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A FRENCH POINT OF VIEW.

We have given, from time to time, extracts from American and English journals on the "Mormon" question, to keep our readers posted on the direction of the always strong currents of public opinion. We publish below a translation of an article that appeared in the influential Paris Journal, Le Matin, for the 26th of April. It is written by the editor-in-chief of that paper, M. Stephane Lauzanne, and is headed: "Too Many Children." It is remarkable as showing the world wide interest awakened in matters pertaining to the Church—an interest manifested even in countries where but little missionary work is being done. The article is a remarkable jumble of facts and fiction put together so hap-hazard, as to form one of the most grotesque figures ever exhibited to public view on the subject of which it treats. Dates, places and persons are nearly all misplaced, and doctrines and quotations have, of course, suffered similar tortures. It is a pity, the chief editor of the Matin should not have sought reliable information, before he attempted to enlighten the public. For he is evidently endeavoring to be just and to judge without prejudice. If he had been better informed, he would not have perpetrated the subjoined really astonishing literary curiosity.

"The Americans are decidedly contributing to the poverty of nations. They were already noted for having too much gold, too much coal, and too many railroads. But now they are also noted for having too many children. Yes, M. Matin, you may open your eyes, sharpen your ears and put your tongue to your lips. It is as I say: too many children! They are studying means of putting a stop to this. Do you hear me: to stop it!"

"How it has come to pass that the Americans over there are troubling their heads about how not to have so many children, while M. Matin and fifty publishers here, every morning rack their brains about how to add to the state, that is worth while telling. It is M. Joseph Smith who is the cause of it. You do not know M. Joseph Smith? That is funny. Very well! I will introduce him directly. But first I will say that it is the Senate that has discovered that there are too many children in America. And the American Senate is never mistaken. It is like the observatory of St. James Tower, when it predicts rain."

"The American Senate, then, having taken cognizance for the last eighteen months, or thereabouts, of the census statistics for the whole republic, was stupified to find that the population of Utah, Idaho, and a part of California had grown recently to considerable and unusual proportions. A horrible suspicion seized it: Joseph Smith must be at the bottom of it! The Senate did what all parliamentary bodies do, when they have a suspicion. It appointed a commission of inquiry. The commission embarked straight for the Rocky Mountains and commenced its labors. These are not yet concluded, but the little the commission has seen, suffices to warrant this conclusion: It certainly is Joseph Smith who is again up to his tricks. Joseph Smith, who was believed to have been a good man, Joseph Smith, who is dead, but who again lives."

"Joseph Smith was, at the beginning of the last century, a good trapper in the Rocky Mountains. His days rolled by, among cattle and goats, colorful and peaceful, until one morning in the spring—just as the girl of Demeray—he heard a celestial voice. It was the voice of God."

"Wilt thou," the Lord asked, "save the human race?"

"Joseph Smith answered that there was no sacrifice he would not consent to make for a cause so beautiful, and he asked what would be required of him. 'That I will tell you later,' was the divine answer, after which the Lord disappeared in a column of smoke. However, two years later, Sept. 21, 1832, the Lord again appeared and said to Joseph Smith:

"A book written on gold plates is hidden in the country. Near it are two precious glasses, by which it can be read. Seek it. It is there that you will find the law which you must apply. That is the new gospel which you must preach."

"Joseph Smith arose instantly and commenced his research. In due time he was finished by finding the volume and the spectacles in a hill in Ontario county. He took care of the spectacles and issued the volume. It was the Book of Mormon. A new religion had been founded."

"It was necessary," so Joseph Smith said in the name of the Lord, "to establish marriage as it existed formerly among the Patriarchs. That is to say, one man should have several wives. The man who only has one wife is too much inclined to sin, deceit, and dissimulation. He falls naturally into various forms of immorality. He fosters in the soul of his wife, jealousy, suspicion, and a desire for espionage. But the man who has several wives and who treats them all with impartiality and justice, neither deceives nor dupes any of them. He pursues a noble course toward all, perpetuates the human race, according to the precept of Christ to His apostles: 'Grow, and multiply.' He is faithful to the example of Jacob the Patriarch, on the subject of which St. Augustine wrote once: 'Jacob has been reproached for having four wives. But what is a custom that is not a crime. He has a right to celestial glory, for in order to have great celestial glory, one must have many children on earth. And, preaching by example, Joseph Smith took six wives. But he had no time to have numerous offspring, for, pursued and persecuted by the justice of his country, he was imprisoned at Carthage and an

indignant mob lynched him in prison. Thus he picked up the path of martyrdom."

"One can understand that, based on such principles, the new religion was not slow in growing. One big Mormon might originate a little one. A wealthy ranchman, named Davidson, was converted to the doctrine of Joseph Smith in 1842. He had in Utah seven fine farms covering an immense territory. He took seven wives and had 63 children, of which 42 were boys. When he died the entire family could not enter the room to assist during the last moments, and it was necessary to take turns in saying farewell to the ancestor. However, the 42 boys, all good Mormons, followed the example of the father, and, in due time, took four or five wives each, with which they had fifty children, and in ten years there were more than 2,500 little Davidsons. They founded a city near Ogden, which is called Davidson City, and where the entire population, practically, from the doctor to the barber and the cabinet-maker, are called Davidson, and are brothers, sisters, and cousins."

