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A COMMON BLUNDER.

A writer to the Christian Herald, purporting to be a Christian woman, states that "the Deseret Evening News is greatly exercised over the American women's anti-Mormon campaign and sets up the irrelevant claim that these American women do not know what Mormonism really is." In an attempted reply to these alleged remarks of the "News," the lady goes on to demonstrate beyond a doubt that she knows nothing of "Mormonism" herself. For instance, she speaks of "Mormonism, i. e. polygamy."

That is a very common blunder, and it is one that enters into the entire anti-"Mormon" crusade outside of Utah. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the "Mormon" Church, is composed of many thousands of men and women who have embraced "Mormonism" but have never entered into the system of plural marriage, vulgarly called polygamy. The very large majority of them never practised it and have no intention of doing so. Yet they are fervent believers in the system of religion revealed in the latter days through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and dubbed "Mormonism" because it includes belief in the Book of Mormon, as well as in the Bible.

Properly speaking, "Mormonism" means the doctrines of Mormon, who was a prophet among the ancient inhabitants of this continent and who abridged the writings of earlier prophets on this land, which contain the word of the Lord to the people among whom they ministered, and an account of the visit of Jesus Christ to this continent after his resurrection from the dead, with the doctrines and ordinances that he established among the people of that time.

Now if the ladies of this country who continually commit the blunder made by the lady writer to the Christian Herald would take the trouble to investigate and read the Book of Mormon, instead of repeating the falsehoods circulated concerning it, they would find that neither polygamy nor plural marriage nor anything like it is taught in that Book, and that therefore it is not the doctrine of Mormon, who compiled it. The principle of celestial marriage, that is, marriage for eternity as well as time, was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith and embraces the ordinance of plural marriage under certain conditions therein described. But it is no longer taught or practised in the Church, except that the comparatively few individuals who entered into that relation many years ago decline to sever it, because they regard it as a sacred and eternal relationship, and prefer to take such consequences as may follow their continuance rather than to repudiate it in any way or form.

The claim that there have been new plural marriages since 1890 when the so-called "manifesto" by President Wilford Woodruff was promulgated, is not founded on such evidence as would convict the accused before a competent court. If there have been any such violations of the law, they have not been committed with the consent, authority, permission or connivance of the Church or of its President. If all the instances that have been named were actual cases, the total is very small, and would amount simply to a few infractions of the law during the past fifteen years. The Deseret News is frequently charged with denying that there have been any such marriages. That charge is not true. This paper maintains, as it has held all along, that there have been no such marriages by the authority of the Church. That is all.

No direct charges have been preferred against the very few individuals who have been suspected of secretly entering into that relationship, and therefore, under the order and discipline of the Church they will stand as innocent until proved guilty in the regular way of procedure. A complaint would have to be made in a case before the law, and as a matter of fellowship also in the proper Church court. The proofs would have to be adduced, and the accused would have to be given the opportunity to confront their accusers and make their own defense. So much for that.

"Mormonism," so called, as held and taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, consists of doctrines and principles and Church organization and spiritual manifestations which are a reproduction, by divine revelation, of the Church as established by the Savior and His Apostles in Palestine and the regions round about. The people who are fighting it, whether they be men or women, are fighting against eternal truth. They know not what they do. They will not examine for themselves the teachings of "Mormonism," but are led away by false reports, burlesques and distortions and monstrous exaggerations, concocted by its enemies, among whom are many modern preachers, who either echo the nonsense uttered by others or invent these untruths to accomplish their own purposes.

They talk about a "fight" they intend to wage, as though there was a great conflict between them and the Latter-day Saints. We are simply minding our own business, attending to our own affairs and leaving the fighters to beat the air and make all the noise and clamor they desire. But we are ready at any time to expound the principles of our faith and to enlighten those who are in darkness concerning it, among whom are the writer of the letter to the Christian Herald and many thousands of good men and women, who are completely in the dark concerning our faith and the condition of affairs in Utah. When she and they declare that "Mormonism must go," they are under the false impression, which she expresses, that "Mormonism" and polygamy are synonymous. That alone shows their entire misunderstanding of the whole subject. Also when they talk about "no free expression" among the "Mormon" women, they make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of well informed people, for there are no men or women under the sun who have greater liberty of thought and speech than the women of this State, no matter what may be their creed or their condition.

The talk about a constitutional amendment, the expulsion of a United States Senator from Utah and the rest of it, as though that would have any effect upon "Mormonism," is another demonstration that those who indulge in it know absolutely nothing of what they are talking about. The system of religion called "Mormonism" can not be affected by any such measures. Its principles will be proclaimed. They will be carried to every nation under heaven. They will be accepted by sincere searchers after truth. God will bear witness to the honest heart that they are divine.

