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CHURCH AND AMUSEMENTS.

The Methodist conference at Los Angeles has before it a question of far-reaching nature—one that affects the

rules of discipline, and, consequently the standing of a great many of the

young members. There is a tendency among the Methodists, as among other

denominations, toward greater liberty in the enjoyment of innocent amusements.

The committee having that matter under consideration has decided to recommend that no change be

made in the rules regarding dancing, card-playing and theater-going. The

vote was 58 to 43, and the result was reached after a long debate. But the

minority will also submit a report. It is expected that the two reports will

cause lively discussion in the general assembly. And the outcome may possibly be a compromise, making the rule

advisory instead of mandatory. Some such measure appears to be called for, by the fact that the constant and

generally known infractions of the rules make their maintenance a matter of

endless embarrassment to the denomination, since they cannot be enforced.

The Christian world has almost learned, since the days of the Prophet Joseph, that there is nothing wrong in

dancing, theater-going, and other innocent amusements per se, but that these

can be abused. The question before the conference should therefore be, not

whether to prohibit attendance at places of amusements, or indulgence in

harmless pastimes, but how to protect such things for the young, and protect

them from the evil influences that are at work in the world. The bad features

of theater-performances, dancing halls, or amusement places, can, of course,

not be countenanced by any church. The advice to church members must always

be to shun all evil, and all that leads to evil. But this advice can have force only when clean, wholesome

amusements are provided.

Recreation is necessary, as is food. But life should not be made into recreation. The pleasure hunter soon

gets weary of a life that serves no useful purpose. It is wrong to waste precious time on amusements, and especially to waste in such a manner the

Lord's day. These things are before the leaders of churches. They have a

problem to solve. The old school got rid of it, by prohibiting all kinds of "worldly" pastimes. The general revolt against this radical measure demands another solution. Our modern

age does not require that all fires be quenched, because fire sometimes devastates cities. It does not demand the destruction of all knives or guns, because these are sometimes used for

murderous purposes. Nor does it ask for the suppression of all amusements that may be abused. It requires of the

leaders of men that they prove all things and keep that which is good.

ANARCHIST TURNER'S CASE.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that John Turner,

Anarchist and Englishman, was properly ordered deported. He is already in Europe, so that for him the decision

has nothing beyond an academic interest. His doctrines and his doings were

not gone into, the court confining itself mainly to an exposition of the doctrine

that all nations have the right to say who shall and who shall not come within their dominions. The United

States has said that Anarchists shall not come to this country, and now the

Supreme Court declares that the Congress had the right to say what it did.

Against Turner himself there seems to have been no personal objection. He

may be described as a gentleman and a scholar, a man of culture and thought, at worst a philosophical Anarchist. He

appears to belong to the same class of Anarchists that the late William Morris, poet and founder of the Kelmscott

press from which so many famous and sought after books have been issued; and Morris was the gentlest of natures

and the most entertaining of talkers, to know whom was a delight. But he was an Anarchist in theory and a most

Christian gentleman in practice, who was as tender to all mankind as Uncle Toby was to the fly. Had he come to the United States, he, too, would have

been liable to deportation. The decision in the case is the thing, for it firmly

fixes a principle, and not its particular application.

Justice Brewer, while he did not dissent, took occasion to declare his adherence to the tenth amendment to the

Constitution, that amendment which says that the powers not delegated to the general government are reserved to the states or to the people, asserting

that the powers that government are named in the Constitution and that it has no others. The synopsis of the decision sent out does not make it plain

why he felt called upon to define his position on this point.

The decision itself decides a very interesting point.

WOLF-HONOR.

Mr. Willard Hard, speaking of one of the Chicago clubs, a short time ago,

used a peculiar illustration to impress his hearers with the fact that the

ideal underlying the labor union movement is more noble even than patriotism.

This proposition itself would have been heavily discounted at a time

when patriotism was considered one of the principal virtues, but that time is

perhaps past, at least with some prominent patriots. But the illustration

used by the speaker was, at all events, anything but flattering. He said that

wolves run in packs because they know instinctively that only by combining

can they find food. Pursuing the comparison, he explained that, while a

selfish motive was at the bottom of the wolf-pack idea, there inevitably develops

a sense of "wolf-honor." Unfortunately for the analogy, "wolf-honor"

permits the entire pack to fall upon any member that may be wounded and

unable to defend itself, and devour it. This travelers have seen time and time

again, when pursued by the hungry beasts. If they have succeeded in

escaping one of them, they have generally gained time to escape, while the pack

was tearing their wounded comrade to pieces. Labor leaders should be

careful, lest they themselves be made the objects of "wolf-honor."

A VICTIM OF CRANKS.

