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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, - AUG. 1, 1901.

WHO ARE THE BRAVE?

Salt Lake City, Aug. 1, 1901.
To the Editor of the "News":
We find the following telegram dated Buffalo in last night's "News":
"At a meeting of the board of directors held last evening it was decided that the midway at the exposition should be closed tight next Sunday."

What an outrage that is! What old fogeyism! Is it possible that the bigoted directors of the Buffalo exposition do not realize that their city is full of people who must have some place of recreation on Sundays? Do they not know that the Sunday laws were placed on the statute books by "cowards" who never expected to have them obeyed? Is a great American city to return to straight-laced Puritanism in this enlightened and progressive age? In the name of Pabst, Schlitz, Anheuser Busch and the editor of the Salt Lake Tribune, we raise our voices in mighty protest!

Our correspondent speaks in behalf of a class that is cutting a vigorous figure in American society. It influences mayors, police chiefs, city councils and other dignitaries. It is because of that, they feel able to brave the moral sentiment of the nation, and therefore are not included in the list of the "cowards" who embody the views of the majority into law. The idea that statutes and ordinances to regulate public morals and preserve public order are to be enforced, appears to be out of date with the heroic defenders of "wide open" Sunday saloons, gambling houses, etc., and all who advocate respect for that kind of legislation which would place restrictions upon them, are denounced, as behind the times, poltroonish and puritanical.

Enactments against the evils that are permitted to go on unchecked in this city, are not special to Utah or to Salt Lake. They are common to the best and most advanced communities in the United States. A strong movement is on foot also in New Brunswick, "to preserve Sunday intact as a day of rest and worship." The "Elbow Crooks" may pretend to regard champions of the Christian sabbath as "cowards" or "fossils," or what not, but it will be found when the contest reaches a crisis, that they have the courage of their convictions, and the power of numbers that prevails.

They also have the logic of the question on their side. It does not matter whether the framers of the laws and ordinances that forbid Sunday liquor-selling and gambling were poltroons or stalwarts; that does not affect the validity of the legislation, nor the duty of the executive department to enforce it. If they are "brave" enough to defy the will of the people as expressed by law, refuse to perform their sworn duty, and pander to the wishes of the "Elbow Crooks" and the lowest elements of society, why are they not courageous enough to move for the abolition of the laws, said to have been made by the "cowards" of the country?

The action of the directors of the Pan-American exposition is in accord with the sentiments of the very best people of the land, and police officials who think the support of the vicious and the dissolute is all-sufficient for them, will find that they have made an egregious blunder when the matter comes to a test.

That laws and ordinances are framed to be enforced, is an axiom that needs no argument, and that those who aid in their violation, either by active participation or willful neglect to discharge the duty of their suppression, are particeps criminis is equally evident and incapable of refutation. Let this be looked at squarely by the executive officers of this municipality.

WHAT WILL THEY DO?

The great evil to which we called attention in our last issue, has come to the front in the shape of an object lesson that cannot be ignored. The arrest of a young girl and two youths in one of the many "rooming" houses, forces attention to the condition of affairs in this city.

Much discussion occurs over the best means of correcting the wrong. Some of the police think that messenger boys are the principal offenders, and that they begin their vile career by carrying messages to and from the residents and the proposition is that -- messengers be employed who are under age.

But this appears to us merely cutting away a few of the twigs, without getting at the trunk of the evil. "The axe must be laid at the root of the tree" or the effort will be in vain. It is not only "messenger boys" who visit those places with young girls. Other youths and men of mature years are engaged in the same vile arts for the destruction of virtue. Arresting one or two or half a dozen offenders will accomplish very little in "the direction sought."

The Mayor and Police can soon suppress this evil or reduce it to very small proportions if due diligence is exercised. But the impression prevails and is forced upon the people by the ill-advised remarks of the defenders of the

lawless, that this is a "wide open" town, and that ordinances of the city against certain vices were not made to be enforced. This cannot fail to have a bad effect upon the morals of the town.

Why not strike at the root of the evil, by enforcing the ordinances against houses of assignation and the offence of "resorting" thereto. The pretence that the keepers of those places do not know who occupy the rooms, that are rented by the night or the hour, is altogether too thin for anybody who has eyes and a brain.

If the ordinances are not sufficient to require licensed lodging house-keepers to keep a record of their roomers and conduct their places so as to be respectable, and free from the evils now complained of, the proper committee of the City Council would not doubt receive suggestions from the executive department and supply the deficiency.

