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OUR LADY LEGISLATOR.

The Atlanta, Georgia, Constitution of recent date has an editorial entitled, "Decline of the New Woman." It is really a totally undeserved attack on Hon. Mary G. Coulter, Representative in the Utah Legislature from Weber county. As usual in newspaper comments on affairs in this State, it is based on error and therefore ends in absurdity. The Constitution has no doubt taken for truth one of those Salt Lake special dispatches, which the press of the country will some day learn are usually unreliable and sometimes infamously deceptive.

The fault found with Mrs. Coulter is that she voted for Reed Smoot as United States Senator from Utah, after standing "aggressively on an anti-Mormon platform." It is alleged that she "was the head and front of the anti-Smoot movement within the Republican ranks;" that "as President of the Utah Federation of Women's Clubs, she was instrumental in having that body adopt a hostile array of resolutions, viewing with alarm the candidacy of Apostle Smoot for the United States Senatorship, and declaring the pious Mormon to be a menace to virtuous motherhood and his selection a disgrace to the State;" that "Mrs. Coulter raged on the stump and defied the hosts of Brigham Young, and declared that, if elected, no Mormon should ever receive her vote to a seat in the United States Senate," etc., etc.

People who are informed as to the facts will bestow a very broad smile upon the silliness exhibited by the Atlanta Constitution, and the facility with which it has been imposed upon. All the talk about Mrs. Coulter's defiance, raging on the stump, declaration against the election of a "Mormon" and the rest of it, is sheer fabrication. There is nothing to it but falsehood. Without the votes of Republican "Mormons" Mrs. Coulter could not have been elected herself. The chief reason why she voted with her party colleagues was, as she stated, because the convention at which she was nominated with other candidates was strongly in favor of Mr. Smoot for United States Senator. She was supported at the polls with that understanding. She cast her ballot in conformity with the wishes of her constituents, and in doing so considered she was discharging her duty.

The Federation of Women's Clubs is not engaged in politics. It is not a political organization. The resolutions which it is alleged Mrs. Coulter was instrumental in having adopted by that body are myths, and have no more substance in truth than the rest of the story told to and repeated by the Constitution. The "crusade" backed by the Gentile clergy, that paper speaks of, was not led by or participated in by Mrs. Coulter, and the whole story is devoid of truth, except that Mrs. Coulter is a "Gentile," was elected fairly to the Legislature, and voted with her associate Republicans for Reed Smoot, the party nominee.

Now as to the statement that "the pious Mormon is a menace to virtuous motherhood," &c., Mrs. Coulter did not make it. It had been true if she had uttered it. If the Constitution will read the protests of the citizens and preachers who are opposed to Mr. Smoot's senatorship, it will find that his personal character is placed above reproach; there is no fault with his life, his home, his family relations, his business integrity, his influence in society. The only objection urged against him is that he is an Apostle. It is not even that he is a "Mormon."

If the Constitution will inquire further it will find that "Mormonism" inculcates "virtuous motherhood" and the purity of the home, in a more forcible and practical manner than does any creed in the world. The trouble with that paper and many others is that they seize upon any stupid story that may be told about the "Mormons," accept it as a fact, and comment upon it as though it was beyond dispute, and so display their own ignorance and exhibit their own folly. The only cure for it is the spread of information and a willingness to receive it. But until a great change comes over the press of the country, just such stuff as that we have commented upon will pass current among the newspapers. Anyhow, Mrs. Coulter is all right so far as she was concerned in the senatorial election, and is a bright and consistent non-"Mormon" member of the Utah Legislature.

ON RACE SUICIDE.

President Roosevelt's views on "race suicide," as given in a recent letter to Mrs. Van Vorst, are causing much discussion. The President asserted that the American people are shirking the responsibilities of marriage and parenthood. Some deny this statement; others lay the blame on economic conditions. Among the latter is a Chicago doctor—a lady—who, in the New York World, is quoted as follows:

"The young man today is simply

afraid that he will not be able to carry the burden. It is the awful dread of not being able to properly support a wife and family that makes him hesitate taking the final step. That is the underlying cause of the whole condition. These young people are not shirking marriage. It is ridiculous for people living in luxury to take this view of the matter. They should study the underlying causes."

Miss Susan B. Anthony, very naturally, sees no special cause of alarm in a shortage of the country's "best crop." She is quoted to the effect that two children in a family are "quite enough."

"If every American family," she says, "had but two children, there would be no shortage in the world. However, that is a problem that will have to work itself out; it cannot be regulated."

Archbishop Farley takes occasion to point out the attitude of the Catholic church, on the question touched upon by the President. To a press representative he says in part:

"While the church sanctions celibacy in priests and nuns, it is an act of self-sacrifice and to enable them to devote their whole time, their whole lives to the work of the church, but when a Catholic marries—and they are all encouraged to do so—he or she takes upon himself or herself all the responsibilities and all the obligations of that state and must not shirk them or depart in any way from the regular course of nature in their lives."

