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CLOSING SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday school authorities in this city announce through the Deseret News that Sunday schools will be suspended for the present, in conformity with the advice of the health officers. This step has been taken so that there may be no conflict between the Church institutions and those of the municipality.

The necessity for the movement is not recognized. It is understood that the majority of our citizens that there is far less danger of spreading contagion in Sunday schools, than there is in the common assemblies and mingling of the people every day publicly and in business and social circles. One crowded session in a court room where the atmosphere is often so dense as to make people sick, is a greater menace than a dozen Sunday schools. So with a crowded audience in a place of amusement. So with huddled humanity in stores at bargain sales. The logical sequence of these movements would be the shutting up of every place of public gathering and the paralyzing of business.

The scare which has been started and fostered in this city is something deplorable and shameful. One would think that smallpox was chiefly confined to children of school age. The facts are that its attacks are principally among older persons. True, it has been stated by doctors in this city, whose unfamiliarity with the disorder is only equalled by their assumption and impatience of dissent from their crude ideas, that the attacks of smallpox are greater among children than among adults. But the figures which they cite at those who differ with them demonstrate the opposite of what they assert. Take the statistics that have been published in support of vaccination, and anyone can see that if they prove anything, it is that children of school age who are attacked with the disease are vastly fewer in number than those who are older. The large number of cases reported is of those who were neither very young nor very old.

The closing of the schools as a precaution against smallpox is not quite so foolish as the exclusion of healthy children from the public schools, and the insistence of a proof that a child is suffering from cowpox as a qualification to be educated in the schools.

Establish strict quarantine and sanitary regulations by all means. Isolate every person who has been exposed to contagion. Promote health by cleanliness and the observance of hygiene. Conform to good rules for the preservation of general health. These are the means by which disease may be stamped out. But do not go to foolish extremes, nor resort to compulsion, or any kind of force which invades personal, constitutional liberty, and exercises despotic and unlawful authority.

ETERNAL MARRIAGE.

In the Tabernacle on Sunday last, President George Q. Cannon delivered a brief discourse, in which he mentioned a number of doctrines introduced by the Prophet Joseph Smith that were opposed at the time by the Christian world, and which occasioned much persecution. Among these principles mentioned was the eternity of the marriage covenant, as revealed to the Latter-day Saints. The Salt Lake Tribune, in a pretended report of those remarks, announced in a heavy headline that these were "Talks On Plural Marriage." In the body of the report, it stated, "President Cannon spoke first of the doctrine of plural marriage."

The Deseret News on Monday evening gave a synopsis of the discourse, and also showed, editorially, what were the subjects alluded to by the speaker; namely, first, the eternity of matter; second, difference in degrees of rewards and punishments in the next world; third, salvation for the dead through their own repentance and ordinances performed for them on earth; fourth, the pre-existence of spirits; fifth, the eternity of true marriage; finally, the absolute necessity of obedience to law.

The "News" further stated that President Cannon did not mention plural marriage, but in speaking of the persecutions endured by the Saints attributed them to the enunciation of each of the doctrines mentioned, as well as others which were new to modern Christendom, and were opposed for the same reason that the doctrines preached by Jesus Christ in person incited the hatred of the sectaries among the Jews.

The Tribune now comes back with its stereotyped argument, accusing the "News" of "malignant and wilful lying." But with its accustomed fatuity it quotes its own "verbatim report" of President Cannon's remarks on the one point of eternal marriage, in which "plural marriage" is not mentioned nor touched upon, but the doctrine of the eternal union of the husband and wife is briefly but clearly explained. The Tribune could not have offered a more conclusive proof of its own perversity and misrepresentation of a speaker's lan-

guage. It is just as we stated. We need go no further than to cite the Tribune to its own "verbatim report."

The eternity of the marriage covenant, as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, does not necessarily include plural marriage, commonly called polygamy. It is a sacred principle by which a man and a woman may be united together through a divinely revealed ceremony, the pair being joined for time and all eternity, that which is thus "sealed on earth" being "sealed in heaven." Though death may part them, the resurrection will reunite them, no more to be separated.

This was the union divinely sealed between Adam and Eve, before death entered into the world by sin. They were immortals and the twain were made one. That which was lost in the fall is restored by the atonement. Adam and Eve stand together at the head of their posterity forever.

By the same ordinance in the Church today the same eternal union may be formed. That is eternal marriage. That is celestial marriage. Plural marriages are no longer consummated. Eternal marriages are solemnized in the Temples. President Cannon alluded to the latter, but did not mention the former. These are the facts in the case.

