

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 21, 1902.

THE TALES THAT ARE TOLD.

Nearly every day we receive letters from some part of the United States complaining of outrageous statements made from the pulpit concerning the Latter-day Saints, their religion and their manner of life. The Elders traveling as missionaries are confronted by these terrible tales, told with all the force and unctious of the professional sectarian preacher. No doubt many of the ministers of the various churches who repeat these stories in sensational style to their congregations, believe a great deal of what they tell to be true. They originate with men claiming to be disciples and servants of Jesus Christ, and their statements are accepted with little or no investigation because of their standing and position.

It is lamentable to think that persons looked upon as spiritual guides and exponents of the Gospel of salvation, will engage in the business of purposefully misrepresenting and distorting the doctrines of a Church which they dislike, and defaming a people whom they have failed to convert, and thus become guilty of bearing false witness and of decaying their fellow creatures. But it is a fact that the monstrous stories which are being narrated from so-called "Christian" pulpits, are invented chiefly in this city and state, and are thereupon repeated in religious circles throughout the country.

If the Deseret News were to respond to all the requests to reply to these stale and stupid stories, our space would be occupied daily and fully, by refutations which have already been published time and again for a great many years that are past.

It is astonishing that the old Solomon Spaulding story, which every well-informed person who has investigated the subject at all understands to be a fabrication, should be, at this late date, repeated in the pulpits of the churches to account for the origin of the Book of Mormon. The "Spaulding Manuscript Found," as we have stated over and over again, is now in the library of Oberlin College, Ohio, and may be compared with the Book of Mormon by everybody who desires to know the truth concerning the subject.

It is equally amazing that the stupid notion should still obtain, that people who apostatize from the "Mormon" Church cannot "escape" from Utah, and that one of the customs among the "Mormons" is to kill people who leave their faith. Even the idiotic idea that all letters sent by people here are examined by the "Mormon" authorities, before they are permitted to go to their destination, is still held by otherwise rational people. The wicked falsehood that our missionaries are sent out to entice women and girls to come to Utah that they may enter "Mormon" harems, is also yet repeated by sectarian preachers, in order to inflame the public mind and prevent our Elders from promulgating the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has been restored to earth in these latter times.

Marbled extracts from discourses delivered in this city nearly half a century ago, mingled with alleged declarations from our Church leaders which they never uttered, are used extensively for a similar purpose.

The latest influence which is being brought to bear to arouse prejudice and malign our people, is that concerning the present status of the polygamy question. The following dispatch, sent to us from Kentucky, and which has appeared in a great many papers throughout the country, shows how these false reports, starting from this city, are spread through the land. This dispatch, which was four-headed and displayed, is clipped from the Louisville Courier-Journal:

"Salt Lake, Utah, Feb. 11.—The Ministerial alliance of Salt Lake has unanimously adopted the report of the committee of that organization, appointed to investigate and report on the alleged practice and teaching of polygamy by the Mormons at the present time. This report is to be used as a petition for the passage of a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy, and will be sent to the judiciary committee of congress."

"The report, which is quite lengthy, sets forth that positive evidence can be produced that polygamy is both practiced and taught by the Mormons at the present time in open defiance of the laws of the State. The document contains numerous statements alleged to have been made by Mormon leaders, which are either direct fabrications entirely untrue, or such a mixture of truth and falsehood as to make them lies in effect. If the ministers who formulated the address and inserted those pretended quotations from 'Mormon' speeches, were to be treated in a similar manner when they deliver sermons, they would be rampant with rage and

would have a real grievance against the reporters.

It is a disgrace and a shame to them that they will take statements made by avowed enemies of the 'Mormon' people for truth, as against the authorized reports of discourses and the acknowledged utterances of the speakers. Not one of the alleged preachings of polygamy that find a place in the report of the Ministerial association which has been so diligently circulated throughout the country, is a fair reproduction of the remarks of the speakers named therein. In every instance mentioned they repudiate the assertions of the ministers, and we brand the report as misleading, malignant, unchristian and disgraceful to men of their cloth.

We think that candid, honorable and well-informed non-'Mormons' in this city and state, should do something towards counteracting the malicious endeavors of the scandal-mongers and purblind gossips, clad in clerical garb, who, instead of spending their time in the dissemination of their respective creeds, waste it in maligning the people among whom they live, and who have never attempted to injure or obstruct them in the pursuit of their professions. It would seem to us that business men would see that it is to their interest that the truth should be told to the outside world respecting conditions in Utah, for the benefit of trade and for the promotion of the general welfare. Our Elders in the mission field, meanwhile, should pursue their proper course, proclaim the principles of the Gospel, avoid contention and let their lives, and influence, and teachings demonstrate the folly and falsehood of their detractors.

