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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 4, 1901.

WHO CAN BLOCK THE WAY?

The assaults made upon the faith of the Latter-day Saints by the Presbytery of Utah, when giving instructions to the teachers imported here for the purpose of perverting "Mormon" children, and the defence offered by the Deseret News, have aroused uncommon interest in the various subjects treated upon. This has been very beneficial to the "Mormon" Church, for it has attracted the attention of people not of our faith, who have thereby obtained light, and stirred up many of the Saints who were a little careless into renewed activity and diligence, increasing their confidence in their religion, and confirming them in the knowledge of the truth. It has also furnished us with several topics for editorial discussion.

During the session held in this city, Dr. Wishard, among other remarks and admissions, made this announcement:

"What I am trying to do is to block the way for this assumed necessity for more revelation. After reading what we have, do you want any more revelation about building Joe a boarding house, and telling Brother Jones and Brother Williams how much they shall subscribe?"

Dr. Wishard's candor is as charming as his elegant style, and his courteous manner of treatment toward one of the greatest celebrities of the nineteenth century. The Prophet Joseph Smith, under divine direction, established a system of religion that has accomplished marvels; not only in its work of proselytism and the devotion it has inspired in its converts, but in the building up of great cities, the formation of a splendid State, the redemption of the conditions of many thousands of people gathered from distant nations, and the bringing to the unity of the faith of a multitude, once divided into contending fragments of discordant sects. Dr. Wishard may be too dense to perceive the facts patent to all intelligent and honest investigators, and for his mental blindness he may be excused; but his slur about "Joe," proclaim that his rank as a minister is among the vituperative and the vulgar.

So the object of his "Christian" ambition is "to block the way" of those earnest disciples of the Master who see the necessity for more revelation, and who try to influence mankind to seek for it! A right worthy purpose in one pretending to be called of God to preach Christ's gospel, is it not? "Mormonism" teaches the necessity of more revelation than is contained in the Bible. The Presbyterian creed avows that the good Book contains everything essential as a guide for mankind to salvation.

Now which is the more rational and scriptural of the two opposing beliefs? All the so-called Christian sects claim to found their farring creeds on the Bible. The Presbyterian dogma of the predestination of the elect to everlasting happiness, irrespective of anything they do or leave undone, and the foreordination of the rest to endless woe and eternal and ceaseless torment, professes to take his diabolical notions from the Bible. So does the Methodist who proclaims that "every soul is free to choose his life and what he'll be;" that salvation depends, not on the selection of a few favored souls before they were born, but upon the free will of every creature to accept Christ as his Savior. The Catholic teaches the Bible, as interpreted by ordained and learned priests, instructors, for his guide. So does the Protestant who construes the Bible for himself, and belongs to any one of the jangling contending religions that make up the discordant and disintegrating mass of crumbling Christendom.

If the Bible is all-sufficient, why this division and misunderstanding? Where is the authority that decides which part of the volume is the word of God and which is mere history and the statements of men? How can the Bible confer authority to administer any ordinance of the Gospel, so that it will be recognized of God? Does the commission given by the Savior to His eleven Apostles many hundreds of years ago, belong to any one of the modern ministers who assume to act in His holy name, to whom He has never spoken and who do not believe in or want present revelation? Does the Bible settle any of the vital questions that have agitated the religious world for centuries? Does the Bible bring its avowed believers to "the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God?"

Does not the Bible, from beginning to end, show that it is living, immediate revelation that is and always has been the road guide to spiritual knowledge and the way of everlasting life? Is it not an encouragement and an incentive to mortals to strive for communion with Him who is immortal and eternal? The Spirit of God as the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, is the very Spirit of revelation by which alone the things of God are manifested to man. What did Jesus mean when He declared: "No man knoweth the Son but the Father, neither knoweth any

man the Father save the Son and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." (Matth. xi, 27.) There is no wonder that the wise and learned of the world grovel in such dense darkness concerning Deity, for they seek to understand the "Incomprehensible" by their own searching, and to shut up the souls of men against inquiring of the Lord with the expectation of receiving any manifestation from Him. Dr. Wishard wants to "block the way" to such seeking and to that kind of Satanic influence is due the absence of divine revelation for centuries.