"That is no doubt a correct statement of the attitude of the Catholic church, speaking theoretically. And it is to the honor of that denomination that it surrounds the marriage state with a sanctity generally unknown in Protestant churches. But all that is theory. How is it in practice? Especially among the so-called 'better class'?"

One doctor quotes the last census in order to show the present tendency in this country. He says:

"Here are figures from the last census which indicate whether we are drifting. The total number of single persons in the United States is 48,913,965, while the married number is 27,776,101. The former represent 56 per cent of the population, and the latter 35 per cent, leaving 55 per cent widowed, divorced and unknown. It appears there is a considerably larger proportion of unmarried among the males than females—60.5 per cent for the former as against 55.1 for the latter."

BOERS FOR TEXAS.

According to the Topeka Daily Herald, arrangements have been made for colonizing 200,000 acres of Texas land with Boer immigrants. There is a sufficient area to provide homes for 10,000 persons. As soon as more land is needed it will be secured and the size of the colony will be increased until as many as 50,000 Boers have found homes in Texas.

Rumors of a similar purpose have been denied, but possibly they have some solid foundation. A number of Boers, undoubtedly, will remain in the land of their birth, but others will prefer a new country, where they can enjoy the fullest measure of liberty. Texas is to be congratulated, if the report is true. That state will then receive an addition to its population, of which it may be proud, for many reasons. From no place in the world could a better class of immigrants be secured than from South Africa and in no part of the United States would a colony of these Southern Dutch be more likely to prosper than in Texas. And there is room enough in that state for all the disaffected Boers, and then some to spare for the Finlanders who are seeking a refuge from the hand of oppression, although the latter, as a rule, prefer more northern latitudes.

EXCITED ABOUT IDOLS.

American idols for export! American competition has so far desisted from entering the field in which Demetrius of Ephesus once acquired fame. But will it always be so? Or will American-made idols become an item of export, with the American hog and the American leather?

The story goes that a representative of a firm in the capital of Korea has just arrived in this country, for the purpose of buying up American statues, which may be sold cheap to the Koreans. It is said that an American firm some years ago sent a few images as gifts to one of the Korean sacred orders. These sample idols have been thoroughly tried by the Korean idol-worshippers, and the results have been so satisfactory that there is a widespread demand now for American-made idols. The old hand-made idols are being replaced as rapidly as possible by those coming from American factories.

Missionaries and others are very indignant over the announced contract with a Philadelphia firm to ship Buddhist images to Korea. A returned missionary from China is appalled at the idea, and others denounce the traffic as an outrage upon religion and decency. And so it is. But what about the shipment of intoxicants to pagan countries, and the introduction of "Christian" vice, by which natives in many lands are decimated? What about the landing of soldiers, the destruction of property, the massacre of women and children, and other scenes witnessed not many years ago in China, under the folds of "Christian" flags? The missionaries should not be oversensitive. The manufacture and shipment of idols to pagan lands is an out-

rage, but not half as mischievous as the flood of vice that sometimes follows in the wake of the missionaries themselves.

INDIAN RELICS.

The San Francisco Chronicle contains an account of the excavation of a mound containing a number of old Indian relics. The mound was situated on the bay shore, half a mile above Point Richmond. It was but little known owing to its hidden location.

The explorers found part of several Indian skeletons, many crude ornaments of abalone and clam shell, a dish full of small wampum beads, bone awls, bone needles, stone mortars for grinding corn, stone pestles, a saw made of bone, bone tubes, a horn chisel, several flint knives, two small paint mortars, 25 charm stones, several flint arrowpoints, a small quantity of red powdered paint held in clam-shell receptacles, and other relics.

It also yielded to the relic hunters several stone smoking pipes, which Curator Wilcomb pronounced exceedingly rare for that district; a labret, or lip stone, shaped like a large collar-button and worn inserted in a button-hole slit cut through the lower lip, and a quantity of black-looking, carbonized string of some native fiber. The lip stone is also said to be very rare for this part of the country.

Dr. Hudson, who is traveling for the Field Memorial museum of Chicago, has inspected the find. He does not venture an opinion as to the age of the mound and its contents, but he does not think that it is older than 200 years.

The thermometer may be down, but the lake is making a raise.

The cry for justice is often nothing more than a cry for revenge in disguise.

United States courts can restrain the beef trust but they can't reduce the price of beef.

Cole Younger is going on the road with a show. Will his advance agents be road agents?

Closure in the Senate would mean tyranny in the Senate as it has always been tyranny elsewhere.

In Delaware they seem to be opposed to the election of senators by the legislature as well as by popular vote.

