

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Tuesday, November 30, 1899.

THE BIBLE DISCUSSION.

THE question of whether the Bible shall be used in the public schools, or not, threatens to become one of great importance. In Cincinnati the subject is exciting considerable interest. The "free-thinkers" are full of glee in anticipation of what they term the "Bible humbug" being disposed of so far as the schools are concerned. But the Protestants in the pulpits, in the prayer meetings, and on the street are exhorting and praying in defence of the Bible, and doing all in their power to create a public sentiment, by alarming the people, favorable to its continued use as a school book.

The real object of those who have brought about the exclusion of the Bible from the schools, it is said, is to procure a diversion of the school fund to the support of sectarian schools. The Roman Catholics are charged with taking part in this movement to break up the Common-School system, and to have the fund created by taxation for the use of public schools divided among the religious denominations.

Grants of funds have been made in the State of New York for sectarian schools, and we see it stated that \$214,987 have been taken recently from the city revenues for that purpose. Of this sum twenty-five Roman Catholic schools received \$153,880, and twenty-eight Protestant schools \$66,107.

The pretence made to obtain this grant was that it was to educate children for whom the public schools did not provide. This pretence is declared to be false, as the public schools provide for the education of all children.

It is probable that the question will be a vexed one and productive of much acrimony and ill-feeling. The Protestants will make a firm stand, and will not relinquish a practice which they believe to be of such vital importance as the Bible in the schools, without a heavy struggle, and as the assailing party are equally as determined to carry their point, the discussion—like all discussions in which the question of religion is involved—is likely to be a long and bitter one. It is stated that the proposition to have the Bible excluded from the schools of Louisville was voted down recently by a vote of 17 to 5. But the opponents of Bible teaching are very numerous, and they are increasing. The progress of Catholicism, Spiritualism and infidelity is so rapid that the maintenance of the Protestant ascendancy is only a question of time. The former classes will make common cause against the Bible as a reading book, and now that the war has begun, it seems probable that it will be waged until the end sought for is accomplished. In the meantime we shall watch and note the progress of the contest with interest. In this country we like the Bible; we are united in our wish for it to be used as a school book, because we believe in it as it reads, and not as preachers comment upon it and spiritualize its meaning.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A MARRIAGE.

JUDGE GEORGE G. BARNARD has lately given a decision in the case of Bissel vs. Bissel, which decides what constitutes a legal marriage in the State of New York. It seems that Bissel asked a woman to marry him, took her to himself as his wife, acknowledged her as such, and after the birth of a child, abandoned her and married another woman. The former then demanded the protection of the law, but he answered that he had deceived her by persuading her falsely that their agreement was wedlock; alleging that this was his means of seducing her.

The Judge held that a private agreement between a man and woman to be husband and wife, followed by living together as such, entitled her to a declaration that the marriage was valid, and to a separation and alimony upon desertion by him. The decision has occasioned considerable comment, but is generally sustained.

This is said to have been a long-established rule in that State, and it is argued that any deviation from it would be dangerous. The position taken by the Evening Post is, that to the community at large, marriage is simply a civil contract. It says:

"Whenever two persons, competent in all respects to make such an agreement, agree to be husband and wife, and live together as such, in pursuance of the compact, they are husband and wife before the law. The wife, in such a case, is entitled to support at the hands of the husband; the children of the two are legitimate; and she may obtain either a partial or an entire divorce for any cause which the law recognizes as sufficient."

"Under this rule it makes no difference what the ceremony used may be, or whether there is any. The form used in any of the churches, or the form used by the Quakers in taking one another before witnesses, or the exchange of promises before a civil magistrate or before friends at home, is sufficient. But the agreement may be made without any of these formalities, and the marriage is just as binding, provided only that the contract to become man and wife, and the execution of it can be proved."

Evidence as strong as that which will justify a court in giving judgment upon a bond for money, will always justify it in pronouncing a marriage valid."

