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THE CHURCH AND POLITICS.

The Monitor, a Catholic paper published in San Francisco, a short time ago took up, editorially, the foolish but hackneyed cry against the union of Church and State, which alternates between the "Mormon" Church and the Catholic Church, as the agitators see fit to make the change. The Monitor said:

This coalescence, as far as the Catholic religion is concerned, can never become dangerous to the separation of civil and spiritual authority. While both have a common origin—in God, and while the ends and aims of them are to a large extent identical—the good of the people, yet they can pursue their different ways, and though they must necessarily touch at points, they can always remain separate. The trouble is so much has been said and written by demagogic secularists about the alleged colossal infamy of union of Church and State, that those who do not approach to even a faint knowledge of the matter get affected as if by the fear of ghosts.

The idea that in the United States, with a Constitution that forbids the enactment of laws for the establishment or suppression of any religious system, there can be any danger of the union which some excited people seem so much afraid of, is one of the absurdities that make us doubtful of the sanity of the agitators that cause the uproar, and of their followers who join in the turmoil.

We do not perceive any indications among Catholics for the domination of their Church in State affairs, and we know there is no such movement or disposition in the "Mormon" Church. Just now it is the latter that is held up as a bugaboo to terrorize the timid. But it is a striking fact that the ministers of different denominations who are engaged in the work of deceiving the public about this Church and its purposes, are active themselves in a concerted and vigorous endeavor to control the Congress of the United States, or dictate to that body its course of procedure in an important political matter.

They are banded together, dropping for the time their sectarian disputes and theological quarrels, to bring a pressure upon the national legislature, to cause that body to violate all precedents, to trample alike on the rules of the House of Representatives, the claims of justice, and the right of accused persons to be heard before being condemned, and shut out from the seat to which he has been legally elected, a member of that body, solely because they desire his exclusion!

Is this Church domination in the affairs of State? If not, what is it? The preachers of the different sects have worked upon the sentiments of the Congressmen from their districts, they have enlisted the services of Congressmen's wives, they have hired leading lawyers and astute parliamentarians, and the grand object is to induce Congress to act on their say-so, and deny the man against whom their pious wrath is kindled, a chance to state his side of the question which they have raised.

That is the chivalrous, high-minded and eminently fair purpose of the "Christian" ladies and gentlemen of the anti-"Mormon" crusade! That is what is aimed at by the paper in this city that voices the wishes of the preachers, and which has thrown so much dust in the public eyes on this question. A Washington dispatch to the New York World says:

"It is said tonight that some of the Republicans who oppose his being seated have suggested that the Speaker refuse to administer the oath to him when his name is called. If the Speaker follows the usual course he will swear in Mr. Roberts and let his case be passed upon by the House later."

Certainly. Anything to close the member's mouth. Shut him out! Don't allow him to defend himself or his right to be heard in the House! Never mind rules, precedents, common justice or parliamentary decency. The sectarian clergy who are afraid of a "Mormon" union of Church and State, demand the member's exclusion without a hearing, and they threaten Congressmen with what will happen if they refuse to be dictated by religious sentiment.

The Boston Transcript reviewing the case says:

"Mormonism rather than Roberts will really be on trial."

Of course. But what will that amount to? Will it not be an attempt to exercise the functions of the Congress to act on a matter of religion? And will it not also be a case of the dictation of the legislative power by religious influence? However, we can scarcely believe that such manifestly unfair and improper methods as those urged by the religious ministers and associations, will be adopted by the law-making body of the nation.

The power to expel is another thing entirely. That involves an investigation and the presentation of both sides of the question. But if the purpose of the preachers is accomplished, it will be the most sordid instance of the domination of religion in politics that has been seen in the history of this Republic. And it will be the precursor of troubles greater than have yet been anticipated. Let the Churches attend to their own concerns. When they meddle with the affairs of State they will muddy them as sure as fate.

GET THE REWARD!