UTAH WOMEN AT WASHINGTON.

It is evident that the delegation of ladies from Utah to the International Council of Women in Washington, is an active factor in the proceedings of that convention. Also that those delegates are putting in the time to good advantage. Addresses have been delivered by several of them before the council. They have assisted in the aurage question before Congress, and have worked diligently in presenting the condition of affairs in Utah wherever they have had an opportunity.

According to our latest advices, Mrs. Annie Taylor Hyde represented the National Women's Relief Society in an able address on Thursday, in which she spoke on the growth and progress of the society in Utah and the good work which is being accomplished for the advancement of women in education, in social influence, in the family and in the state. Mrs. Emeline B. Wells also is taking an active part in the council, and being well-known and a prominent figure in Utah affairs for many years, is favorably received and cordially welcomed.

All the ladies of the delegation are doing their part in the work of this great gathering of influential women, and are attracting interested attention. They paid a visit to the White House on Wednesday and were introduced to the President by Senator Kearns. Only a partial list was furnished in the first report from our correspondent at Washington, but the following named ladies were in the party: Mrs. Emeline B. Wells, Mrs. Susan Young Gates, Mrs. A. T. Hyde, Mrs. W. B. Douglass, Mrs. W. J. Beatty, Mrs. T. S. Taylor, Mrs. Amelia Young, Mrs. Hannah Lapish, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Ida S. Dunsberry, Miss Annie Cannon and Miss Addie Cannon. They were very kindly received and the interview was a pleasure to them all.

We are glad to know that the Utah delegation to the International Council of Women is accomplishing all that was anticipated from their visit to the seat of government.

IN ANCIENT PERU.

According to late scientific researches in Peru, by Dr. Max Uhle, under the auspices of the University of California, a new theory regarding the ancient inhabitants and civilization of this country must be formulated. According to this theory, the Incas, whom the Spaniards found there, are regarded as a comparatively modern race. Peru was the battle ground of diverse nations and tribes, and the Incas had conquered before the advent of the Spaniards. But before the Incas and the nations subdued by them, there had been another nation from which the later stages of civilization had been some extent inherited. Their name is lost, says Dr. Uhle; their language is a mystery; but they have left traces of their civilization, and from these the conclusion is drawn that 'at a time not later than two thousand years ago and in all probability much earlier, they controlled all the region which is now Peru, and that they had their main fortresses and cities among the upper valleys of the Peruvian Andes.'

The doctor, as quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle of Feb. 16, has learned many interesting things about this race of people, although he has found no evidence that they ever had a written language, or recorded their history. He has found that they built pyramids, made implements of highly finished workmanship, erected strong fortresses and their cities were so planned as to form one great house, one room adjoining another. Their religious ritual was an elaborate one. They were farmers and stockraisers. They were skilled potters and masters of the decorative art. They understood irrigation, and they were warriors. Dr. Uhle says they brought water down through regular channels from terrace to terrace of their habitations. Some of their ceremonial seem to have been connected with the opening of water channels; certain highly decorated wooden implements carrying herds and conventional ornaments are believed to have been used in this ritual—a sort of prehistoric 'last spike' ceremonial, as it were.

As an illustration of the workmanship, we are told that one of the treasures from the explorer's expeditions which he has kept for himself, is a small pot with an elaborate red and black design of conventional ornamentation, interspersed with crude animal forms. It is as bright and clear as though it had come from the

potter's last year. An ornamented clock of the 15th period which stood beside it on Dr. Uhle's mantelpiece in his furnished room looked twice as old and battered. Yet this pot, according to Dr. Uhle's best knowledge on the subject, is at least 2,000 years old, and had probably been buried in a tomb several centuries before the Christian era opened.

Another curious fact told by Dr. Uhle is, that this ancient people were skilled surgeons. They understood how to trepan the skull. Among his collections are a number of skulls, and among those known to belong to this period are some bored in places, and still others have triangular pieces taken out of the bone. Examination shows that these incisions were made during life, and the only possible conclusion is, we are told, that it was a surgical operation. If they understood this, it is only reasonable to infer that their medicine men had more than a little knowledge of surgery. As Dr. Uhle remarked, in showing these skulls, 'The ancient races were not quite such fools as we moderns are accustomed to suppose.'