This work will go forward as a preparation for the coming and kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is personally interested and engaged in its propaganda, and the mistaken and excited people of this nation who have been worked up into a frenzy over a religion and a people destined to carry light and liberty to all the world, will find in the sequel that they have been fighting against God and His divine purposes concerning the redemption of Adam's race. We are not in the least disturbed over the resolutions and fulminations of the men or women who manifest their lack of understanding of us, but leave them in the hands of Him who knows the secrets of all hearts.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Now that the difficulty in the Agricultural College, Logan, has been settled, we hope everything may move smoothly and harmoniously. The College is one of the important educational institutions of the State, and any serious disagreement between those entrusted with its management, or between the members of the faculty, works an injury to the institution itself, and thereby to the general public. The retirement of two professors is quite generally regretted, as they have, for a long time, filled their places with most excellent results and given thorough satisfaction. We hope they will find other places of usefulness for their talents and knowledge. And we hope the College will continue its successful labors for the agricultural interests of the State. It has become an institution of almost international importance, on irrigation questions at least, and its reputation should never be suffered to wane.

NOT FOR THE HAGUE.

The Springfield Republican asks whether there is not an opportunity for the Hague tribunal to straighten out the Scandinavian affair. Several, otherwise well informed, contemporaries evince a similar misunderstanding of the question. The "Scandinavian affair" is a disagreement between the Norwegian Storthing and the Norwegian king, rather than between the two Scandinavian nations. There is no provision in the Hague convention for the adjustment of such cases before that tribunal. Sweden's interest in the matter is that of a near neighbor. It is similar to the interest, or even excitement, caused by the discovery of a conflagration next door. It is possible that before the trouble is entirely settled, it may assume some form in which it can properly be presented to the Hague court, but that time has not yet come.

The "Scandinavian affair" could, however, logically, be made the subject of international discussion. Four of the European powers are, by treaties, still bound to uphold the union. These are, Russia, by different treaties dated April, June, and August, 1812; England, March, 1813; Prussia, April, 1813; and Austria, February, 1814. These powers might consistently take the matter in hand, as they did in 1814, and they would, no doubt, do so, if they should come to the conclusion that their own interests demand interference. And this is not entirely impossible, since the dissolution of the union disarranges the balance of power, as established through the treaty of Kiel, Jan. 14, 1814. The four powers mentioned may not take enough interest in the matter to call such a congress, since the entire political situation is now so radically different from what it was in the beginning of the last century, but it is perfectly clear that the Hague tribunal cannot arbitrate in a quarrel between the legislative and the administrative branches of a government, such as this disagreement between the Norwegian Storthing and King Oscar really is.

In view of the possibilities of the future, the following data concerning the two Scandinavian kingdoms may be of some interest. They are from a recent issue of "Gamla och Nya Hemlandet," a publication that appears in Chicago:

Norway has an area of 124,129 square miles; population, 2,250,000; army (with reserves), 80,000; field guns, 40. Navy, total vessels 16 (of which small battleships and modern coast defense vessels number 5, all others, including monitors, gunboats, etc., 11); total tonnage all vessels, 29,453; guns, 8-inch or larger, 16; officers and men, including wartime reserves 4,000.

Sweden has an area of 172,876 square miles (more than 50,000 square miles larger than England, Scotland and Ireland together); population, 5,250,000; army (with reserves), 590,000; field guns, 240. Navy, battleships, modern coast defense vessels, gunboats, torpedoboats, destroyers, etc., 71 (12 first-class iron clads 7 third-class ironclads, 4 fourth-class ironclads, 5 torpedo cruisers, 9 first-class gunboats, 5 second-class gunboats, 1 destroyer, 15 first-class torpedoboats, 11 second-class torpedoboats, trains ships, etc.); total tonnage all vessels, 64,432; guns, 315 (36 heavy, 93 rapid-firing secondary weight, 184 light guns, all rapid-firing, 100 magazine guns); officers and men including wartime reserves, 8,000 to 10,000.

We hope the two countries will never be called upon to test the strength of their respective armies and navies upon one another. To do so would be fratricide. And it will not be done, unless a deeper plot is being laid behind the scenes by some power interested in stirring up strife for the sake of reaping advantages that can not be had otherwise.

Tainted money is in great demand.

Society boys play hockey; school boys play hookey.

Up at the A. C. some are repeating the ballad, "Betsy and I are out."

A leap of the gap isn't very far removed from a leap in the dark.

City Creek canyon has been closed to automobilists. The way of the transgressor is hard.

What a splendid preparation for the strikers' profession the mutineers of the Kniaz Potemkine have had!

The mutiny of the Kniaz Potemkine, which might have become an historical tragedy, turned out to be nothing but a farce.

If the Russian government catches and executes them, the blood of the mutineers will be the seed of more mutiny.

Prof. Small of Chicago university says that this is "a paralyzing period of prosperity." Still paralysis is an uncommon disease.

Tom Lawson has been in Kansas making some frenzied speeches on the "system." There is this to be said in his favor: there is system in his madness.

Professor Willis Moore of the national weather bureau, insists that a professional weather forecaster's prediction is as accurate as the diagnosis by a physician. Just so.

A photograph of the first meeting of the peace plenipotentiaries would be very interesting. At no subsequent session will they wear the same expressions of surmise and wonderment as at that one.