It was to be expected that the Ogden Standard, a non-"Mormon" paper which has expressed the most liberal and consistent views on the situation in Utah, should be misrepresented by those who are engaged in the new crusade. Because it has expressed the opinion that, while polygamous marriages must not be performed in this State, the old relations existing previous to establishment should be permitted to remain undisturbed, it has been accused of endorsing polygamy. To that charge the editor thus responds:

"The present editor has not endorsed polygamy and does not believe in polygamy, and the Standard proposes to do all in its power to prevent polygamy or plural marriages. There is now no excuse for a Mormon or any other person to go into polygamy. The laws of the United States, the State of Utah, and of the Mormon Church prohibit plural marriages and it must not be practiced in the future. There is much talk about plural marriages going on by consent of the Church. Some time ago the Standard offered a reward of \$100 for the proof of one such plural marriage performed since statehood. That reward is still unclaimed. We believe the Mormon people are true to the manifesto and we are willing to give \$100 to learn that the Standard is deceived on this question. Do not be backward about claiming this \$100. The Standard will swear out the warrant for the arrest of any parties that entered plural marriage since statehood."

This brings to mind the offer, now renewed, which that paper made at the time when the assertion was continually repeated by the paper in this city that has caused so much strife, that Utah was "filling up with plural wives who were not wives when statehood was acquired." The Standard's offer affords a good opportunity for such persons as pretend to know so much on this subject to gain their reward. But they will have to furnish proof instead of gossip, and to make a case beyond question, in the place of repeating some scandalous story or indulging in flights of the imagination.

The Ogden Standard makes the following extract from the Bingham Bulletin, also a non-"Mormon" paper, published in Salt Lake county:

"There are Gentiles in Utah who do not want to be seated, but not for the reason that they do not endorse his course as a polygamist, but are disgusted with the intensity of the fight that has been made against him by sentimentalists who do not understand the polygamy question as it is understood by its Utah opponents. 'Mormons' who are making a struggle to support their old families are entitled to some credit, even though there is occasional evidence that they do not strictly obey the law. Their crimes should not be condoned, but are not a whit worse than social lapses of the very people who have been lying awake nights hatching plans to prevent Utah from being represented in the lower House. The following committee in the New York Sun is sensible and to a degree fits the case: 'There is beyond question a vast amount of humbug and hypocrisy in the opposition to seating Roberts. If all the Protestants who are living in concubinage or who have availed themselves of our free-and-easy divorce laws to get a 'new partner' were to be ruled out of public life or forbidden to pose as censors of morality, there would be a perceptible shrinkage in the movement.'"

Commenting on the foregoing from the Bulletin, the Standard has this to say editorially, and we believe its remarks will receive endorsement from a vast number of non-"Mormons" in different parts of this State:

"The Standard congratulates the Bingham Bulletin for its fair and free expression on the 'Mormon' question. The Bulletin, like the Standard, does not believe in polygamy and wants it stamped out, but, like the Standard, the Bulletin believes the 'Mormon' people have done nobly in living up to the manifesto so well. It even thinks in support of the old polygamous families by the husbands is a credit to them. Right you are. Are there any other Gentile papers in Utah who want to put down future polygamous marriages at the same time be fair and human toward the old plural families?"

THANKSGIVING AND SPORT.

Football seems to have been one of the chief features of Thanksgiving in nearly all parts of the country. The logical connection between the two is beyond the comprehension of the ordinary mind. The association of ideas seems wholly incongruous.

The day is by solemn proclamation set apart for meditation upon the bountiful mercies of Providence, and for social enjoyment in harmony with such meditation. Religious exercises and gatherings in family circles were the old-fashioned way of keeping that day. These were appropriate and expressive of the spirit in which this American holiday was instituted. Sport is the opposite of this spirit. It is about to invade not only special holidays but Sunday too. And if the tendency is to be encouraged, it would be just as well to change the names of these days. To set apart a day for giving thanks to the Almighty, and offer Him the spectacle of a rough and tumble game as the chief element of gratitude looks too much like adding hypocrisy to insincerity. Why should the President of the United States, under the name of Thanksgiving's proclamation, continue to set apart a day for football?