But Christ declared that "he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh the door shall be opened." "No man can KNOW that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost," so Paul declared, and he prayed for the Ephesians: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him." (Eph. i, 17). Speaking to the Corinthians about the things hidden from the "princes of this world," he said: "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God." (1 Cor. ii, 10). Is not "the testimony of Jesus the spirit of prophecy?" And how can mankind come to the full knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, without the revelations of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth? "Block the way" to the revelations of the Most High? Yes, that has been the practice of false teachers in all ages. They will not come to the light themselves, nor suffer others to do so if they can have their way. But the heavens are not impenetrable, the Spirit of revelation is attainable. God the Father can be approached through Christ the Son, and He will hearken and manifest Himself to those who obey His will and call upon Him in faith. He is the same now as in former days. His ways are the same. He speaks to the fathers in times past by the prophets, and in due time by His beloved Son. And He has spoken again in these last days and once more has called Apostles and Prophets to minister for Him.

This is the very age of revelation. By light in the minds of men unfolding the secrets of nature, and by the manifestations of the Holy Ghost in sacred things, truths hidden from the foundations of the world are and will be revealed in these last times. Not to the wise and prudent after this world, but to the weak things of the earth that they may confound the mighty. No power can "block the way" to communion with the Father, and His light will shine forth until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God as the waters fill the mighty deep.

TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE.

The United States government, it seems, has addressed a note to the ministers accredited to Venezuela and Colombia, on the threatened rupture between the two republics. It does not directly instruct them to offer mediation, and much less does it contain any threat of intervention. But it deplores the conditions that have arisen, and indirectly suggests that the differences be submitted to arbitration, by stating that "an offer of the President's kindly offices to arrange any differences which may exist between Colombia and Venezuela would be ineffective without the acquiescence of both." That is clearly a diplomatic way of saying, that the President would be pleased to comply with a request to settle the dispute.

Presumably the note will be criticised by those who always misconstrue the acts of the American government. They will find in it another proof of designs against the independence of the small republics to the south of us. But there is no possible occasion for alarm.

At the Hague peace congress it was solemnly agreed that the powers, in case of disagreement, before appealing to arms, should have recourse, so far as circumstances allowed it, to the good offices of mediation of one or more of the friendly powers. But this agreement alone was not considered sufficient. It was also declared "useful," that one or more powers not concerned in the conflict should offer, of their own initiative, their good offices or their mediation to the disputing states. And such offer, it was expressly stated, can never be considered by either of the disputing parties as an unfriendly act.

The President of the United States, in offering to assist in the settlement of the dispute, is but acting in accordance with this solemn agreement between the nations represented at the Hague. It is needless to look for ulterior motives in a simple act of obedience to the dictates of humane civilization.

We hope the little republics will take the suggestion, and submit their quarrel to arbitration. It would be very appropriate for this continent to present the rest of the world a glorious example of a peaceful solution of international disputes. The international court of arbitration is an American child. It has a natural right to look to this side of the globe for development, vigor and influence.

FINLAND'S UNTIMELY END.

The case of Finland is graphically presented by a contributor to The Independent, Mr. Eugene Linsdorfer. Russia, it is charged, decided on the execution of the nationality of the Finlanders because their prosperity and material and intellectual progress was a danger to Russia. The very knowledge thereof, when spread among the Russians, was considered a menace to the absolute rule of the czar. Hence Finland had to be Russianized.

The first step was taken in 1899, when the duchy was declared to be a Russian province. This was followed by a declaration that the czar's government had found it necessary to reserve the right to decide ultimately which laws came within the scope of the general legislation of the empire. That meant the virtual abolition of the Finnish diet, by placing it under the absolute control of a Russian governor and his colleagues. Then the national militia was abolished. The Finns were drafted into the Russian army and sent to distant provinces, under Russian officers, to serve for five years.

This was one of the most atrocious assaults upon the inoffensive and faithful people. Five hundred and twenty-four thousand Finns signed a petition to the czar, asking that this ukase might be revoked. But in vain. The movers in procuring this petition were jailed and transported and five regiments of Russians were sent into the country to garrison it. Then the young men began leaving home, 16,000 of them in 1899, and in 1900 nearly 22,000 liable to military service, in spite of stringent prohibition. It is said that few except old men, women and children, were left in some districts of the country.

Then came an order excluding from government offices all persons not members of the Greek church, and as the Finns are mostly Lutherans, they are barred. The orthodox church sent clergymen into the country and required the Lutheran Finns to erect churches for them and to maintain them. The elementary schools, in every way modern and superior to anything in Russia, were placed under the supervision of ignorant Greek clergymen, and instruction is given in the Russian language. The same policy is pursued in the higher schools. Swedish and Finnish are banished along with every notion of freedom and free thought. From this coming fall the university, too, must be strictly Russian. A new chancellor is appointed. Several professors who protested have been dismissed and exiled. To complete the work of vandalism, newspapers have been suppressed and public discussion prohibited. There is also in operation a system of judicial confiscation of the estates of the more influential Finns, in order that the land may be distributed to faithful and needy pro-Russian dependents.