The marriage covenant to which President Cannon referred, as one of the doctrines that had been opposed by the Christian world, is a legal marriage. There is no law against it. The parties to it are lawfully entitled to enter into it. They not only obtain the sanction of the Church, but the license required by statute. It is duly certified and recorded when a couple are thus united, just as it would be if they married until "death does them part," by a magistrate or sectarian minister. The law regulates the secular part of the ceremony, and does not interfere with the sacred part.

Plural marriage is not now solemnized because it is forbidden by law. The State Constitution prohibits it, so does the State statute. The head of the Church, who alone holds the keys of authority on this matter, also forbids it. It has ceased, but eternal or celestial marriage continues and will abide. They who cannot perceive the difference between the two are blind indeed.

In the present instance perversity, rather than ignorance, caused the attempt of the Tribune to place in a false light before the public the discourse of President Cannon. There was no excuse for it, therefore we exposed it. The epithets of our unesteemed contemporary may afford it some satisfaction, as such language seems to be its chief delight, but they will not serve to conceal the anti-"Mormon" spite which prompted its misrepresentations.

A BLOT ON KENTUCKY.

The attempted assassination of Senator Goebel makes another black spot on the escutcheon of the State of Kentucky. It is a grand old commonwealth in many respects, but human life is still held cheaply by many of its citizens. Homicide, of the kind which in most parts of the country comes under the head of murder, does not seem to be so regarded in that State. Quick to resent an affront, the knife or the pistol instead of the fist or a cane is common among its people. When many of them think they ought to fight, they "fight to kill." The laws of the State are similar to those of other States as to capital crimes, but their enforcement depends a great deal of popular sentiment.

There appears to be no excuse whatever for this attempt on the life of the candidate for governor. Even if it were true that his opponent was duly elected and that the legislature is likely to defeat the popular will, assassination is not the proper method to correct an injustice. Decent people of all parties and persuasions should unite in denouncing this murderous attempt on the life of a public man, and the authorities of the State of Kentucky will be disgraced in the eyes of the civilized world if they fail to use every possible means to discover and punish the cowardly perpetrator of this foul deed.

In any event it ought not to interfere with the legal settlement of the question of the governorship, which has caused so much hostile feeling, evidenced in the gathering of an armed mob in Kentucky's capital to overawe the legislature of the State. It is to be hoped that the wounded man will survive the murderous attack to which he has been subjected.

LONGEVITY INCREASING.

The Forum for February contains an interesting paper in which the author takes the view that prolongation of life is one of the characteristics of the nineteenth century. He holds that during the past one hundred years the average life of man in the civilized world has increased from 30 to 40 years. That is, the average man lives about ten years longer than his grandfather did. The assertion will to many seem not well founded, but it is supported by an array of figures.

According to these the average life of historians is the longest. It is put at 73 years. Scientists and inventors come next, with an average of 72. Commanders and statesmen live 71 years; women 69; men of letters, 67; poets, painters and sculptors, 66; philosophers, 65; novelists, 63, and musicians 62 years.

The reasons for the general increase in life are various. Science has thrown much light over the mystery of life. People know better now than they did a century ago, what their bodies are, and having a more thorough knowledge of the component parts of the delicate machine, they are better prepared to take care of it. Medical practitioners have advanced to more rational methods, and sanitation, formerly unknown, has grown into an exact science. Machinery and the division of labor have made the necessities, and even luxuries, of life so abundant that they are within the reach of all, and this undoubtedly has its effect. It can be said truly, that Solomon in all his glory, and notwithstanding his immense wealth, was but poorly provided for, were his furniture, his table, his means of transportation, and so on, to be compared to those of many an American working-

man of today. The world is better equipped for the struggle for existence than ever.

Bacon, centuries ago, held that the human race had passed its meridian and was declining. Modern statistics do not bear this view out, if the physical condition is considered. But what about the moral status of mankind? History proves that nations and cities that have fallen, have done so, on account of the moral degeneration of their inhabitants. If a proof were needed of the existence of a Supreme Ruler of mankind, it is given in the fact that a nation which deviates from the paths of rectitude and becomes neglectful of its mission, is soon put aside and has to give place for some people of sterner moral qualities. And very often this is brought about as by unseen agencies. Mighty empires have fallen because of the rolling of stone cut out, as it were, "without hands," and the student of history often has to pause and exclaim: "This is the finger of God."

Encouraging as is the fact that the race is improving physically, that fact should not make us forget the duty of looking after the moral condition, without which physical progress is comparatively worthless. Even cannibals are known to have been physically faultless. The existence of civilization is ultimately a question of pure morality.