The "Christian" denominations that largely control colleges and higher institutes of learning in this country ought to be able to exercise an influence for good in this direction upon the students.

FIRST CATCH HIM.

The officials who are said to be discussing what to do with Aguinaldo will have plenty of time to sit that matter thoroughly, inasmuch as it cannot become a burning question until the Filipino chief has been caught. When that much-to-be-desired event transpires, it will, no doubt, be remembered to his credit that he was instrumental in saving the lives of the American prisoners when they were about to be publicly murdered by the order of General Luna. The present situation seems to be that Aguinaldo's northern army has scattered for the purpose of operating in small bands of banditti. The task of crushing this kind of opposition will most probably be long and tedious, as well as expensive, but it can be no more so than the work was of establishing peace and order in the western region of the United States once made unsafe by the roaming bands of Indians. In the meanwhile Aguinaldo is on the

run. His whereabouts seem to be unknown, and only conjectures are offered on that point. It would not be surprising, though, to learn that while the country north of Manila is being scoured for him, he is on his way, under some disguise or other, to the south, and that he has joined the division of the rebel army in those parts, which seems to have maintained an organization. The predictions that tranquility will be established before the end of this year seem hardly justified by the present conditions, particularly as long as the rebel leader is at large. Whatever he may lack in personal courage and strategic skill, he makes up for in genius for discovering avenues of escape.

END OF THE MAHDISTS.

The events in South Africa have almost totally eclipsed the campaign in the Sudan, and yet within the last few days the British forces operating there have fought battles that are believed to have ever crushed the power of the followers of the so-called Mahdi, and opened to influences of civilization a vast region of Africa.

The pacification of the Sudan will be of immense importance to Egypt. It will restore the commercial relations between the upper and lower regions of the Nile, which have been interrupted, or carried on with difficulty. It will facilitate the further development of the country over which the Khedive is the nominal ruler.

The Mahdi movement commenced about twenty years ago when a fanatic claimed to be the "true" successor of Mohammed, called to reform the Mohammedan world and to found a universal empire in the name of the Arabian prophet. He succeeded in gathering around him numerous followers, and among others the despotic Khalfia Abdullahi, who now is said to have found his death on the field of battle.

This fanatical demagogue was an interesting character. From one of the humblest positions in life he succeeded in obtaining such influence that at the death of the Mahdi he was made his successor. That he was earnest in the delusion that the world was to be conquered by him, may be inferred from the fact that he wrote letters to the Khedive, the King of Abyssinia, the Sultan of Turkey, and even to Queen Victoria, calling upon them to acknowledge his mission, to avoid destruction by his invincible armies. Not meeting with success in this way, he commenced the invasion of Abyssinia and lower Egypt, and for a short time, his followers were emboldened by some success. But in 1898 the force operating in Egypt was destroyed and the faith of his followers commenced to waver. In 1899 General Kitchener with an Anglo-Egyptian army undertook to put down the outbreak of fanaticism, and to open the country to the world. The work is done; the Mahdist empire is no more, and in a few years the strongholds of the deluded dervishes will be on the highroads of the world's commerce and tourist travel.

The only one of the leaders that escaped the massacre of the last battles on the banks of the Nile was Osman Digna, but he is now a fugitive and without friends. It is not supposed, even if he escapes capture, that he will be able to gather around him any followers for a cause all must, by this time, acknowledge to be lost forever.

A NEW PARTY.

Is there room for a new party in our national politics? Is a question again raised by Winslow Warren in a letter to the Springfield Republican. The Boston Herald thinks there is, on account of the expansion policy now entered upon, and points out that the Republican party grew out of the annexation of Texas, although that question soon ceased to be the paramount issue. The Herald, however, recognizes that a party cannot live and thrive on opposition to anything that has been done. There may be indignation, but that alone does not form a permanent basis for party activity. There must be some living issue to work for.