This is a pathetic story which no liberty-loving human being can read without a sense of humiliation, when contemplating that such murder of a nation can take place in the broad daylight of "Christian" civilization, without an arm lifted to stay the hand that strikes the mortal blows, without a protest even.

SICKLY NOISE.

According to Health, noise is one of the most potent factors in producing diseases, and the principal reason why country life is more healthy than city life, is the absence of noise in the rural districts. The magazine mentioned claims that defective dwellings and imperfect nutrition are grave causes of sickness in the cities, but still more serious is the ceaseless roar and din that slowly but surely undermines the health. The discordant sounds have a baneful effect upon hearing, and exert a disastrous influence upon the brain and nervous system.

Here, then, is a problem for the governments of large cities, the existence of which has just begun to be recognized. They must prepare for a fight against noise as well as against microbes if the sanitary conditions of the communities are to become perfect. There are, of course, many kinds of noise that cannot be suppressed in a large and busy city. They are necessary evils. But there are others which may not be so regarded, and among these are the incessant discordant clanging of car gongs, the screeching and tooting of switch engines in railroad yards, the rattle of heavily loaded wagons over badly paved streets and the deafening yells of vendors of different articles of commerce.

George L. Dives has been named by the Citizens' Union committee, of New York, as a candidate for mayor. The suppression of dives may be used as an excuse for downing the man.

With a strong and well equipped army operating in the field against her and with an equal if not superior navy in the hands of the rebels, poor Colombia is in sore need of assistance. Venezuela, too, is not allowing the opportunity to pass unimproved. Her statement of grievances against her neighbor, recently issued to friendly nations, may be looked upon as a sort of request for permission to deal Colombia a damaging and perhaps fatal blow.

The dispatches tell of a report in London that Richard Croker, formerly of New York, is preparing himself for British citizenship. He was once king of political New York and if he takes up his abode in monarchical England it is fair to presume that Richard will be himself again. If Mr. Croker shall retain any of his old-time shrewdness, and ability for intrigue, however, the crown of King Edward should be placed under a very strong guard.

Edward Elmer has weaved into a drama the Scriptural story of John the Baptist. No prettier theme for the purpose can be found in secular history, and if the treatment of the subject has been reverential and respectful its production upon the stage will be received with affection and interest by a majority of the people. Holy writ contains other beautiful subjects which could be similarly handled. The theater is a great educator and the employment of its powers in this direction may not come amiss.

To pay \$10,000 for having smuggled into the country \$25,000 worth of diamonds and other valuables may be a

profitable way of avoiding the duty placed upon such luxuries by the government. Only such men as the citizen of Chicago mentioned in today's dispatches can see it that way, however. Because of the party's prominence his name is suppressed in the account. Had he been an immigrant with an extra ounce of dirt on his person an extensive personal advertisement would have resulted. To use a common phrase, that Chicago man is "a cheap guy."

Officers of steamers tell of seeing the reflection of naval searchlights at a distance of forty miles and in one instance 70 miles. Progress in the projection of rays of artificial light has certainly been wonderful within the past few years, but it all looks small when compared with the stretch of millions of miles covered by the rays of the mighty orb that gives our earth its light and warmth. Yet the perfection of man may bring about an ability to place in other skies just such glorious flames as, even at this great distance, now dazzles his imperfect eye.

THE PENALTY FIGURES.

Washington National Tribune.
The first thing that strikes one is that the veterans of the rebellion are not given the benefits of this increase of \$2,000 on the pension roll. Nearly the whole went to the survivors—and they nearly all survive—of the Spanish war. They got \$349 of the total of \$2,000, or over 90 per cent of the gain. This, too, while the veterans are old, and at the critical periods of their lives, while the Spanish war survivors and their widows are all young, with the greater part of their lives yet before them. The next thought is that with all these hundreds of thousands of unadjudicated cases on file, with the claimants all past the meridian of life, and constantly growing older and needier, with what iron rigidity has been kept the tab on the graveyard, and no one admitted to the roll until some one died and made a place for him. Even including this extraordinary increase of \$2,000 during the past year, Mr. Evans has allowed a net increase to the rolls during his four years of but 4,021. As the Spanish war was fought in the meantime, and has so far resulted in 8,604 additions, there are really fewer union veterans and their widows on the rolls than there were when he took charge.