The Japanese have landed troops in the island of Sakhalin. An armistice would have prevented that. In all probability its retention by Japan will be a sine qua non to the conclusion of a treaty of peace.

A Brooklyn clergyman recently preached a sermon on kindness to animals, having a big Newfoundland dog in the pulpit as an object lesson. The edifice is reported to have been crowded. All he needs now is to add a pony to make a good showing for kindness to animals.

The following description of Hawthorne, by Ellery Channing, published in the Critic by Frank Sanborn, and reproduced from his notes of Channing's table talk, is as unlike the popular conception of the great romanticist as anything could be. In reading his romances it is best to forget it. He says: "He was a soft, bulky person, with a rolling gait, like a sea captain, which his father had been. My former schoolmate, Tom Appleton, said he looked like a 'boned pirate.' Perhaps he walked so because he was so stout—rolling and swaying about in walking. I have walked much with him, but he was not fond of that exercise; he had the greatest aversion to company—thought it a 'damnable bore,' and would swear about it sometimes; he was a good swearer, you must know. He had no reverence for what is called human nature; he thought it a very miserable article; besides, he had the greatest difficulty in expressing himself in conversation. He would stammer and twist himself about, but he wrote easily enough."

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The prospects for peace may now be said to be reasonably good. The internal condition of Russia makes all things in which that nation is concerned highly uncertain, but the forces that make for war have spent themselves, and almost any new development will, it would seem, make for peace. There is little cause to think that Japan will be unreasonable. The most doubtful question still is whether another battle will be fought in Manchuria, or whether an armistice will put an end to hostilities until the outcome of the negotiations is known.

New York World.

The sooner peace is concluded the sooner the government can bend all its energies to the suppression of local disorder; but what will have happened in the mean time? It is already apparent that a leader who commanded the confidence of the disaffected elements in the army could sweep the Romanoff dynasty from the throne. How long before sporadic anarchy produces a soldier who will dare place himself at the head of the forces of revolution?

Pueblo Chieftain.

It is hardly probable, however, that Japan will be able to secure both Manchuria and Korea as prizes of the war. So far as Korea is concerned its evident fate is to fall under Japanese control disguised perhaps with a pretense of independence. But as for Manchuria, whatever ulterior objects Japan may have in mind or whatever desires may be expressed by individuals, the official position of Japan has been and is, that Manchuria must be returned to China and kept freely open to the trade of all nations without preference or partiality.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The real center of interest has shifted from Manchuria to Russia. Even the peace with Japan, which may or may not be near, may bring as little respite as peace with Germany brought to France in 1871. The moment when the Germans relaxed their grip on Paris from the outside the Communists attacked the French troops on the inside. The grievances of the Russian populace in these days are immeasurably greater than were those of the French people at the close of Napoleon III's empire and the rise of the present republic. The report that Nicholas is to withdraw his promise of a national assembly will arouse but little interest inside or outside of Russia in the present aspect of affairs. Not many persons believed in the genuineness of that promise of that concession. It is possible, in the shape which events are now taking, that not even a parliament could head off a civil war in Russia.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Will Carleton's magazine Everywhere, for July, contains some good contributions. The leading poem by Will Carleton, "The Fourth at Sea," gives a picture of boys with limited facilities overcoming all difficulties to celebrate the Fourth. Margaret E. Sangster has her usual quota of ever popular poems. The Indian poem by Elaine Goodale Eastman, "The Pride of Katah," (a woman's story) is a notable addition to the series of poems now running in Everywhere. The special articles "Fire Crackers, Little and Big," by a Summer Girl, and "Eating at Sixty Miles an Hour" by a Retired Conductor, are both timely and of unique interest. The short story, "Wanted—A Heart," is a tale of life with our naval officers, who are credited with a sweetheart in every port. Will Carleton's magazine is giving splendid value for its small subscription price—Everywhere Publishing Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

In National Magazine for July will be found new and attractive snapshot photographs of senators, foreign ministers, British and American naval officers and society leaders. Portraits of Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks and Senator Lafollette and Alger, are among the illustrations of "Affairs at Washington." Senator McCumber of South Dakota contributes a paper, entitled "What Lies Ahead of This People," in which he declares, and scientifically demonstrates, that "paternalism is the inevitable sequence of all social evolution." A tender love story is Lillian True Bryant's novelette, "The Evolution of Cousin Marcella," of which the first half is given in this number. Other fiction titles are: "$20,000,000 in Sight," by Christobelle van Asmus Bunting; "At Five O'clock in the Morning," by L. M. Montgomery; and Michael Ryan, Capitalist, a serial by F. F. D. Albery. Timely patriotic features are J. R. Martin's ballad, "The Birthday of Old Glory," Colonel J. A. Vera's rousing address, "The Flag Above the School House," and Edmund Ogden Sawyer's illustrated article on the navy, entitled "The Nation's Iron Walls." The Home department is rich in garden lore and helpful hints for the household. Frank Putnam, in "Note and Comment," discusses the Portland Exposition and the ultimate results of the war in the Far East.—Boston.

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