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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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Charles W. Penrose, Editor.

Morris G. Whitney, Business Manager.

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IS IT DOING CHRISTIAN WORK?

The Northwestern Christian Advocate continues its most disreputable and un-Christian course in reference to the "Mormon" Church, which it has persistently misrepresented and abused. In a conversation with its editor, we were led to believe that the purpose of the paper was not to do this, but to deal fairly with our faith and our people. Articles that have appeared in the Advocate since that conversation, afford proof that the assurance we received was rank hypocrisy.

In its issue of August 6 it makes a pretended quotation from remarks said to have been made by Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado. We do not believe that the gentleman is quoted correctly, but regard that which has been imputed to him as the language of some newspaper reporter desirous of feeding the public according to its appetite, and the Christian Advocate has rolled it under its tongue as "a sweet morsel."

In commenting upon Senator Teller's purported remarks it says:

"No one is better informed concerning the political methods of 'Mormonism' than Senator Teller. Nor does any one understand better their breach of faith with the government and people of the United States, after the 'Mormon' Church, through all its heads and officers, publicly, privately, and in every way possible for mortals to do and proclaim, had pledged their faith and honor that never more in the future should polygamy within the 'Mormon' Church be either a doctrine of faith or of practice. On the strength of that pledge given to the government and people of the United States, Utah was admitted as a State."

The Christian Advocate in these lines is simply echoing a cry that has been raised for political purposes. It is copying from the sayings of malignant opponents of the Church and supporters of disreputable and unprincipled political aspirants, who cannot obtain that influence which they have craved to acquire to boost them into place and power. The Advocate refers to a "petition for amnesty" in which it declares "these pledges were made." We are of the opinion that the writer of the article never read that petition for amnesty, and therefore does not know that he misquotes it both in language and intent. Further, he must be very ignorant of the procedure by which a new State is admitted into the Union.

The government makes no compact or agreement with any church or body of ecclesiastics in making terms for statehood. The agreement with the government is made by the people who are to form the State, without regard to creed, color or party. The Organic Act for the admission of Utah into the Union contains the only agreement between the people and the nation of which they are to form an integral part. Let the editor of the Christian Advocate read what that not required of the people of Utah. Then let him read the Constitution which was framed in compliance with that act, and see whether in either instrument there is anything in relation to the subject that gives him so much pain, more than this: "Polygamy or plural marriages shall be forever prohibited."

That editor ought by this time to have learned the legal definition of the term "polygamy." It is not defined by the "Mormon" people, but by the Congress of the United States in the act of March 27, 1890, and is made to consist of the marriage of a man or woman who has already a husband or wife living and undivorced. The act of living with plural wives is not polygamy under the law, either of the United States or of the State of Utah. It is another and different offense, and is not touched upon or referred to in the Organic Act by which Utah was admitted into the Union, or in the Constitution of the State which was accepted by the President of the United States. When he has mastered these simple and plain propositions, the Advocate editor may be better qualified to treat, on the subject about which he has hitherto displayed the utmost ignorance.

The Advocate asserts concerning the Attorney of the "Mormon" Church that "they have broken their solemn word and are defying the government and people of the United States." However, that paper does not offer a solitary sentence of proof that its charge is correct. It is easy to make accusations. That Evil Power spoken of in scripture as the "Accuser of the brethren," will render potent aid to such bearers of false witness as these pretended "Christian advocates," who take delight in repeating the statements of the vilest of creatures under the sun. The Advocate charges further: "The Mormon Church is in politics and its chief purpose in being in politics is to nullify the laws and continue its polygamous teachings and practices." Still not a particle of proof is offered to support this mere repetition of the mouthings of

the enemies of the "Mormon" Church, and which are without the least shadow of truth.