"However, the public powers in Washington were not slow in putting themselves in motion on account of this formidable multiplication. Consider that the Mormons who in 1840, when Joseph Smith died, were only 1,690, twenty years after were more than 150,000. Draconic measures were adopted. In 1862 Abraham Lincoln prohibited polygamy under pain of five years' imprisonment and \$5,000 fine. In 1887, a bill, the Edmunds-Tucker bill, was adopted, which permitted the seizure and confiscation of the property of the Mormons. In 1890 the Supreme court, appealed in due decision on the question, declared that the Mormons must be sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. But nothing of all this sufficed, and the commission which the Senate sent to the place to study the question, estimates that the number of Mormons now existing is more than 400,000, of which one may count about 40,000 priests or bishops and 25,000 preachers. The greatest part of the representatives of Utah, Idaho, and Illinois are Mormons and, O, the abomination of desolation! one deputy elected for several terms, M. Robert, has admitted that he has four wives! And as if it were not enough to have a multitude of wives on earth, he said the Mormons aim to have some in heaven, too. When a great man is about to die, if he has lived an exemplary life, he is married to some great soul in the happy beyond."

"Poor Max O'Reil, who died last year in such a painful manner, told me of his experience when in 1903, during a visit to Salt Lake City, he was introduced to a Russian princess who had lost her husband, a Mormon bishop. 'I was married twice,' said the princess. 'My first husband was a horror, because he did not treat his other wives with the same regard, the same love, that he had for me. But my second husband was a saint. He did not show preference for any one. Therefore we all shed tears for him and, in the eternal glory where he now is, we go to unite him to us.'"

"Well, to whom?"

"To Jeanne d'Arc!"

"Yes, I understand, M. Matin, that you do not like to read and hear about such things. But it would be sufficient for half a dozen Davidsons to people at once all France. For that reason, reflect, ye legislators! You ask for laws, for pensions, for decorations, for favors. Four Mormons, with the right to practice their cult, would handle our cases much better. We have already recognized so many religious peculiarities that we can without inconvenience recognize another. And then, think how rich our French history is in women who could give to the fortunate ones after death! To those who have led a life of austerity we could offer Mme. de Pompadour, and to those who have had weakness we could fasten Mme. de Sevigne."

The final suggestion of M. Lauzanne, that "Mormons" be given religious liberty in France, and be encouraged to revive their now discontinued practice of patriarchal marriage, as a solution of the French problem of race suicide, will be the readers of the "News" be considered remarkable. It is certainly not impossible that in due time that order of marriage may be seriously considered by those who are looking for a remedy against many modern evils. If this should happen, it would not be the first time that the stone, rejected by the builders, had to be picked up again because needed as a cornerstone in a new structure. We do not say it will happen, but the fact that a prominent French journalist takes the question up from this point of view is worthy of note.

COLOMBIA FEELING BETTER.

Front reliable sources the state department has been informed that Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge, who formally withdrew from Washington about two months ago, will soon return to that city in the same capacity, indicating a complete restoration of friendly relations between the United States and Colombia. That is regarded as good news. It proves that Colombia is not going to sulk, but is willing to accept the situation as it is. That country can do no less. Its own statements were responsible for the outcome of the canal negotiations. They threw away the chance given them to secure the benefits of the treaty, presumably because they thought they could force still more advantageous terms. In this, however, they found themselves mistaken, and Panama, rather than lose the canal, severed its ties too intimate relations with the republic, and accepted the American terms on her own account. General Reyes came to Washington as a special envoy from Colombia, to endeavor to settle the Panama question. He plead the cause of his country with great force, but when he found it was in vain to change the course of events, he left the country. Diplomatic courtesies were now interrupted, but it appears that the cloud is passing, and that friendly relations will be resumed. Dr. Herran will be welcomed to Washington. The Colombian government could hardly find anyone more suitable for the post. He, at least, understood thoroughly the canal situation, and he made himself popular both in political and social circles. Had the Colombian government followed the advice of Mr. Herran, there would have been no revolution in Panama. General Reyes, it is understood, aspires to the presidency of his country. With the good feelings restored, he should have a fair chance of succeeding, although he failed in his Washington mission. Judging from the papers he drew up on the Panama question, he is an able statesman, and that is what Colombia needs at the helm."

Russia and Japan both propose to go to a loan.

In Russian annals Dalmay will occupy a place alongside Moscow.

Neuchwang is said to be the gate-

way to Manchuria. And the gates are ajar.

In the march to Linssay many a Scotch soldier will be killed.

The Russians propose that Port Dalmay shall be well shaken before taken.

"Sauve qui peut," seems to have been the motto of the Russians at Port Dalmay.

Mr. Bryan says that Mr. Olney will not do. Why? Because Mr. Bryan will hoodoo?

