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THE CHURCH AND THE LAW.

Every now and then we are told by opponents of the "Mormon" Church that it is a lawless sect and that it seeks to become "a law unto itself." That is an old slander which gains nothing of truth by frequent repetition. It has no facts to support it. The history of what is called "Mormonism" does not furnish anything by way of proof that the charge against it has any foundation.

Every incident which has been referred to in the way of evidence to give color to the accusation, when traced to its origin shows rather that the "Mormon" people have been obedient to law, and that their enemies have been the lawbreakers.

There is one apparent exception to this rule; that is, the course pursued by the Latter-day Saints in relation to the contest over plural marriage. That, of course, has been decided and ought to be regarded as a buried contention. But it is perpetually revived and the "Mormons" are charged with endeavoring to hold themselves above law, and to be determined to do as they please in spite of any legal enactments. This requires a little investigation.

It is true that statutes were passed by the Congress of the United States to which a number of people, prominent in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, did not yield obedience. Whatever of wrong may be attached to that course by the rational investigator, ought to be modified by the motives, intent and belief of those who are charged as offenders. The system of marriage into which they entered was, as they sincerely believe, of divine origin. It was an establishment of their religion. They sought no sanction for it or any recognition from the civil law. They did not seek to make it an institution of the State. It was purely a religious rite, under religious auspices and direction. They believed it was protected by that clause of the Constitution of the United States which provides that "Congress shall pass no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

In resisting the laws of Congress on this matter, they exercised what they deemed to be their Constitutional rights. They therefore, contested the execution of those laws, step by step, in every variety of litigation until the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the constitutionality of the anti-polygamy enactments. The methods of procedure of the lower courts were frequently of such an extreme character as to provoke contention rather than compliance, and in a number of instances were condemned and set aside by the court of last resort.

The sufferings, trials, and terrible ordeals through which a large number of the "Mormon" people passed during that period of litigation, we will not stop to consider. But they demonstrated the sincerity and integrity of those who endured them and showed that they were submitted to for a principle and not with any criminal or lawless intent. However mistaken many people may have regarded them, their fidelity to what they believed to be a religious duty, won the admiration of intelligent and high-minded men and women.

When the court of last resort finally decided against them, they bowed to the rulings of the judicial body, which the Constitution clothes with power to define its meaning and settle as to its application. Plural marriages were discontinued. The head of the Church issued his Manifesto, and the body endorsed his declaration. This recapitulation of facts is necessary to determine the question whether the Latter-day Saints seek to become "a law unto themselves." We maintain that the contrary of the proposition is the manifest truth.

Now as to the doctrine and teachings of the Church on this subject. In the Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we will find this paragraph:

"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law."

In the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which contains revelations from God to the Church, this ecclesiastical law is given:

"Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land. Therefore, be subject to the powers that be, for the Lord is their ruler. And that law of the land which ye have received from my hand is the law of the Church and in this light ye shall hold them forth. Behold, here is wisdom. Sec. 18, 21-22."

In connection with the foregoing read the following:

"And now, verily I say unto you concerning the laws of the land, it is my will that my people should observe to do all things whatsoever I command them. And that law of the land which is constitutional, supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privileges, belongs to all mankind, and is justifiable before me. Therefore, I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my Church, in defending that law which is the constitutional law of the land. And as pertaining to

law of man, whatsoever is more or less than these, cometh of evil. Sec. 18, 4-7.

These are among the fundamental doctrines of the Church and are mandatory. Thus it will be seen that the teachings of the Church are the very antipodes of the notions which are entertained concerning them. In further evidence of this, we quote another commandment:

"And if a man or woman shall rob, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land. And if he or she shall steal, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land. And if he or she shall lie, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land. And if he or she do any manner of iniquity, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law, even that of God."—Sec. 42: 84-87.