A Chicago lady the other day was found unconscious in her residence and

taken to a hospital. She was nearly starved to death, as a result of having

embraced the teachings of cranks. She had been fasting for more than twenty

days. She lived alone in a handsome house and is regarded as wealthy. The

police say that recently she joined a new "cult," and that she almost

starved to death in trying to follow its teachings, chief of which is said to be

that only a few grains of wheat, pure water, and fresh air are necessary to

sustain life. When will rational people refuse to follow all kinds of absurd

teachings? We pity the heathen nations for their superstitions, and talk about the "enlightened" orientals,

and their "fakirs," "dancing dervishes," and many strange forms of piety,

but what about our own "fakers," in cranks, charlatans, and impostors? In

view of the fact that so many strange notions gain currency concerning food

and drink, the necessity of having a "Word of Wisdom" as a standard, is

apparent. Those who give heed to that, are not in great danger of being

led astray in the manner that came near costing this lady her life.

SALARIES FOR WIVES.

A Chicago club woman is said to be

advocating the adoption of a law requiring husbands to pay wives a salary.

She points out that without money of her own to spend as she pleases, and

above all, without absolute independence of her husband, she never can be

a man among men in the clubs. She might add that without her own money

she never can go about in conventions, laboring for the emancipation of her

sisters who never dream that they are slaves and never ask for "emancipation."

But notwithstanding these weighty reasons, she is wrong. A wife's position

cannot be paid by any salary, no matter how large. It is beyond price.

It is different to that of a house-keeper, or a mistress. To speak of "salary" for

being a wife is not very far from an insult to the sex.

Besides, many wives now-a-days purchase husbands, or husbands buy wealth

for titles and get a wife in the bargain. How could the salary be arranged in

such cases except by the poor husband paying the salary out of the wife's

money. But that would be absurd.

There should be no need of a law regulating the business relations of

husband and wife. The wise man, particularly if his earnings are only moderate,

will entrust his wife with all he has, and find that to do so, is to the

advantage of the family. The wife, if trusted, naturally saves. Generally

she knows how to make a dollar do its full service. Were it not for the

women, the laboring classes in the world, where wages are small, would

starve. It is due to them that children can be brought up and comforted of

home enjoyed on a few dollars a week, as is the case in so many countries.

The man who has not learnt to trust his wife more than himself, has a lesson

to learn. More poverty, more distress is due to the bad management of the

man than to the extravagance of women. A law to give men common sense

would answer the purpose better than one to give wives a salary.

"I came, I saw, I didn't conquer."—Kuropatkin.

A bolt from a convention is never a bolt from heaven.

The Yalu district has as many engagements as a summer girl.

To have Kuropatkin in a ticklish place doesn't tickle the Czar a bit.

When a politician gets into office he always says that he is out of politics.

It is too late for the Russians to rely on General January and General February.

General Wood is going to Mindanao with four hundred and fifty men to chastise the Moros.

No people have so many conventions

as the Americans yet no people are so unconventional.

While the young people of the Methodist church may not dance as yet, still

they are on the tip toe of expectation.

Thomas Lawson is going to fight the Standard Oil trust. When it is all over,

Thomas will know that he has had a fight.

Mr. Hearst got the California delegation. But then, of course, a prophet

kath honor in his own country, sometimes.

Admiral Skrydloff might occupy his time to advantage by studying Captain

Mahan's "Influence of Sea Power upon History."

The success of the "Ham" show is proof of the power of the press. Also

that some members of the cast are not born actors.

General Miles is an ardent advocate for good roads. It is said he would

be willing to travel a rough one if it only led to the White House.

The Czar's officers are to wear breast plates to protect them from Japanese

bullets. Is it hoped that this will enable them to breast the storm of

bullets?

"Japanese success in the Russo-Japanese war would mean the annihilation

of the white race by the yellow nations," says Professor Starr of the University

of Chicago.

The police force is to be increased by the addition of two more men. It is

to be hoped that one of them will be detailed to keep bicyclists off the sidewalks

in the restricted districts.

Photographs of four hundred of the most distinguished society women in

the United States have been hung in the women's building at the World's Fair.

Every town in the country, of any pretension, thinks it could greatly improve the display.

According to Grant Allen, Herbert Spencer had a passion for generalization.

If you remarked it was a fine day, Spencer would answer: "Yes, anticyclonic conditions like those of yesterday seldom break up without warning

of the advent of a depression from westward." If you observed that Mrs. Jones was a pretty woman, Spencer

would reply: "Her father was a west Highlander and her mother an Irish woman, and intermarriage between

Highlanders and Irish almost always produces physically handsome but intellectually inferior children."

SITUATION AT DALNY.

New York Evening Sun.