Such a living issue the Boston paper finds in the general condition of politics. It points out that there is an alarming increase in the boss control of the political affairs of the country, and that this is seen in both the Republican and the Democratic parties, and then says:

"If it goes on much farther, we are by no means sure that a new party will not be called for to put it down. It appears to be useless to expect this service from either of the old parties. If affairs go on in this way, it will leave to our country only the form of government by the people in the land, and it has such possessions of both the old parties as may well require a new party to put it down."

The Portland Oregonian, a Republican paper, discusses the question from an almost similar point of view, closing its article by asking:

"How long shall the high places of public service belong to low cunning and brazen effrontery? In the bright lexicon of politics, is there no room for such words as character and intelligence?"

It is always interesting to notice the trend of thought, whether political or religious. The winged word is sometimes the harbinger of important historical events.

DISPOSED TO BE FAIR.

The Worcester Spy makes a note of the fact that public discussion of the Roberts controversy has assumed a more temperate tone, than at first, by the respectable class of the press. In its issue of November 25th, the Spy makes these remarks:

"Action relative to the unseating of Congressman Roberts will undoubtedly receive first attention and the result is being awaited with the most intense interest by all classes of people throughout the country. More recently, however, the bitter opposition which was openly expressed relative to allowing Congressman Roberts to assume his seat in Congress has been tempered to some extent, as a result, no doubt, of a more calm investigation of the facts relating to his election. There seems to be a tendency to a more temperate discussion of the subject and a greater willingness than has heretofore been manifest to look at the subject from both sides. It really begins to look as if Roberts' election was not entirely due to Mormon influence, but rather was the indirect result of Democratic influence. It appears that he was nominat-

ed by the Democratic party in the State convention of 1898, and that every county and was chosen on the first ballot. At the election many thousands of Mormons voted against him by supporting the Republican party, among whom it is said were many very prominent Church leaders. More recently Susan B. Anthony, who has been prominent in religious work in this country for many years, is quoted as having said at a convention in New York State that she hoped nothing would be attempted at the coming session which would be unconstitutional. It is rather a question of morals than of politics with which Congress will have to deal."

IRON AND STEEL.

The American Iron and Steel association proves by figures that the United States in 1898 was ahead of every other country in the production of iron ore, pig iron and steel, and second in the production of coal, Great Britain being ahead of us in this line.

The figures are as follows:

"Of iron ore in 1898 the United States produced 12,778,569 tons, of coal 126,405,234 tons, of steel 8,922,827 tons. Great Britain produced 14,176,938 tons of iron ore, 202,054,516 tons of coal, 8,609,719 tons of pig and 4,665,398 tons of steel. Germany produced 15,893,246 tons of iron ore, 120,525,490 tons of coal, 7,239,885 tons of pig and 5,778,570 tons of steel. France, Austria-Hungary and Russia follow at a considerable interval."

The importance of this will be found in the part these articles are playing in the modern struggle for supremacy among the nations. Armies and navies are needed, as the world now is constituted, by the power that seeks to be heard in the councils of nations, but unless there are material interests behind the armed forces, these would after all be but a shadow. They could not be maintained, and even if they could, they would have no mission to perform. The country that leads in industrial pursuits is the true leader in the human family.

The bombardments in South Africa seem to be mostly noise, but not so the field fighting.

The Filipino leaders in this country appear to be inconsolable over the triumph of American arms.

If the charge of polygamy be true, there will be a heavy vote against Congressman Roberts, says the New York Herald. But there is the "if."

If the kindness of Thanksgiving dinners to the needy could only be prolonged till the Christmas goodwill took up the charity and gave it another impulse toward the close of the winter season!

Scarlet fever is the most fatal to life of any of the infectious diseases in this country, and from the forecast of a New York medical authority it is likely to sustain its record fully in the year nearing a close.

The Filipino rebels want to give up. They haven't much to give now, but what there is will be accepted, if they come along in good faith, and join in a course to bring peace, prosperity and liberty to the islands.