We think this is an excellent rule, and would like to hear of its being enforced everywhere. On the same principle, if a man takes a woman after he has one wife, and makes promises unto her, treating her in every way as a wife, why should not such an association be viewed as marriage, and why should he not be compelled to support her offspring? The practical enforcement of such a rule throughout the United States, would go very far towards checking the horrible evils growing out of the system of concubinage which is so prevalent. Why should a contract be made binding in the case of one woman only? If, after a man has one wife, he take another woman, and make a private agreement with her, why should not the latter, in the sight of God and all just and honorable men, be equally binding with the former?

(SPECIAL TO THE DESERT NEWS.)
By Telegraph.

AFTERNOON DISPATCHES.

SEA SERPENTS IN THE GULF STREAM.

COLLISION OF FOUR TRAINS.

A RANK AND BARE-FACED HYPOCRITE.

A New Counterfeit Ten Dollar Bill.

PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT CONGRESS.

MASSACHUSETTS.

A new Counterfeit—Robbery and Violence.

BOSTON.—Counterfeit ten dollar greenbacks, of excellent imitation, have appeared in Peabody.

On Saturday evening, Nathaniel Lord, a well known citizen, was knocked down and robbed, and it is feared, fatally injured. The robbers escaped.

MISSOURI.

A Sanctioned Scamp.

ST. LOUIS.—A young man, studying for the ministry, at McKendree College, Lebanon, Mo., and who has exhorted the people of that vicinity for the past year, was arrested on Friday morning last for stealing twenty-two hundred dollars in bonds from one of the professors. The matter was brought to light by evidence received from a house of ill fame in St. Louis, where it is alleged, the student was a frequent visitor. He confessed his guilt last evening, but during the night escaped.

NEW YORK.

The Erie Suit—Honorably Acquitted—The Gunboats—Sea Serpents—Railway Collisions—Death of a Comedian—Temperance Convention.

NEW YORK, 30.—The suit of the Erie Company against Commodore Vanderbilt was resumed to-day before Judge Barnard. Judge Black moved to dismiss the complaint on the ground that no cause of action was made in proof of fraud, or conspiracy shown, and if in fact the Erie road had fraudulently paid out money it could not be sued to recover. After some argument Judge Barnard said the only ground on which the case could be maintained was that of fraud and collusion between Vanderbilt and the officers of the Company. It seemed to him that the Company's remedy was against Drew. Mr. Field called Daniel Drew, who testified at some length, detailing the circumstances during July, 1868. The further hearing of the case is adjourned until to-morrow.

A complaint was made against the son of Judge Smalley a U. S. District Judge; he was charged with complicity in the custom house frauds but has been honorably discharged.

On Thursday afternoon a motion to discharge the Spanish gunboats from custody, on the ground that no war exists between Spain and Peru, and that no proof exists that they were intended to act against Peru will be argued before Judge Blatchford. District Attorney Pierrepont gives his opinion that the motion will be denied.

The captain of the bark *Scottish Pride*, from Bordeaux, reports that he saw two sea serpents on the edge of the Gulf Stream, 200 miles east of Delaware Bay; one was twenty feet long and six or eight inches through, the other about five feet long.

A freight train on the Erie road, through the carelessness of the conductor, ran into another freight train at Mount Hope, on Saturday; twenty cars were smashed.

The through train from Washington, on the New Jersey Railroad, collided with a freight train standing on the track at Princeton, yesterday; considerable damage was done, but only one person injured.

James S. Brown, a veteran comedian, died yesterday, aged 80 years.

The State Temperance Convention is called to meet at Syracuse, December 22nd, for the purpose of forming a political organization with the temperance men of the State.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Executive Matters—Appointment.

WASHINGTON, 29.—Senator Edmunds had an interview with the President this morning. Subsequently Secretaries Fish and Belknap and Attorney General Hoar were in consultation with the President. The Members of Congress who have arrived have considerable business to attend to in the various departments. A large proportion of them have already had an interview with Secretary Boutwell, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Treasurer Spinner and the prominent Treasury Officials. The Secretary of the Navy is still engaged preparing his report. Commissioner Delano's report will be handed to Secretary Boutwell to-morrow.