Concerning the scientific work of the explorer, the following interesting data are given:

"Dr. Uhle first conceived his theory of the earlier race in Peru and the adjacent republics, while making excavations in an old cemetery twenty miles from Lima, the present metropolis of the republic. Here the natives of the country have laid their dead away for countless centuries. It was already ancient to the time when the Incas came. As he dug down further and further he noticed changes in the manner of burial, the character of the implements left with the dead and even in the conformation of bones and skulls. At the very bottom and among the oldest remains that had escaped the disintegration of time he found thousands of graves showing implements, modes of burial and types of skull unfamiliar and differing from those of any known tribal division. This discovery became the keynote of his later explorations. For over two years he traveled through the country from the sea to the top of the highest habitable portion of the mountains, wherever there were known to be ruins. He explored graveyards; he dug below the foundations of old, crumbling towers. And the result is his announcement that in the dim ages, perhaps before the opening of our most ancient history, Peru was inhabited by a semi-civilized race that held it for many centuries and then vanished entirely, and that between the downfall of this race and the rise of the Incas at least four other nations conquered and held sway."

To students of the Book of Mormon, researchers of this kind have a special interest. According to this record the western hemisphere was settled shortly after the flood by a race that lived and flourished for a long time and finally disappeared, whereupon other settlements were made, and other civilizations sprung up, which in turn flourished and then went to decay. Science, as it progresses, appears to confirm this, and thus becomes a witness to the truth of a testimony that has been everywhere opposed.

THE CRISIS IN SPAIN.

In about three months the young king of Spain will attain the ripe age of 16, and assume the responsibilities of government, which have rested on his mother during his minority. But the conditions in the kingdom appear to be such as to justify the gravest fears for the future of both king and kingdom. Royal festivities and public celebrations are being planned in honor of the advent to the throne of Alfonso XIII. on the 17th of May next. It looks, however, as if the entire country were about to be proclaimed under martial law first. There is not much occasion for popular celebrations.

The queen regent consented to a blood-and-fire rule in Cuba, and inspired her ministers to resist the United States to the utmost, in order to preserve the Spanish possessions intact for her son. To gain this one object, she was willing to sacrifice Cuban sons and daughters, as well as the sons of Spain, by the thousands. In vain! She lost the colonies and the greatest part of the Spanish fleet, and now it will be a question whether it will be possible to retain the crown of Spain for any considerable length of time. Old world monarchs are slow to learn that their power is safe, only when it is founded in the esteem and affection of the people.

The dispatches tell of extensive riots in the suburbs of Barcelona, and the calling out of troops to quell the disturbances. What the immediate trouble is, can only be surmised, but it seems to be caused by labor disputes. It is also charged that Anarchists are fanning the glowing embers, and that is probable. For that fraternity seldom misses an opportunity to support revolutionary outbreaks. But whatever the cause is, hundreds of people have been slaughtered by the Spanish troops, and the feeling of dissatisfaction is spreading rapidly throughout the peninsula, on the very eve of that day when a 16-year-old boy, a son of the Bourbons, is to take his oath on the crucifix to carry out the provisions of the constitution of Spain.

The Sagasta ministry retains its power at present, it seems, by a sort of tacit understanding among the various factions of the monarchists, not to create any disturbances until after the king's accession. There is even some talk about suspending the Cortes at the end of March, in order to keep the cabinet in power for that great event. But the present popular risings may interfere with the program, and precipitate the ministerial crisis. At any rate, a government cabinet that has to be kept afloat by various tricks and schemes cannot be strong enough, or sound enough, to do any good to the people.

The cause of true love runs smoother than the City Council.

If properly observed the Lenten season avoids borrowing trouble.

If fitted for nothing else Spain seems eminently fitted for revolution.

Prince Henry will doubtless find parts of his entertainment very amusing.

There are no smooth nickels in St. Louis, but the St. Louisans themselves are pretty smooth.

The Walters' union is beginning to realize that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.

Chicago, the center of literary culture

in the United States, calls them "D. A. B-terms of the Revolution."

The Creek Indians are becoming so obnoxious that they are usually found upstream nowadays.

It is a good thing to reduce the war revenue taxes. It is also a good thing to reduce the national debt.

The Sampson-Schley controversy is closed. Now let the partisans of either side keep their mouths closed.

The Boers are said to be feeling very much demoralized. They can scarcely feel worse than the Scots Greys.

Did Uncle Samuel take the precaution to put a special delivery stamp on that note to China and Russia?

Captain Holman is to be retired because of injury to his eyes. Still he will have an eye and a kiss for a pretty girl.

An actor sentenced to five years in state prison and a negro minister lynched should tend to materially elevate the stage.

"And now William Waldorf Astor proposes to become a star on the turf. Why not an asterisk?"—Boston Herald.

Why not a dash?

If Congressman Wheeler is wise he will not employ a clipping bureau to furnish him comments of the press on his recent speech.

