAST IRRIGATE?

Is the East about to deal with the problem of irrigation? The losses due to forest fires and crop failures during the present dry season may lead to

the adoption of irrigation on an enormous scale.

For the good of the producers of wealth and of the public generally, it is to be hoped that when the great States do take hold of the irrigation problem, they will act in the light of western experience. They will secure governmental control and regulation of water, and not leave this important gift of nature to be the subject of private claims and monopolistic appropriation.

Private ownership of water on a large scale seems fraught with especial consequences of injury to the public welfare.

The farmer is, in some respects, the most independent of producers; but in one important particular farmers are more dependent than any other class. There is one condition that is altogether beyond their control, and that is the rainfall. Drought is the uncomfortable and serious uncertainty that menaces not only the individual farmer, but, through his misfortune, if it is widespread, impairs the prosperity of the entire country.

Just now the Eastern states have passed through one of the worst dry seasons within the memory of man, and the financial loss entailed upon those sections is simply enormous. Yet this has occurred where the rivers still carried an abundance of water that could have been used for the purposes of irrigation. Meanwhile the farmers were at the mercy of the fickle rain-clouds.

An exchange points out that in many of these drought-stricken sections some old, practically abandoned mill dam, or natural water power exists, which could be purchased and diverted into irrigation ditches at comparatively small expense by individual or neighborhood co-operation, and the interest on the cost of the necessary investment, might easily prove to be cheap crop insurance for the farmer.

The Success magazine argues that our present governmental methods for the reclamation of dry lands are inadequate for the reason that the government, as a rule, only the main and secondary canals, placing the responsibility upon the individual farmer, or a group of farmers, to bring the water from the secondary canals to their own farms, often at very large expense. And since the government does not guarantee a permanent, continuous supply of water, nor does it have any responsibility whatever for the individual farm canals or ditches, it often happens that quarrels arise among the farmers of a group or neighborhood who have built a tertiary canal, as to the proper division of the water.

Moreover the water laws of the various States are in conflict, with the result that private water rights are forever in a condition of hopeless uncertainty.

From all of which we are forced to the conclusion that when irrigation does come to the East, some comprehensive solution of the problem of water rights may be expected.

The gentler sex—the molly-coddles.

It isn't winter but it is near-winter.

A cottage for love, a bungalow for display.

Money is one of the fund-amentals of all political campaigning.

No matter how busy he is, the baker always has time to "loaf."

It is an impossibility for a community to have too few saloons.

Mr. Hearst doesn't hurl bricks or missiles; he just hurls epistles.

There is not much use in having an aim in life if your gun wobbles.

There is a great difference between the simple life and mere existence.

Representative Longworth may be compelled to start an Ananias club.

When the pot wants to call the kettle black these days it says, "Standard Oil."

It looks very much as though "the sick man of Europe" had a fight on his hands.

On receipt of funds the party managers will put plenty of ginger into the campaign.

All men have their good and their bad points, but the good points usually get blunted first.

It takes two to make a quarrel but often it takes the power of all the courts to settle it.

"Was there ever such a campaign of sizzling drivels?" asks the Springfield Republican. Hardly ever.

What ungrateful creatures the Turks are. They object to the "benevolent assimilation" of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary.

Of course there are two sides to every question—the right side and the wrong side. Just how to distinguish between them is the great trouble.

John D. Rockefeller's autobiography is to be published simultaneously in several languages and countries. Americans will be able to read it in the original tongue.

Governor Haskell tried to make a mountain out of a mole hill out of President Roosevelt's letter to him on the liquor question. As a failure his attempt was a great success.

"It is quite true that the Tribune claims to be the friend of the Mormon people. It has always been their best friend," says the organ of the "American" party. Heaven preserve the "Mormon" people from "their best friend."

"Those who do not approve of its policy find great interest in the manner in which it conducts its cause,"—Tribune.

The Tribune is lying in order to induce advertisers to patronize the sheet. The fact is contrary to that stated. One prominent lady, a large property owner, told a representative of "News" not long ago that she would not touch the Tribune even with a pair of tongs, and that when she saw

a free copy littering her premises she ordered it removed and thrown on the rubbish pile. A gentleman, also a property owner, stated that he would consider it a sin to support that paper to the extent of five cents, or to give it any moral support whatever. That is the real sentiment of many respectable citizens.

A DEMORALIZING FAD.

Editor Deseret News—Observation in my travels has taught me that there is a fad that has now received attention in many communities by those who have the welfare of the community at heart. I refer to the picture postal card fad. Probably few people realize the extent of the traffic in these nor the great variety offered for sale.

Lately I have observed a class on the market containing poems, and pictures, and these are very good. But there are others supposed to be comic, and these are, by far, the most predominant. Some are, perhaps, harmless, though silly, but many are of a low and debasing nature.

Not long ago I had my attention drawn to some displayed very prominently in a large revolving display stand well to the front in a finely equipped store not a thousand miles from Salt Lake City. Among the number were some most vicious in their base suggestiveness, and knowing there was a federal law against sending obscene matter through the mail I made inquiry of the clerk if these could be sent openly through the mail, to which he replied: Oh, no, they have to be sent in sealed envelopes. Further inquiry elicited the fact that these base cards were very heavy sellers. I say, shame to anyone who for the sake of a few paltry dollars in profit, will display and offer for sale that which panders to the vicious taste of the depraved and excites passions that sooner or later must find expression in degenerate conduct. It is deplorable to think that so many can be found who are willing to sacrifice their souls for sale merchandise that is demoralizing. Possibly in some cases it is due to thoughtlessness and therefore no need needed than drawing their attention thereto, but I plead for all who have the welfare of the community at heart to watch this matter very closely. Cultivate a public sentiment so strong that the traffic in these questionable cards will not be tolerated; be free to express your disapproval thereof and if this is insufficient to check it, then it would be proper to invoke the law. R.

"THE WORLD CONSCIENCE."

Boston Herald.
Sidney Whitman, Bismarck's old friend and champion, has established friendly relations with the present chancellor, Prince von Buelow, who has just made him the mouthpiece of an interview calculated to mollify the English and lessen the tension arising from the Moroccan situation. For the chauvinists in either country, who are perpetually fanning the flames of hatred, the ambassador's friendly but contempt. He intimates that Germany will soon show in some unmistakable way her determination to be a factor for peace and her friendship for Great Britain. Especially significant is his declaration that "the dominant influence in the world is neither England nor Germany, but the solidarity of nations, policies by an audience, international and interracial in makeup, is having on the nations and their controlling officials."

SOCIALISM IN FRANCE.

Boston Herald.
Viewed broadly the labor class movement is hostile to the idea of a potent factor in the world movement toward arbitration. The socialistic ideal is international rather than national, and, hence, for instance, is and is not in more ways than one. While the solidarity of the artisan class in favor of peaceable relations with other powers has aided the French government in composing its recent difficulties, it also is working against loyalty to the army and against a disposition to serve under arms.

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