While Mr. Hearst is picking up some delegates they are scarcely the pick of the flock.

To talk about Kuropatkin taking advantage of Kuroki's mistakes is to talk through the hat.

No soldier can ever hope to be a captain of industry. There is too much leisure in his life.

Since his defense of the bond loans the New York World doesn't want Mr. Cleveland for President.

One great success at least has been achieved by the Russians. They have succeeded in luring the Japs on.

Judge Parker's favorite novel is not "Don Quixote," "Tianhoe," or "Vanity Fair," but "The Shutter of Silence."

The Methodist conference may remove the ban from dancing and theater going. If it is done, it will be a sign that the "world do move."

Professor Langley says that he will not enter the alship contest at St. Louis. If he does anything in that line he will probably enter the Potomac.

Nothing is seen or heard about that model city the St. Louis fair authorities were going to have on exhibition. Did the House of Delegates investigation kill it?

How can Great Britain expect the law to protect British subjects at Teuluride, Colorado, when it can't protect American citizens? Don't be unreasonable, John.

The Colorado militia will be camped just west of Denver for target practice on election day. Should Governor Peabody need them they will be found to be as handy as a pocket in a shirt.

One of the first results of the founding of the Pulitzer school of Journalism is to turn the founder into a magazine writer, as witness his article in the North American Review on the school.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the foremost technical school in the United States if not in the world, has made overtures to Harvard for a union. If the union is perfected the Institute will be swallowed up in victory, Harvard being the victor.

As security for forty million dollars in cash Uncle Sam took from J. P. Morgan & Co. twenty-five million dollars in bonds. J. P. Morgan & Co. did not rise to prominence in the financial world by doing business in that manner.

SAM PARKS.

New York World.

Sam Parks used to talk about the "bitter end." He reached it.

New York Evening Mail.

But the career of Parks ended before he died. His death registers an event rather than constitutes one. The better element in the unions, and the law which he defied, won a complete victory last fall in the consummation of the arbitration agreement, and in the exposure and conviction of Parks himself for bribery and extortion. It was practically his last word and testament that he uttered then from the threshold of Sing Sing prison. "I should be a warning," he said, "to every laboring man in this country for years to come." The path of honor and safety, for the individual and the community, leads in the opposite direction to that trodden by the labor leader who lies dead in the state prison.

Kansas City Star.

"Sam" Parks himself was a refutation of his favorite doctrine that the wage earner has no "brute force" to sell and consequently must rely on his fists to get justice. In consistently defending his "brute force" he would assert that he had "no brains" and that all he had ever accomplished had been done by "brute force." The truth was that Parks was a man of rather unusual mental ability, whose career showed that. If he had only been content to use it honestly and rationally he might have attained a position analogous to that of John Mitchell. Instead he became a grafter and died in prison.

Springfield Republican.

Samuel Parks, the former swatting delegate of the Housewives' and the Bridgemen's union in New York, has died in Sing Sing prison. Nor is it for the labor organizations to make of him a martyr. Something like that spirit was shown in the petition of the central federated union for the pardon of Parks sent to Gov. Odell, which wound up by saying: "Despite any crimes alleged against him, he has in the past been a loyal and earnest worker in the cause of organized labor." The injury which Parks did to the cause of labor was deep and lasting. His first conviction was for extorting \$200 from Josephus Plentz, a Hoboken contractor, and he was taken to prison Aug. 27 last; then he secured a new trial, was released on bail Sept. 5, and was convicted of extorting \$500 from the Tiffany studio for calling off a strike, and was carried back to prison Nov. 6 to serve a term of two years and three months. His death was due to consumption.

FRANCE AND THE POPE.

Kansas City Times.

It would not be strange if President Loubet's recent slight to the Vatican should be partly responsible for the pope's ill health. The relations between France and the papacy have long been strained and the failure of the president to call upon Pius X. on the occasion of his recent visit to Rome is merely an incident in the quarrel. The significance of the slight is the greater because of the close relationship that long existed between the French government and the Vatican and that caused France to be lovingly proclaimed as the "eldest daughter" of the church. French benefactors for a time upheld the temporal power of Pius IX.

and it was not until Paris was threatened by Prussia that Victor Emmanuel ventured to enter Rome.

New York Evening Post.

There is nothing more dangerous in a pope than piety," said Pere Hyacinthe of Pius X. and the famous preacher added, "when it is not supported by broad and independent knowledge." These just words apply very well to the pope's protest against President Loubet's visit to the king of Italy. Theoretically, at least, his holiness is right. For any power maintaining diplomatic relations with the Holy See to send its representative to the Quirinal, neglecting the Vatican, is a slight. The king of England and the Kaiser always contrive to make both visits; the emperor of Austria stays away because he fears to make both, and will not make one. But the point is not that Pius X. has a grievance against France; it is rather that, having no effectual means of resenting the slight, he might wisely refrain from empty diplomatic protests. Such action will only embitter the antipathetic feeling now dominant in French politics, and it may bring about harm to the Church much more substantial than any technical lack of courtesy to the Primate.

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