The report that the Russians have blown up the docks and piers of their

magic city of Dalny which was to be an open port for a term of years, seems incredible, but it is persistent. Dalny

had no fortifications to speak of, but the docks would have been very useful to the Japanese, affording them a

super naval base. It seems probable that the explosions which Admiral Togo reported several days ago were at Dalny

and not Port Arthur. If the waterfront and the town have been damaged, it is as if a hundred millions of

money had been thrown into the sea. The inference would be that the Russians had no longer a reasonable hope

of turning the tables on the Japanese and clearing the peninsula of them.

Springfield Republican.

In destroying the docks, piers and other valuable property at Dalny, the

Russians have sacrificed years of labor and a great expenditure of money in the building up of their chief Pacific

railroad terminal and commercial entrepot. Dalny is the new port with

the czar's government created after its lease of Port Arthur and a portion of the peninsula from China. No effort

has even been made to fortify it, and consequently its destruction by the Japanese is inevitable whenever they decide to take it. The destruction of piers,

docks and other works seems to reveal on the part of Russia a settled determination to fight a long war, if necessary.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Port Arthur is now to all intents and purposes besieged and its evacuation is out of the question since Kuropatkin is

not within supporting distance and the garrison would inevitably be cut off and captured if they sought to escape north. From now on little

besides rumors can be expected from the beleaguered city. Those of Thursday, concerning explosions, for example, are not significant. The sub-marine mines necessary to blow up the sunken hulks would not have been heard at a distance and the report of the destruction of the Russian ships arose, with far more probability, from the fact that up of buildings which had been found to endanger the defenses on the land side.

St. Paul Globe.

One week ago we had an official Russian announcement that Dalny had been evacuated. There seemed to be no room for doubt of the fact. It was printed in absolute good faith in both Europe and America. Now we are

informed that Dalny has not been abandoned, but that the docks on the waterfront have been blown up with a view to hindering the landing of Japanese troops. Some days later we were assured that the Russians had been driven back from the Yalu, defeated at Feng Weng Chang and were retreating precipitately on Mukden. A day later this was proven to be a ruse of the war.

We were then informed that the Russians had evacuated Newchwang; now we are told that they contemplate abandoning that town. Port Arthur has been bottled up when—ever it served the purpose of the Russians to spread that interesting bit of news afresh.

San Francisco Call.

It is an impressive evidence of military weakness. Dalny had been expensively created to be for Russian Asia all that Hongkong is to Great Britain in China, and Calcutta and Bombay in India. Millions were lavished to create a great commercial port that was to be the seat of Russian trade and her Asiatic capital and stronghold. The loss of sea power to Japan put it in peril in front, and the losses on land left its rear defense in doubt. Rather than defend it the city is destroyed. It is the same policy that preferred to dismantle a warship in a Chinese harbor rather than steam out and fight. It will be remembered that the first sign of weakness in Spain, in our recent war with that power, was an order to naval commanders to sink their own ships.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Admiral Katakata, commander of the third naval squadron, was lost in a torpedo boat in Kerr bay, on Thursday, through the explosion of a Russian mechanical mine, which the crew

was endeavoring to remove after failing to destroy it. Seven of her crew were killed, seven wounded, and the craft sank in seven minutes after the mine's explosion. The Tokyo authorities represent this to be the first of their vessels lost since hostilities began.

Admiral Katakata's squadron was engaged at the time in surveying the bay and removing the mines planted by the Russians. It is evidently the intention of the Japanese to use Kerr bay as a place of landing the third army of 50,000 men, which, according to a Seoul dispatch, sailed from Chinampo, May 4th, in eighty-three transports. Kerr bay is located north of Dalny, on the east coast of the Liaotung peninsula. Admiral Katakata was thus in the immediate vicinity of the port which Viceoy Alexieff reports the Russians have destroyed; and the fact that he makes no mention of any such operation, which he would undoubtedly have observed if it had been carried out, is significant and suggests that the Russian commander has been again guilty of romancing.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Anslee's Magazine for June has an important article, entitled "The Social Side of New York." It is by a well known leader of New York society, who for obvious reasons, prefers to keep her identity unknown. The author has treated in a clever and epigrammatic style, a subject of more than general interest. The article is the first in a series including the principal cities of the United States—238 William St., New York.

In the June number of Wayside Tales are ten good stories by such well known writers as Opie Read, Grace Duffie Boylan, Guy de Maupassant, ex-Congressman "Buck" Hinrichsen, Frank N. Stratton and Rose Willa Johnson. The Good English Department is conducted by Mary Richards Gray, and those who are studying or have studied French will be interested in Prof. Pierre Butaille's paper on peculiar French idioms.—Chicago, Ill.

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