But what is the purpose in view of the Advocate and the individuals from whom it borrows its false charges and business insinuations? It is this: "Reed Smoot should be excluded from the United States Senate." Exactly. That is the gist of the whole matter in the mind's eye of our good "Christian" friends for whom the Advocate repeats its platitudes. Well, who is in "politics" now? What have the churches which the Christian Advocate represents as their "official paper" to do with political parties in Utah and the Republic? Is it the purpose to threaten, unless it bows down to the editor of the Advocate and the churches for which it speaks? The fact is that a number of sectarian denominations in this country are assuming the role of dictators to the Senate of the United States, and at the same time raising the false cry that "the Mormon Church is in politics." We refer them to Paul's epistle to the Romans 11: 2.

The election of Reed Smoot to the Senate of the United States, as the Advocate may learn without a doubt, was conducted on the lines marked out by the political party which selected him for that position, and chosen in a perfectly legitimate manner by the Legislature of the State of Utah, composed of both "Mormons" and "Gentiles." The "Mormon" Church had nothing to do with it, except that some of its members who are Republicans supported him for the position, in their capacity of citizens of the United States, while others who are Democrats opposed him. The Republicans were in the majority. The consequence was inevitable. The Christian Advocate, by joining in the hue-and-cry about that gentleman as fighting a monogamist, a total abstainer, a model husband and father, a citizen without a taint on his character, a representative of his party, and a God-fearing devoted Christian, using that term in its highest sense.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate would do far better to take the line marked out at the recent Methodist Mission conference in this city; and instead of repeating the falsehoods that have been published for the past two or three years against the "Mormon" Church, its leaders and its people, should give us some light on Christian doctrine and principles, and show us wherein the modern religious sects or any of them have anything superior to "Mormonism." Would not that be much better than echoing the silly and malignant stories that are concocted by enemies of religion in all its forms, and engaging in a political crusade which is entirely foreign to the true aims and purposes of the Christian faith?

TRIP OF THE OGDEN CHOR.

We are pleased to know that the trip to Portland to attend the Lewis-Clark exposition, by the Ogden Tabernacle choir, is to be an accomplished fact. There has been a great deal of comment about it, some doubt being entertained as to the raising of necessary funds to pay the expenses of so large a company, and some objections have been made as to the manner of advertising their advent in Portland. However, the choir will go, and it is clearly understood by the managers of the exposition, and it will be so announced, that these singers are from Ogden and not from Salt Lake.

The Ogden Tabernacle choir is fully worthy of its great reputation. Two hundred selected singers will compose the party. Professor Joseph Ballantyne, who has been the leader of the choir for a long time, and who has it thoroughly trained, will be with the company and lead the singing at Portland. Among other musical exercises the Irrigation Ode, the music of which was composed by our great organist, John J. McClellan, the words by Mrs. Colonel McClellan, will be rendered during the trip, and will be a profound impression.

It is very gratifying to know that Utah musical talent occupies such a high position in the musical world. The Tabernacle choir of this city stands pre-eminent in the land. We do not know of any regular standing choir in any of the churches of this country that excels it in numbers, ability and harmony. Its leader, Professor Evan Stephens, has devoted many years in the service of the Church to maintain the excellence of this organization. But "there are others."

The Ogden Tabernacle choir has also achieved fame and is worthy of it. The people at Portland, we are sure, will be charmed with it. We anticipate hearing a good report of its work at the fair. There is the Provo choir, which has made for itself a name in musical circles of which it may well be proud. The Logan choir also stands in the front rank and never fails to please all who listen to it. We mention these simply as samples of scores of other choirs among the Latter-day Saints, which form a regular feature of our Sunday services and are a credit to the communities that receive the benefit of their talents and their labors.

The Latter-day Saints are a musical people. We believe there is no other part of the country containing so large a population that is to be found in our towns and cities, where more excellent music can be heard than is rendered in our public meetings and concert halls and other entertainments. This talent should be cultivated. We may not all appreciate the higher grades of music, vocal and instrumental, that is called classic, but we have among us composers as well as practiced musicians of the highest class, and progress in music is marked and rapid. This ought to be encouraged, and the gratuitous services of so many talented musicians ought to be generally appreciated.