The news of Aguinaldo's action in the Gilmore case will come in opportunely if the insurgent chief should be captured. His action in saving American prisoners from the murderous order of Gen. Luna will bring him deserved credit.

The executive committee of the United Mine workers of America says it will defy the orders of the federal court in Kansas. If some sanctimonious preacher had accused members of the labor union of such defiance, a plea for disfranchisement of the miners would have been in order from the same sectarian source.

Plague in coffee is what New York is afraid of now, and it is probable the cargo of coffee on the plague-ship J. W. Taylor will be destroyed, unless it is smuggled into the country against the quarantine arrangements. It is better that the coffee in question should be burned than that the nation should get the bubonic plague which was on the ship.

London dispatches report another miscalculation of military authorities. In that Lord Methuen's column is now said to have met more determined opposition than was expected, and is too weak for the task imposed. From present indications it would seem that by the time the British flag waves over Pretoria the list of casualties will be attended by a fair-sized list of miscalculations.

Before giving written assurances of an open-door policy in China, the European powers, it is said, intend to insist on an open-door policy in the Philippines. Since China is not a European possession and the Philippines are American territory, the situation of the two is not parallel. But if the European powers repudiate their verbal agreements with this government the moment they are to be given force, the foundation of the good understanding of which they boast will be found rather shaky. Breaking of verbal contracts does not inspire international confidence.

MACRUM AND KRUGER.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Recently a sum of money was forwarded for the relief of the British prisoners of war in Pretoria and Consul Macrum was requested to distribute it. To the surprise of both British and American governments President Kruger objected to the American consul taking British money under his charge and refused absolutely to permit his use of the funds for the relief of the prisoners of war. Why the Boer president should have taken this unusual course was not explained, but there is a suspicion that he did so as an intimation that he regards the United States and Great Britain as altogether too friendly, and that, in fact, they are practically allies.

Los Angeles Express.

The United States government has very properly insisted that the Transvaal government should permit our consul, Mr. Macrum, to carry out his execution of the trust of looking after the interests of British subjects in South Africa. The usages of all civilized countries sanction the performance of this duty by a neutral representative, and as heretofore stated by the Express, the refusal of the Boer government to allow it is very small business. Our government is eminently correct in its position.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The action of President Kruger in refusing to recognize the United States

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consul at Pretoria as the agent of Great Britain in the Transvaal capital, after our government had formally authorized the acceptance of such agency, is extremely unwise. The reason given, of alleged undue friendliness on the part of the United States toward Great Britain, could not justify Kruger's attitude, even if true. Whatever may be the feelings of our people, the proclaimed and actual attitude of our government is one of strict neutrality; hence his act taken in the nature of an insult, denying our nation's good faith.

Kansas City Star.

It is not likely that the instructions to the United States consul at Pretoria, Mr. Macrum, contain anything that, on transmission to President Kruger, could be considered threatening or offensive by that official. Mr. Macrum has had laid upon him new and responsible duties. In the absence of any representative of the British government at Pretoria he assumes, to a certain extent, the duties of such a representative, much in the same way that the French minister at Washington took the place of the Spanish minister during that functionary's absence at the time of our war with Spain, and eventually became the agent through whom the first suggestions of peace were received.

Springfield Republican.

President Kruger's refusal to permit United States Consul Macrum to send any more information to the British government concerning the British prisoners at Pretoria seems to make a stir at Washington; it may be asked, however, why any American should be surprised. After Ambassador Choate's recent "iron-clad friendship" speech, what could President Kruger think of the situation? It is notorious that the United States government is in sympathy with Great Britain.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Nothing could be more absurd than the attempt of Democratic papers to make it appear that the administration "sympathizes with Great Britain" because it has insisted on the proper treatment of our consuls at Pretoria. At the outbreak of the Boer war we were asked to look after British interests in the Transvaal capital in the same way that England had looked after ours in Cuban towns during the Spanish war. The request was granted as a matter of course, and it would have been granted under similar circumstances to any foreign power in England's situation.

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