Edward R. Ryar has been appointed Assistant Assessor Internal Revenue for the 2nd District of New York, vice McFarland, the person who shot Mr. Richardson.

THE CANAL.—A few bands of men are at work on the Eastern Canal, and we hear that more are to be put to work soon, and that the effort is to result in a trial of its capabilities ere long.

Correspondence.

The following letter has been kindly handed to us for publication; it is from Mr. Asmon Woodruff, brother of Elder Wilford Woodruff, of this city.

PALERMO, Oswego Co., N. Y.,
Nov 20th, 1899.

Wilford Woodruff:—Dear Brother,—Your "Tracts," entitled "A series of answers to questions, including the Revelation on Celestial Marriage," and the "Discourses on Celestial Marriage," by Elders Pratt, Smith and Cannon, have come to hand. As to the first, on the subject of polygamy, I must say that I was completely disarmed of every weapon of warfare against the doctrine, especially after reading the extract from a missionary work by D. O. Allen, which made a powerful impression on my mind. This not being a "Mormon" production, I read with candor. I was not aware before, that prejudice existed in my mind towards the subject; although I am ready to confess that the revelation of Joseph Smith, which you sent me some months since, and arguments used in your productions had done away much of my prejudice. I also admired the candor of Elders Pratt, Smith and Cannon on the subject. Their arguments together with the abundant testimony from the Old and New Testament have settled the question forever (I think) in my mind, that it is a Bible doctrine, and cannot be overthrown. I have thought that there was not a man living that stood open to conviction on the subject of any Bible truth more than myself. I was not before aware that tradition and prepossessions, former teachings and trainings, had made me so unsuspceptible of the teachings of the Bible; but the Bible platform "to the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to them it is because they have no light in them" as been my motto in former days, and it must still be for time to come, however much it may shake my foundations and the foundations of all around me. The faith of the Latter-day Saints, or the faith of the Seventh day Adventists, I have no doubt but one of the two will stand the tests of God's word and the judgment of the terrible day of Almighty God. Both of these two classes are fulfilling the Bible, and the struggle in my mind is great at times. Sometimes it sways one way, and then again the other. I look over the history of the Mormon church, its rise, progress and advancement; the mighty obstacles it has encountered, the opposition and persecutions it has endured, the hate of the popular sects of Christianity, together with the world against them; then the Savior's testimony comes to mind, "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." Then, again, I see that you do not observe the Bible Sabbath, but keep instead thereof an institution of Papacy. I start back in view of the awful denunciation of Jehovah against those who worship the beast and his image, &c., and disregard His Sabbath. But your faith, as a people, as respects apostolic gifts, &c., as spoken of by Paul 1st. cor. 12 c. I must give the preference. I think there is less of praying with the sick, and gifts of healing manifested in the Second Advent Church than there was twelve or fifteen years since. But perhaps this is not to be wondered at when we take other things in view. But I have said more on this subject than I expected when I took up my pen. We are thankful for the pamphlets you sent us; and hope to make a good use of all the light that shines on our pathway.

Your affectionate brother,
AZMON WOODRUFF.

At Logan, Cache Co., November 17, 1899, of convulsion, Anton Mart, youngest son of Christian Peter, Thordvald and Mrs. Maria Bertelsen, aged 11 months and 18 days. Standardization refer: please copy.

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Special Notices.

F. J. P. PARSONS has removed his Law Office to his residence, North Temple Street, one block west of 17th Ward Co-operative Store, 48-3

PERSONS engaged in sedentary employment's within doors will find that an occasional use of Red Jacket Bitters gently stimulates the circulation, improves the appetite, produces a regular habit of body, and prevents mental depression.

BURNETT'S FLORIMEL—Its nature may be expressed in two words—sweet and salutary. UNPRINCIPLED MEN are engaged in vending inferior imitations of Burnett's Cocoa and Hair, and are liable to prosecution.

BURNETT'S GONDS are established upon their merits.—Cincinnati Gazette.

BURNETT'S COOKING EXTRACTS.—Their universal success is based upon their merit. Reference is made to the principal Purveyors, Confectioners and Hotels in the United States.