We believe that the visit to Portland of the Ogden Tabernacle choir will not only prove a pleasant outing to its members, who deserve all that can be done for them, but will have an excellent effect and leave a splendid impression upon the throngs who visit the fair, and upon the delegates to the Irrigation congress who are people of

thought and sense and influence, and who will carry back to the different parts of this great country from which they come, glowing accounts of the music they heard from the "Mormon" Ogden choir. We wish the party great success, a pleasant journey and a happy return.

JAPAN IS MODERATE.

The terms of peace as presented by Japan, so far, are very moderate, if precedents are considered. Suppose Russia were now in a position to dictate terms, would M. Witte have hesitated at demanding the incorporation of both Korea and Manchuria in the Russian "sphere of influence," if not in the Russian empire? Certainly not. Nor would he have been too modest to demand a large indemnity, or too unselfish to occupy a Japanese port as a naval base.

In the last war in which Russia was victorious, the czar contemplated almost the blotting out of European Turkey from the map. Alexander asked the bankrupt Sultan to pay an indemnity of over a billion rubles, besides the cession of large portions of Europe and Asia. Other powers intervened and the treaty congress adjusted things differently, but the Russian intentions were to cripple Turkey, financially and otherwise, for all time. In view of that fact, Japan's terms are almost too moderate.

Still, there is wise statesmanship in the moderation. One of the aims of Japan is to gain the confidence and friendship of China. For that reason she must make good her promises to restore Chinese territory to that country, and to exact pledges that her integrity will be respected in the future. Japan in the role of the strong protector of China will gain more commercial and other advantages, than she could obtain as an invader and conqueror.

We hope the Russian representatives will duly appreciate the situation, and accept, as gracefully as possible, the inevitable. The almost universal voice of civilization now is in favor of a cessation of the hostilities, and the establishment of peace upon such conditions that will make a resumption of the war at an early date, out of the question. M. Witte cannot have failed to notice that this is the true ring of public sentiment.

AS TO SANTO DOMINGO.

President Roosevelt, in his speech at Chattanooga the other day, referred to the Monroe doctrine, especially as exemplified in our dealings with Santo Domingo. That little island republic was almost bankrupt, with a heavy indebtedness hanging over it. A foreign nation was about to seize the custom houses, and an appeal was made to this country for aid. Our government did not relish the idea of a European seizing American territory, even temporarily, since the temptation to remain might have been too strong. Consequently, an arrangement was made by which a United States officer became the administrator of the customs service, for the benefit of foreign creditors and the government expenses.

Under this arrangement Santo Domingo is free from the interference of foreign creditors; the government of the republic has plenty of revenue, and the revolutionists are held in check by the very presence of the representative of the United States. The people are enjoying peace and prosperity, because they are able to turn their attention to industrial and other pursuits. This is an illustration of the practical application of the Monroe doctrine. Some of our South American neighbors, influenced by European agitators, have expressed fears of the "designs" of the United States. But the only "design" of the Monroe doctrine is to aid and assist our sister republics against the possible "designs" of foreign powers. It remains for the senate to confirm the treaty made with Santo Domingo, in order that the benefits may become permanent.

Before a man invests he should investigate.

Idle stock market rumors sometimes gain currency.

The fever scruples a man has the more drama he takes.

Japan is demanding all she holds, and clubs seem to be trumps.

Everything seems to have cooled off at Portsmouth including the weather.

First a man gets on, then he gets honor, and sometimes he gets honest.

The insurance shark apparently has supplanted the sea serpent this summer.

They may blame the mosquitoes, but the original cause of yellow fever is man's greed for gold.

We are on the verge of the horseless age, but there are as yet no signs of the coming of a dustless epoch.

Were it not for that black eye it got last week, Sulphur Springs should be a good place for match making.

Now that the vacation season is nearly over, it is well to remark that a fish in the hand is worth two in the creek.

What's in a kiss?—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A clearing house for microbes.

"A saloon looks like hades to me," Senator Tillman is quoted as saying. Now, Senator, there are no hells drinks there.

One has only to go to church to gain confirmation of Mr. Rodine's speech yesterday, to the effect that women are supplanting men.

Perhaps now these New York patrons of the turf will realize that while they were playing the races the wire tappers were working them.