The whole question turns on the disposition of the authorities of the city to stem the tide of vice that has set in. If they want a "wide open" town with all that the term implies, and value the good-will of the people who are financially interested in its continuance, rather than the respect and support of the advocates of law and order, of course there will be no reform. But the condition of affairs here is serious, and something practical must be done to meet and remedy the wrong. Will the Mayor and the Police do anything in the matter, or will they continue supine and indifferent, and let vice run riot until there is a public uprising?

THE DUTY OF CITIZENS.

Addressing the Illinois Bar association at its recent meeting, Lieutenant-Governor Northcott of that state, said:

"I want to say to you, my brothers, that unless we go to the rescue of the government, the political future is very dark. Don't be satisfied with going to the polls and voting to ratify the choice of either one of the two party bosses. The citizens of this country must interest themselves in politics. He who strives for the elevation and purification of the government is as much a patriot as he who shoulders a musket in the defense of the nation."

This statement, though somewhat pessimistic, contains much good advice. Undoubtedly, there is too little genuine interest taken in politics by the great masses of the people. There is plenty of interest during campaigns, or perhaps it would be better to say there is plenty of excitement at such times but what is needed is a continual and intelligent interest in political matters, those matters that interest and concern the people in their legal relations to each other. It is true that practically all the people belong to some one or other of the various political parties, and it is equally true that while they belong they have small influence in shaping the policies of their parties, not because they could not have it, but simply because they do not take the trouble to have it. Every citizen can have an influence in his party if he really desires to and can make it felt. A primary well attended by substantial citizens whose chief desire is for good government usually selects good and reliable citizens to send to the conventions. It is true to say that the primary is the source of all our politics, but because it is true is no reason for disregarding it.

A campaign in which either party did not charge the other with more or less wickedness and corruption, with evil designs upon the public purse, would be very rare, yet the truth is that the great majority of nominees of all parties are average good men. A trouble is that too seldom are they strong men who will defy party bosses in doubtful cases. An evil of our politics is that party government makes it hard to place strong men in the field. The remedy for weak or bad nominations is independence on the part of the voters; but party ties are so strong that very few are able to break them; they are generally so strong that partisans will support their ticket though they know and are free to say that it is not worthy of public support.

Independent movements in politics are rarely successful for they lack thorough organization, and without it there is small hope of success. Then it often happens that an independent movement is largely composed of the disappointed and disgruntled of old parties.

Human government cannot be made perfect but it could be greatly improved in our own country, if every voter would bestir himself to see that good men and women (and by this is meant those who are of good character, good ability and fitness) are selected for office, and that when elected they justify the trust and confidence that have been reposed in them.

Lieutenant Governor Northcott is right when he says that he who strives for the elevation and purification of the government is as much a patriot as he who shoulders a musket in defense of the nation.

CAPITALISTS AND SCHOOLS.

Wholesale denunciation of anything is very much easier than it is to point out the specific defect or evil to be remedied, yet many people prefer the wholesale method of denunciation to patient investigation. Denunciation requires very much less effort than investigation, and then the denouncer makes so much more noise than the quiet investigator that he cannot fail to attract attention.

Here is Professor George D. Herron (we confess we do not know exactly who Professor Herron is or whether he is a professor of things in general or nothing in particular) who has been denouncing the capitalist for throttling the public schools of the country. "The public school," he says, "once the threshold and bulwark of American liberty, is now throttled by the capitalist, by the man who owns the nation." Surely such an assertion as that cannot fail to attract attention, and it is well calculated to make one think some great calamity is impending. Just think of the burly capitalist taking the little red school house by the throat and choking it until it is black in the face. One mustn't think of such things or it will give him the nightmare.

Such statements as this of Professor Herron are neither truthful nor en-

lightening; they are absurd and to immature minds give false impressions that do harm. American schools were never so good as they are today. American children were never better taught than today. All the teaching may not be first class, all the ideas imparted not of the soundest, but the pupils are taught love of country and high ideals are placed far above capital and the power of capital. The power of the capitalist is great, and it often appears and sometimes is greater in proportion than that of the people, but it is not all powerful. And often those who are loud in its denunciation are readiest to bow to its power and fawn at its feet. There is quite as much danger to our institutions from sycophancy as from capital. Common sense, an adherence to American ideals and traditions, the according to men right motives and an observance of the golden rule, are pretty good guarantees for the safety of American school houses from the throttling hands of the gorged capitalist--and the denouncing demagogue.

THE FOSBURGH TRIAL.