It now appears that the news of Uribe-Uribe's death, like that of Mark Twain, was "greatly exaggerated."

If President Eliot does not think that people work hard enough, he should consult "The Man With the Hoe."

The financiers of the Legislature propose to place a tax upon dogs. That's right. Try all financial experiments on the dog first.

Chief Paul has resigned. His path has not been a path of roses by any means although there were plenty of thorns in it.

Judge Shiras has always been somewhat eccentric and now he has capped the climax by resigning as a member of the United States supreme court.

It is a good thing that during the snow blockade the railroads have not had to wait on the allied powers to raise the blockade. Big bodies move so slowly!

A new high price theatrical circuit is to be established. It would be an error to suppose that this means that only high class plays are to be produced.

Really Spain should be grateful to that Clyde shipbuilding company against which she has just obtained a judgment for not delivering torpedo-boat destroyers in time for the Spanish-American war, for had she had them in time Schley would have got them sure.

It is intimated by British naval authorities that England will not respect any blockade declared by Castro, and will order her war vessels to fire on ship or shore on any interference with British ships engaged in trade with Venezuela. Has it got to the pass where Venezuela, like China, has no rights that a white man is bound to respect?

In the appointment of a new chief of police the Mayor and City Council have a chance to act as high-minded, patriotic citizens seeking to serve the best interests of the people or to act as little men, indulging spite and petty malice, working for their own ends and ignoring the claims of the public. Which chance will they take? Let us hope it will be the former by all means.

It is quite possible that Russia does not desire a war at this time about the Balkan situation. But if it does come, she is better prepared to stand up for her own terms than she has ever been. Russia has forced her way forward, both in Asia and Europe, in the face of European opposition. Before long, if not now, she is in a position to defy all her rivals, and some time she will be able to throw thousands of soldiers across the Siberian frontier, and send the warlike tribes of Turkistan, Afghanistan and Tibet upon the plains of Persia and India. The Slavs are clearly destined to become an Old World power. And if a war with Turkey at this time can aid Russia in the furtherance of this ambition, she will accept the condition.

The demand for a big navy goes on. The country is told how defenseless it is without one. Folly and nonsense! During the Spanish-American war, the American navy, for its size as good as the world ever saw, bombarded San Juan de Porto Rico and did not inflict damage to a tenth of the cost of the ammunition used. It did not dare go too near Havana or Santiago de Cuba. Now what the American navy did not dare do in Cuba will any navy in the world dare do in the United States? The modern battleship is practically powerless before the modern fort. A great navy would not make the United States greater than it is.

THE RACE PROBLEM.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Every thoughtful man in this country appreciates the serious nature of the negro problem, but there is no help to the solution in such utterances as those of John S. Wise. When he predicts an uprising of the blacks in the near future, the murder of white men and women, the slaughter in retaliation, he invokes as far as he can the danger which he prophesies. When he says, "either obey the constitution or submit to a reduction of congressional representation" he attempts to dispose of a highly complex question in a much too summary manner.

New York Mail and Express.

If the color question determined the unfavorable vote of the majority of the senate committee on commerce on the nomination of Dr. Crum as collector of customs at Charleston, it was flatly wrong. If, on the other hand, the minority of the committee, which was composed wholly of Republicans, voted for Crum merely because he was a colored man, the minority was wrong. The color question ought not to have cut any figure at all in the matter.

New York Evening Post.

Negro suffrage a failure? So, with as much evidence, is Irish suffrage in this country a failure, or German, or Polish, or Italian suffrage. But does any one propose to take the freeman's weapon—the ballot—from the men who have come to us from foreign lands? Municipal suffrage as a whole might be said to be a failure in this country. But for this we are going to disfranchise cities? That is not the democratic way. That is not the patriotic, the Christian, the truly enlightened way. If any class of the electorate is ignorant, it is our business to see that it is educated. If it is a prey to designing politicians, we must not throw up our hands, confess that trickery is too much for honesty, and call for the disfranchisement of voters.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the March number of Harper's Magazine Edwin A. Abbey's painting of "Richard II." made especially for this publication, is reproduced in colors as the frontispiece. The novelists are represented in the table of contents, among them Elmore Elliott Penke, who contributes a short story entitled "After the Wedding." In the same number Robert W. Chambers is represented by "The Unexpected," a sketch of curious incidents in nature study. Ruth McEnery Stuart has a quaint southern story, "Mildred," and Alice MacGowan writes "The Fading Down of Polk, Dillard." In a posthumous article by Julian Ralph on "Our Tyrol and its Types," the author describes the Green mountains in region and some of its original types of inhabitants. Norman Duncan writes about the little Syrian city of 5,000 population which occupies some space in New York City—Harper & Bros., New York.

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