Portland, Ore., going to expend \$600,000 this year in street improvements.

What is Salt Lake going to do? Well, she has the dust, anyhow.

While it is early for politics, yet it may not be amiss to remark that too many men vote as they pray—and they never pray unless it is to ask a personal favor.

The Philadelphia mint closed down today because the stock of silver bullion is entirely exhausted. At least still has enough mines left to keep it supplied, however.

ONE ARGUMENT OF REAL WEIGHT.

Wall Street Journal.

Of course, the only sure way of abolishing "graft" other than the mere multiplication and sale of public offices is for a state of city to own and operate everything within their limits that would otherwise need a franchise. The price would be a heavy one for taxpayers and for those who use the utilities thus provided, but we question whether it would not be less enough to pay for the extinction of legislative "graft." That is the one argument of public ownership and operation of these utilities that has seemed to us to have real weight.

THE REAL REFERENCE.

Boston Herald.

While the czar is the next person to hear from it is possible that the Kolchak of Paris, with whom M. Witte had these repeated conferences during his few days' stop there, may have something to say. They know the latest resources of Russia better, probably, than the czar himself, and it is believed can say thumbs up or thumbs down as to the continuance of the war.

ROOSEVELT ON SANTO DOMINGO.

KANSAS CITY STAR.

One of the clearest statements and most logical arguments ever made by President Roosevelt was the part of his Philadelphia speech of last Friday, which pertained to the adaptation of the Monroe doctrine to new demands. The Santo Domingo case being one in point. It is well that the President addressed the country on this subject at this time for the reason that the treaty with Santo Domingo is now pending and will come before the senate for consideration on the convening of Congress. The President expresses the belief that the only opposition to the treaty will come from, or through the influence of, those creditors of the Dominican government whose claims are unjust, or those revolutionists whose demands have been checked by the intervention of this country in taking over the revenues pending the action of the senate.

IMMIGRATION.

Manchester Union.

The immigration of the last full year was a record-breaker—more than a million of foreigners having landed upon these shores with the view of making this country their permanent home. The indications are that the total of this year will exceed that immense number, that there are among such comers many who will not be able to self-supporting is not doubted, and although the immigration authorities are supposed to be very rigid in the enforcement of the existing law aimed to prevent this land from becoming an asylum for unfortunates, instead of the home of the free.

WISE TO FALL BACK.

Los Angeles Times.

We fully coincide with Gen. Lincolnton in his opinion that after both his flanks had been turned he considered it wise to fall back. Even though there may have been "a full front," it was still proper that he should not attempt to take advantage of that. He took his own position, and the possibility of "a diversion in his rear," and proceeded to sit down on it. All of which we shall find to be the views of those who are now writing the thing up for the magazines.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Lee's Texas Magazine for August has several good features. Among these are: "The Frontier," a character sketch by Tessa Willingham Roddy; "Echoes from the Stage," with portraits of Phoebe Davis and William Lusk; several nice little poems; book reviews and Miscellaneous—No. 5, Malher St., New Dorchester, Boston.

The following is the interesting list of contents of Out West for August: "On Location," poem, by Leroy Hennessy; "When the Gates Were Littered on the Truckee," illustrated, by William E. Smythe; "The Colorado," poem, by Theresa Russell; "Satan's Jew," illustrated, by F. W. Fletcher; "The Pinacles of San Benito County," illustrated, by Schuyler C. Hahn; "A Transplanted Battle," story, by R. W. Hofflund; "Santa Teresa of the Snow," story, by Shariot M. Hall; "The First California Newspaper," illustrated, by Shariot M. Hall; "The Bear Flag Party," an eye witness, illustrated, "Mrs. Bumper's Investment," story, by Courtney De Kalb; "The Attitude of South America," toward the United States, by J. J. Kennerly; "In the Luna Den," by the Editor; "The Seafarer's League, To Make Better Indians," "The Landmark Club," "The Southwest Society, Archaeological Institute of America," and "Liberaries in the United States"—Los Angeles, Cal.

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