It is not a happy suggestion that the schoolhouses be made sleeping apartments for any visitors. They should be reserved for toms and not for coits.

Mrs. C. M. Deere has been elected state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution for Illinois. Ploughed her way to fame, so to speak.

Wonders will never cease. Many rich and leading Chicagoans have enlisted in the new crusade against divorce. And Chicago has been the very Mecca of all the disgruntled married people.

The Woman's club of Wilmette, Ill., will attempt to emancipate the servant girls. Happy Wilmette! In other towns the problem is to emancipate the mistresses from the tyranny of the servant girls.

Mr. Carnegie suggests that libraries should buy no work of fiction until it is a year old. Were the rule generally adopted the libraries would not buy one novel where they now buy two score and ten.

All the new British postage stamps have been called in because the king's head in the design faces to the left, whereas it ought to face to the right. The king's face should be placed right seeing "the king can do no wrong."

There are mergers and mergers. The latest is that of Attorney-General Knox and Governor Van Sant. In the great legal contest soon to come who will emerge first—the Great Northern merger or the Knox-Van Sant merger?

An English workman is said to have invented a neat little device, of interest to writers and draftsmen. It consists of a ring, which carries a small steel ball, so placed as to revolve freely in any direction. With the ring on one's little finger so that the little ball is at the point of contact with the paper, almost every bit of friction in the movement of the hand upon the writing or drawing material is removed.

The news received today by telegraph that the house committee on territories has reported favorably, on the bills for the admission of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma into the Union of States, is very welcome to the people of Utah, as it will be, no doubt, to the very large majority of the people in those regions.

We hope the time will not be greatly prolonged before this great nation will be entirely composed of sovereign States, endowed with all the rights and privileges of self-government, and the imperfect territorial system will be a thing of the past. Congress should dispose of this matter as rapidly as circumstances will admit and wisdom will dictate.

OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS.

Philadelphia Press.

What with the conflict now raging among the European chancelleries as to who was the "next friend" of Uncle Sam during the war with Spain, and ex-Senator Chandler's effort to stir up strife at home, it begins to look as if the war was to be fought over again with a violence that threatens to upset all the rocking-chair critics of events and knock the knitting-needles of the would-be history makers out of their excited hands. It is a great day for the diplomat who has a few cats to let out of the bag and for publicists who have time on their hands.

New York Mail and Express.

The Washington correspondent of the London Times joins his list to others that have lately been thrown out in Europe that the United States government should make some publication on the subject. He says that "all the facts are known" to our government. Evade the question, he says, and will make no publication whatever on the subject, direct or indirect. We are not under any obligation, especially at the present time, to settle any European questions of veracity. The situation is entirely agreeable, as far as the United States is concerned.

Springfield Republican.

Lord Cranborne's statement in the house of commons was satisfactory in one respect, and unsatisfactory in another. The general denial that the British government ever proposed any declaration by the powers adverse to the interests of the United States in Cuba, may be accepted for the same reason that similar statements by France, Germany and Russia should be accepted. What may be regretted is that Lord Cranborne did not see fit to enter a specific denial that Lord Pauncefoot, on April 14, 1898, proposed a collective note of some sort by the powers to the Cuban situation. It would now appear that Pauncefoot may have made some proposal, concerning which his government holds, either that the proposal was not unfriendly to the United States or that the ambassador was not acting in behalf of Great Britain.

New York Evening Post.

The "German Legend" we must henceforth call the story that Lord Pauncefoot, April 14, 1898, drew up a note in terms that would have been offensive to the United States—an insignificant and dangerous action, which was only thwarted by wiser heads—more particularly those in charge of

the German foreign office. This story, which is its promulgation we characterized as "absurd" and "incredible," was most conclusively denied by Lord Cranborne, yesterday, before the commons. It must be remembered that in the nature of the case, the under secretary could produce no documents to prove the negative proposition.

Toledo Blade.

It would seem, from the latest developments, that either we had no friends among European nations during the Spanish war, or that all were our friends except Spain.

The Berlin Kreuz Zeitung.

When England, April 14, through her ambassador, proposed a new collective note, in which the powers should declare that Europe regarded America's armed intervention in Cuba as unjustifiable, the other ambassadors telegraphed to their home governments asking for instructions. The step failed through Germany's positive refusal. This gives, as it appears to us, a picture essentially different from the English legend. A fortnight later war was declared. Afterward, in June and July, while the United States was making great progress in the Philippines, England actively tried to induce the Spaniards' commission in England to ask for peace proposals, for to no power was the American encroachment in the Pacific more annoying than to England. The above is the historical connection of events. We hope that, in giving the same, we have thoroughly exposed the absurdity of the English legend.

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