Chicago Evening Post.

The figures throw a good deal of light on those enterprising gentlemen known as "pension agents." Not that it would for a moment present dishonest claims, but that they have such a sharp scent for veterans that they can keep up the proportions of the pension roll however fast the old soldiers respond to the final summons. No dice in any country in general may be, ours is not ungrateful. It may be unwise; it may be easily "worked," but it is so full of gratitude toward the "old soldier" that it pensions even the third and fourth generations of those that fought for it—and of some who didn't.

Chattanooga Times.

Common sense and ordinary perception would teach us that when one person in seventy-five is drawing a pension and that it is not unlikely that one out of every fifty will be pensioned, the monumental wrong of the age has been perpetrated upon the long-suffering people of the United States.

Philadelphia Record.

The fact that Commissioner Evans issued during the year 1900, 668 certificates, 4,000 more than were issued before in any year, is at once a dismaying fact to the taxpayers of the country and to the carpenters of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Civil war ended thirty-six years ago, and we are now paying five dollars for every man who served in the war, while we paid one at the end of President Grant's second administration. The total payments for pensions since July, 1865, have been \$2,666,904,589. Two prices could have been paid out of this vast sum of money for every slave in the Southern States at the outset of the war, and enough left over to have given each slave family forty acres of land and a mule.

TRIGGS CRITICISED.

The Hartford Times.
The statement that the hymns of the Protestant churches are doggerel could never have been made by a man of literary culture, even if he disapproved of the contents or ideas embodied, because one of the first things a literate man learns is to appreciate form independent of meaning. He may disapprove of the dogma, but he appreciates the embodiment, and he sympathizes with the old earnest belief. The strongest Unitarian can appreciate the great Trinity hymn, and the man who does not see that "Rock of Ages" is a great piece of literature lacks the rudiments of literary sensibility.

New York Times.

The fact is that we are coming to require, not "meat," meaning substance, but high flavor, in our poetry. Ginger and tabasco will alone titillate the jaded palate of a Triggs, it appears. That is Longfellow's misfortune in literature, but it is not that that is in fault. The same thing has happened in literature which Wagner brought to pass in music, that the zealous of the newer poetry can not taste the simpler flavor of the older. A good musician said, not long ago: "Mendelssohn is down, but he will come up again." And the charm of Longfellow, the setting forth of common themes with flawless artistic workmanship and a never-failing mastery of form, and to a result of quiet beauty.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The September number of Gunton's Magazine opens with a "Review of the Month," in which the leading topics of the day are discussed. This is followed by a paper on "Elements in Economic Harmony." "Is 'America' a Native or Imported Name?" is a question asked by Van Buren Denslow, who furnishes proofs that it is a native word. Other topics treated on are "More Light on the Machinists' Strike," "Influence of Corporations on Government," "The Coffee House Plan," "Warning of the Steel Strike," "Police Rascally Unmasked," "Power of Chinese Guilds," Gunton Co., Union Square, New York.

In the September number of International Socialist Review, "Mother Jones" contributes an article entitled "A Picture of American Freedom in West Virginia." The same number has an article by Charles Verequre detailing the work that has been done for the children of the working class in the cities of France, where socialist officers have been elected.—Charles H. Kerr & company, 55 Fifth Ave., Chicago.

Table Talk for September contains an article on "Mushrooms, Their Food Values and Poisonous Properties," written by Dr. E. Elmer Keeler. Another contribution is "Queer, Quaint and Curious Korea," by an old traveler. The illustrated dishes in the department of cookery is a good feature of this household magazine.—Table Talk, Philadelphia, Pa.

Harper's Monthly Magazine for September is a notable publication, whether its literary contents or illustrations, many of which are fine works of art.

Fall House Cleaning!

Is made pleasant by having the best grades of House Furnishings within reach of low prices, and this condition is provided by Z. C. M. I. Carpet Department this Season, with its immense stock of the very choicest goods obtainable. Buying for cash, we have secured the best bargains of the market, and now offer them to our patrons. Our magnificent stock comprises CARPETS, all grades; WALL PAPERS, all the best patterns; RUGS, a complete line from 9x12 in. to 18x36 in. in size; LINOLEUMS and OIL CLOTHS, a carload. We also have the most complete stock of FINE LACE CURTAINS in the West, ranging in price from 42 1-2c to \$35.00 per pair. Our POLES and TRIMMINGS are of the best. Our WINDOW SHADES, ranging in price from 35c upward, mounted and ready to hang.

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D. R. ALLEN, Secretary.

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS.

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