WHITCOMB'S ASTHMA REMEDY is a scientific preparation, recommended by eminent physicians.

Booley's Baking Powder Reigns.

And well does it deserve the success it has gained as it is by far the best and cheapest in market. No baking powder has ever been manufactured so free from deleterious substances, and so exactly proportioned that good, sweet, light rolls, biscuits or pastry could be made each time with success. It is always ready for use, reliable, and requires but about half the quantity of any other in market. Will not spoil in any climate. Grocers everywhere keep it.

EIGHTH QUORUM F SEVENTIES.

REGULAR Meetings of the above Quorum are now held at the City Hall, every First and Third Saturday in the Month, at 7 o'clock p. m. Members residing in the City are requested to attend punctually, and those residing in the country, as often as they can make it convenient, if unable to attend within one month from date, they are requested to communicate their present residence and a standing, otherwise they may be dropped and their places filled with live members.

JOHN SHOLDBRAND, Clerk of the Quorum.

TO GIVE TONE TO THE SYSTEM USE Red Jacket Bitters

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THEATRE.

Lessee and Managers—H. B. Clawson & J. T. Cairns
Prompter, W. T. Harris, Treasurer, T. Williams,
Leader of the Orchestra, Geo. Carsons.

LAST NIGHTS

OF THE
FAVORITE VERSATILE ACTRESS,

KATE DENIN

THIS EVENING,
TUESDAY, NOV. 30,

BY PARTICULAR REQUEST,
Will be Repeated, for this Night Only,

FORMOSA

Or, the Railroad to Ruin.

JENNY.....KATE DENIN

WITH
A Powerful Distribution of Characters.

Doors open at 7½ o'clock. Performance to commence at 7.

Wednesday Night, December 1, 1899,

BENEFIT
OF THE FAVORITE YOUNG COMEDIAN,

W. T. HARRIS.

BYASS' LONDON PORTER,
ARROL'S SCOTCH ALE, and
SANDS' CHICAGO STOCK ALE.

On Draught at
Salt Lake Billiard Room.

OYSTERS! OYSTERS!!

JOE SIMMONS,
PROPRIETOR "REVERE HOUSE SALOON,"

Is receiving daily, Fresh Oysters direct from Baltimore. Also Pig's Feet, Calves' Tongues, Old English and Scotch Ale and Porter, Brewed, Beards & Co.'s celebrated Ale, Waagner's Ale and Lager Beer, Golden Crown Cigars, Premium Fine Cut Tobacco; in fact, to speak seriously, you must call and see and taste for yourself.

The Very Best Sewing Machine!

THE AMERICAN COMBINATION SEWING MACHINE is the best in the Market. In addition to all work done on other lock-stitch Machines, this machine will work button holes, eyelet holes and do overseaming, the same stitch as by hand-sewing. It is a strong machine, will sew any kind of fabric and is as low in price as any other standard machine in use. Inquiries respecting it will be answered and orders received by DAVID W. EVANS, DESERT NEWS Office, S. L. CITY.

Blankets! Blankets!!

We have for sale at the DESERT NEWS OFFICE the following—

STATEMENT BLANKS

For filing before Judges of Probate Courts by owners of Town Lots where the Town Sites have been entered at the U. S. Land Office.

WARRANTEE DEEDS

For the sale of Land.

TRANSFER DEEDS

For the transfer and sale of Claims.

DECLARATORY STATEMENTS

For cases where the Land is not subject to Private Entry.

HOMESTEAD BLANKS.

AFFIDAVITS

Required of Pre-emption Claimants.

OFFICIAL BONDS.

DECLARATIONS of INTENTION.

Certificates of Citizenship.

A large supply always on hand, which we sell at low rates.

Orders by mail will meet with prompt attention.

Blankets not enumerated above will be furnished according to order.

Now Ready.

THE RISE, PROGRESS AND TRAVELS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

BRING A BROTHER!

Answers to Questions

INCLUDING

The Revelation on Celestial Marriage.

AND

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF SALT LAKE VALLEY, WITH INTERESTING STATISTICS.

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