WHAT LUTHER DID SAY.

As will be remembered, President Herzer, of the Lutheran Concordia college, a few days ago denied in print that Luther had in any way sanctioned plural marriage, and his denial was promptly telegraphed throughout the country. As a matter of history, it deserves notice, that President Herzer is wrong. Now a writer in The Catholic Mirror, quoted in the Literary Digest, comes out with a pretty full account of the incident alluded to in the "News" of the 25th of this month, in which the Landgrave of Hesse was interested. The writer in the Mirror tells the well known story. Philip, he says, appealed to Luther, Melancthon, and other apostles of the Reformation for a permission to have a second wife. The grounds he gave were that he had never loved his wife, that he had not been faithful to her, and that he could not abandon the life he was leading. To this appeal the Reformers replied thus:

"But if your highness be fully resolved to take another wife, we judge that it ought to be done secretly; that is, that none but the lady herself and a few trusted persons obliged to secrecy under the seal of confession, know anything of the matter. Hence it will not be attended with any important contradiction or scandal. For it is not unusual for princes to keep mistresses, and although the vulgar should be scandalized, the more prudent would understand this moderate method of life as a preference to adultery, or other brutal and foul actions. There is no need of being much concerned for what men will say, provided all go right with conscience. Your highness hath, therefore, not only the approbation of us all, in a case of necessity, but also the consideration we have made hereunto. We are most ready to serve your highness. Dated at Wittenberg, the Wednesday after the feast of St. Nicholas, 1539."

PHILIP MELANCTHON,
MARTIN BUCER,
ANTHONY CORVIN,
ADAM,
JOHN LENINGUE,
JUSTICE WINFORDTE,
DIONYSIUS MELENTHER."

The quotation is from the Wurttemberg Latin edition of Luther's collected works, pp. 119, 123. Dr. Herzer may examine the matter for his own satisfaction.

On one point the writer in the Mirror should be corrected. He says Luther is the originator of "Mormonism," leaving the reader to infer that the licentiousness of Philip of Hesse is "Mormonism." It is not. If a proposition such as that referred to had been submitted to the Prophet Joseph, or any of his successors, or to any "Mormon" Elder in good standing, the reply would have been different from that to which Luther's name is appended. "Mormonism" stands for the sacredness of the marriage covenant. "Mormonism" amidst an adulterous generation has boldly set the seal of "sin" upon any act in violation of that covenant. It has preached purity, even from the prison cells, as did John the Baptist until his head fell under the royal displeasure. The utmost boundaries of east and west are not farther apart than is "Mormonism" from the practices of the famous Landgrave. Catholics ought to be slow in judging this unpopular system. They themselves have not always had an unprejudiced hearing for their peculiar institutions.

LANDIS'S LOGIC.

The Boston Herald in the subjoined paragraph gives a just estimate of the poor argument employed by Mr. Landis in the debate on Mr. B. H. Roberts. That paper says:

"The most eloquent speech in the debate on the Roberts case appears to have come from Congressman Landis of Indiana. He didn't pay any particular attention to the constitutional aspects of the question, or to the facts in relation thereto, but he waded into the sentimental part of it all over, and he brought down the House and the galleries by a graphic description of families desecrated by plural wives and polygamous children. His speech was just about as convincing as that famous plantation argument against according to the colored man and brother the rights to which he is entitled under the Constitution. 'How would you like to have your sister marry a nigger?' was the old pose propounded by the white man's champion. That settled it."

The Peoria Journal thoughtfully says: "The case against Roberts has been made as strong as thought and good oratory could make it. The law has been discussed and there has been no little learning and some ignorance shown in the discussion. The whole affair is to be taken as an example of the power of the public sentiment of the United States in such matters. It may well be doubted, however, if there is to be any permanent gain in the cause followed. It may not be acceptable news to a good many, but it is undoubtedly true that the case has been decided upon points of doubtful legality. It is well enough to speak of the power of Congress over its own members in such matters, but there is little ground for the assumption that Congress has jurisdiction over men to whom it denies the rights which go with that jurisdiction. The precedent set is far from satisfactory. It will rise to plague the country."

The Denver Post views the matter in this light:

"As stated, the method of his expulsion was unconstitutional. He had all the requirements of a representative,

and it is surprising that so many Southern Democrats voted against his even being allowed to take the oath of office. Southern Democratic representatives have in the past been ousted from the House in numbers when the Republican majority needed increasing."