The Fosburgh trial is over and the jury's verdict of acquittal, directed by the judge who heard the case, meets with the general approval of the whole country. But now there is an after-clap. The prosecution of young Fosburgh for the murder of his sister seems to have been, in large measure, a blunder of the worst sort, one that almost approaches a crime. In an interview, after the trial was over, Chief Nicholson is reported as saying:

"I accomplished about all that I hoped for. The burglar story I never believed, and when Robert Fosburgh was indicted it was for the purpose of showing that Pittsfield was not the home of burglars. I never really expected to fasten the crime upon the defendant."

Truly a most remarkable statement. He never believed the burglar story and to demonstrate that there were no burglars in Pittsfield, he was willing to jeopardize the life of the brother of the murdered girl. He declares he never really expected to fasten the crime upon the brother. A public official who brings a criminal action against anyone not expecting to fasten the crime with which he is charged upon him, is either a fool or a knave.

When a man is charged with any crime, and put upon trial, it is presumed that the state has strong evidence against him, and that it is honest and sincere. Chief Nicholson did not have strong evidence, in truth he had nothing but theories and presumptions, and by his own confession he was not honest and sincere in bringing the prosecution in this case.

All cities have a pride in their good name, and it is pleasant to think that one's home town is not the home of burglars. But would any right-minded citizen wish to have his home city vindicated from the charge of being the resort of burglars at the price of the prosecution of a fellow townsman on the false charge of having murdered his sister? That would be a vindication with a vengeance.

Pittsfield's chief of police made a very serious mistake when he singled out young Fosburgh as the instrument for vindicating Pittsfield's name. As an officer, it was his duty to do all in his power to run down and bring to justice the murderer of the Fosburgh girl. But he proceeded on the theory that the law demanded a victim, and so to secure a victim, guilty or innocent, he set to work. Herein lies his folly, his, in reality, crime. For a mistake of judgment, for lack of a true appreciation of the evidence collected by him or presented to him, an officer is not to be censured, but when he proceeds to bring a prosecution on what he knows to be flimsy or worthless evidence and false theories of civic pride, he is censurable in the highest degree. Today, Robert Fosburgh stands before the country as an innocent and injured man; Chief Nicholson as a weak, if not a bad man.

Uncle Sam continues to give Aguinaldo liberty nor death.

The land lottery in Oklahoma had a great run while the land hunters stood still.

The end of the strike is in sight, but it is a little too hot to handle with comfort and ease.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good but it is often very hard to find the beneficiary.

Will the hot weather, the Schley-Sampson controversy and the Boer ever come to an end?

There will be a few more rushes for free farms, but the rush for free lunches will abide forever.

Kansas is again under the spell of the hot weather. Truly Kansas is a state of sorrow and afflicted with grief.

Arizona is starting to cultivate the date on an extensive scale. She expects to date her prosperity from this time.

The Powers are again making threats against Turkey, and they worry Turkey about as much as rain falling on its back worries a duck.

Indianapolis has an insanity trust, which is to be investigated. Really, the country does seem to be going insane on the trust question.

China is planning many great reforms. Most likely it will be but another case of resolving and re-resolving and then dying the same.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward says that every writer should say what he feels. If he did it would scarcely be fit for publication or transmission through the mails.

Last year Missouri's hens produced poultry and eggs to the value of over twelve and a half million dollars. Missouri is entitled to do some crowing and cackling.

A Nashua, N. H., bank cashier claims to have caught smallpox from a bank note. Most people would be willing to take their chances of catching smallpox if they could only catch the bank note.

The new health officer of Cleveland Dr. Martin Frederick, had to ask to be

introduced to the Mayor, Hon. Tom L. Johnson, as he did not know him. Here was a limit to Tom Johnson's fame, heretofore thought to have been co-extensive with the continent.

The Italian government and the Roman municipality have decided to spend thirty-five million lire for the improvement of the Eternal City. No matter how much they spend they can't improve the Pantheon, the Forum, the Coliseum, the Column of Trajan or the Arch of Titus.

Lord Salisbury is getting very pessimistic or fatalistic, according to the way one views the matter. He finds that a pacific policy no longer finds favor among the English people, and in his anguish, cries: "The tide has turned, and who am I and who are we that we should attempt to stem the tide. If the tide has turned, we shall have to go with it." If his lordship is really anxious to know who he is he should look into "Who's Who." That tells all about England's famous men and women.

"A North Carolina woman has applied for three pensions because of the loss of three husbands during the civil war," says an exchange. If a widow drawing a pension marries and her husband dies, and in consequence the pension she formerly received because of the death of her first husband ceases, and it does, why should she not have a pension for the death of every husband she lost during the civil war? Her sorrow may be somewhat divided but the pensions keep the memory of her husbands green, that being the greenest that brings in the largest pension.