Statistics showing the increased valuation of farm animals above last year should please the tax gatherer, whether or not the property owner likes it.

The new mud springs started by the recent earthquakes in California will not be a "patching" to the mudthrowers in the coming presidential campaign.

The pope says the present war of England against the Boers is "inspired neither by ideals of civilization nor by just national interests." There is a vast number of non-Catholics who take the same view.

A new danger faces the British in South Africa, according to Lord Roberts. It is that Gen. Buller may not be able to retreat, as an advance of the Boers on his line of communication would put him in a trap.

With the men now en route to South Africa, Lord Roberts will have nearly 200,000 troops and 300 large guns. Yet there are prospects of drafting men into compulsory service to augment the British army.

Hon. J. K. Toole of Montana has been cleared of all suspicion that he had accepted a bribe. This is announced as though he were a rare avian among political birds. It is evident he was not used as a tool for either of the parties in the fight for the senatorship.

A news-vendor in London has been sentenced to seven days in jail for crying "Orrible British slaughter!" Yet the correspondents are now giving details showing the newsboy was not making a false statement in his announcement, though the war office had not given out the news at the time.

It is said that Sir George White and the Ladysmith garrison will try to cut their way out, since they have provisions for only about a week more. Doubtless a considerable number could escape by this method, since they would evade the Boer positions, but the loss of life such a plan would entail would seem to make the attempt almost criminal because of the needless slaughter it would cause.

An English medical journal, speaking of the epidemic of grip, which is visiting England, advises the people to avoid all causes of depression, "whether from over-exertion, under-feeding, fear of the malady, or inordinate apprehension of the immediate or remote results of the war." The advice should be heeded by all who desire to avoid sickness. Cheerfulness promotes good health, and it is catching, too.

The Kentucky clergymen's day of humiliation and prayer failed of its purpose in saving the State from further humiliation. Not only is Kentucky disgraced by the shooting today of Mr. Goebel, but the whole country is brought into shame by this terrible crime, which no doubt is the outgrowth of bitter partisan politics, but which will be abhorred and condemned by reputable citizens of all shades of political opinion.

The "News" has been requested to announce that the National Council of Women will hold no annual executive session until the fall of 1900. This organization, which reflects or concentrates the work of so many national and State organizations, is doing steady work all the time. Its effort is for the present concentrated on plans for a commission to Cuba and Hawaii to investigate into the condition of women in those islands and see wherein the women of the United States can be helpful or co-operative with them. These plans will be submitted at the executive session in the fall, and the commission formally appointed. It is expected the President of the United States will endorse this commission.

ENGLAND'S GREAT CONFLICT.

Kansas City Star.

It is now being realized that the capture of companies and battalions of British troops in South Africa would not have happened if the arms had been of the pattern used in the Civil War. Even the Franco-Prussian war. In those days bodies of troops caught in a cross-fire could run out of range and, even when surrounded, it was possible to make a dash through the enemy and escape. Now the fire of repeating rifles and machine-guns can be made so sharp that the only way to live is to lie down close to the ground and remain still. Being unable to go forward or retreat without great slaughter, the only alternative is to surrender. It is the same thing as the other fellow having the drop on you.

Los Angeles Express.

Unless the British forces in South Africa meet with a decided success in the very near future, there is great danger of serious trouble in England. Day after day the criticisms of the government become bolder and more pronounced, and at Forfar yesterday John Morley, member of Parliament, delivered an address which will set people thinking. He openly declared that had the British government appreciated the temper of the Transvaal people, there would have been no war; that the government had blindly stumbled in the dark, and that the so-called Dutch conspiracy was only an afterthought to cover a hideous blunder.

Boston Transcript.

The "Neck of Natal" might have been closed and rendered a negligible position had the British government listened to Sir William Buller's advice and contented itself with holding the Tugela river, the base-line of the triangle, with sufficient force, leaving its main army free to march on Bloemfontein and Pretoria. The fall of Bloemfontein alone would render the Boer operations on the east and west, both in Natal and against Mafeking and Kimberley, not only abortive, but positively dangerous, for the capital of the Orange Free State is the center of the allies' line of defense. It is now, however, too late for the British to do anything else than to master Natal. Their prestige is involved in the struggle for the relief of Ladysmith, and not until that is accomplished can they revert to a more comprehensive strategy.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The praise which Gen. Buller has lavished upon the volunteers in declaring that "the men are splendid," has aroused a grateful enthusiasm throughout Great Britain, as it proves that in an emergency the volunteers may be as serviceable as the regulars. Gen. Buller's army is working its way down-

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