The United States is the greatest wheat producing country in the world, and it would seem like carrying coals to Newcastle to go to any other country to get wheat for seed to improve our own. Yet there arrived in Kansas City the other day a consignment of Crimean seed wheat. This consignment consisted of nine cars and nine more are to follow shortly. It is to be distributed to farmers who wish to improve their grain. The importation was made by the Kansas Millers' association and the grain will be sold at cost. That Americans should go to Russia to get seed wheat to improve their own shows what are the possibilities of Russia as a wheat growing country.

THE FOSBURGH VERDICT.

Worcester Spy.
We believe that there will now be a pretty unanimous expression of opinion favorable to the court in directing the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty. A vindication of this sort sets Fosburgh as free as anything could of a suspicion of being guilty of taking his sister's life, by mistake or otherwise.

Springfield Republican.
There will be danger in the present state of public feeling of an improper outcry against the policy which brought about any trial at all. Before indulging in such criticism, one should remember the conditions existing at the time of the arrest. A shocking tragedy had taken place in Pittsfield, which had been, at the best, most imperfectly explained; the whole region was in unrest over the mystery; there was every possible reason that in some way the affair should be explained. The police, on investigation, reached conclusions which caused them to suspect young Fosburgh of the deed, and these conclusions were so far borne out by testimony introduced at the inquest that the grand jury ordered the arrest of the defendant.

Boston Transcript.
The conduct of this trial has been worthy the best traditions of Massachusetts justice. The judge says today that such testimony was admitted that might have been excluded, in order that the government's very weak case might get all the help it could and leave no lingering doubt of the emptiness of the indictments. In instructing the jury to find for the defense and dismissing the case, the judge does all that is possible now to make amends to the bereaved and unnecessarily tormented family. It must be gratifying, both to those most deeply interested as well as to the public, that the acquittal has been given the benefit of this emphasis. The accused man walks as free as any other person in Massachusetts today, and no man has the right even to mentally condemn him.

Mail and Express.
Nobody who has watched the Fosburgh trial could fail to expect a prompt acquittal or avoid a feeling that the prosecution was an outrage, for which there should be some redress. There never seems to have been the slightest ground for the charge that young Fosburgh shot and killed his sister, except that his pistol was apparently used and the local police were incapable of tracing the crime to its proper source. Because they could not find evidence of the burglary of which the murder was an incident they adopted the preposterous theory of fratricide on the flimsiest of circumstantial evidence, in the face of the protests of the family and all probability, and pursued it relentlessly.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
When at the conclusion of the trial of Robert P. Fosburgh of Pittsfield, Mass., on the charge of killing his sister, Judge Stevens instructed the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty, he took pains to compliment the chief of police of the town for the honesty of his motives in working up the case against young Fosburgh. It is difficult to understand why this judicial tribute to his honesty of motive was not coupled with a scorching rebuke of his stupidity and of his super-servicable seal in trying to brand with the charge of manslaughter a perfectly innocent man with no evidence whatever on which to base his accusations except his own suspicions.

New York Evening Sun.
While the Fosburgh case must increase our respect for Massachusetts judges, it must induce a certain amount of the other thing for the police of the commonwealth.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"The Rejuvenation of Egypt," an illustrated article, by Frederick A. Talbot, starts off the August Metropolitan. Egypt is truly undergoing a rejuvenation, such a one as was never dreamed of a decade or two ago. Edith Daville writes of "The Art of Make-up." It is fully illustrated, showing how actors and actresses "fix up" for the stage. Somewhat in the same line is Viola Allen's "On the Making of an Actress." Richard T. Eay gives "An Analysis of the Steel Trust." Throughout the number is interesting--John Brisson Walker, Irvington, New York.

McClure's Magazine for August is a midsummer fiction number. The first story is "The Chase of the Tide," by Norman Duncan. It is illustrated by

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Salt Lake City, Sept.

16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

FEATURE NO. 1.

Watch this space for announcements.
\$100.00 Ladies' Gold Watch, donated by Boyd Park, for the Ladies' (questing contest). Every lady entitled to one guess for an appropriate name for the live Elk to be christened, Sept. 16th.
A committee of three leading citizens, not Elks, will decide the name accepted by the committee, will receive the watch. Contest closes Sept. 20th, 5 p.m. sharp.
Address all communications to Elk's Carnival headquarters. Watch on exhibition at Park's Jewelry store.

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