Thus the Church stands squarely on the principle of obedience to law, and all its members should strive to act in conformity therewith. The Church does not authorize, encourage, or advise resistance to any constitutional enactment. It enjoins upon all its missionaries obedience to the laws of the country or nation in which they dwell or sojourn for a season. If at any time these rules are violated, the infraction must not be charged to the Church, but to the individual who is guilty of the same. There should be no defiance of secular law, but, on the contrary, a disposition and intent to comply with it according to its spirit and meaning.

That there has been some occasion for objections that have been made we freely admit. But while the circumstances surrounding a number of individuals in this State should be fairly considered, and extreme measures ought not to be adopted in their cases, the maintenance of statutes duly enacted must be kept in view, and while they are unrepented in legal force they ought to be respected, and certainly should not be treated with anything like contempt. The article of our faith first quoted above will have to be observed, not only in theory but in fact. This is the true position of the Church, and it should be known and understood by all intelligent persons.

PICTURES OF HUMAN NATURE.

It is of peculiar interest at the close of this century to compare some of the portraits of human nature, successively given by those most competent to draw the characteristic features.

There is one picture taken shortly before the deluge. The author says (Gen. 6: 5): "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The same observation was made immediately after the deluge.

Some centuries later, the inspired poet on the throne of Judah declared that, "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Ps. 14: 3. And in the beginning of our era Paul, the great Christian philosopher and logician, applies this to the world of his time, and adds some touches of his own: "There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways, and the way of peace have they not known." Rom. 3: 10-17.

Such are the pictures of human nature, fallen and unredeemed, presented by all inspired writers. Are they in accord with truth? What is the conclusion of independent research?

A most interesting reply to this question may be found in "The Map of Life," a work in which the author, Mr. Lecky, traverses the entire domain of morals. Mr. Lecky speaks with authority, as one of the most prominent historians of the century. He, too, draws a picture of human nature, as he sees it two thousand years, almost, after the humiliating description of the Apostle Paul was penned. The ethics of the press, the bar, politics, war, and marriage pass review before Mr. Lecky, and he corroborates emphatically the verdicts of former ages.

In the Literary Digest we find a brief reference to this important work. The author remarks that the world, after professing Christianity for eighteen hundred years is an armed camp. The preparations for war absorb the resources of the nations, and knowledge and inventions are largely employed in perfecting instruments of destruction. Even the efforts for peace are not dictated by humanitarian motives. It is all selfishness. The financial embarrassments of the great nations; their profound distrust of one another; the vast cost of modern war; the gigantic commercial disasters it entails; the utter ruin that may follow defeat—these are the real influences that restrain the tiger passions and the avaricious cravings of mankind."

In the business world, Mr. Lecky finds an abundance of almost spontaneous malevolence. Crimes in the fields of finance, stock-jobbing, and speculation are commonly committed by educated persons, who are in the enjoyment of the luxuries of life—flattered and favored by modern civilization, which eagerly accords them an influence that is malign and scandalous. And the press is largely employed, systematically, persistently, deliberately, in fostering class hatred, race hatred, international hatred—by falsehood or malicious provocation.

Some people are wont to boast of the moral progress the world has made, as evidenced by the rules of war that prohibit assassination, the use of poisoned missiles, and so on. But Mr. Lecky reminds his readers that explosive shells, concealed mines, torpedoes, ambuscades, starvation, deception by fabricated dispatches, the employment of spies and the display of false signals are still among the resources of civilized and "Christian" warfare.

In the legal field, the situation is no better. Says Mr. Lecky:

"There is a kind of mind that grows so enamored with the subtleties and technicalities of the law that it delights in the unexpected and unintended results to which they may lead. I have

heard an English judge say of another, deceased, that he had, through this feeling, a positive pleasure in injustice; and one lawyer, not of this country, once confessed to me the amusement he derived from breaking the convictions of criminals in his State by discovering technical flaws in their indictments. Lord Brougham probably in no degree exaggerated when he described portions of the English law as a 'two-edged sword in the hands of craft and oppression,' and a great authority on chancery law declared, in 1839, that 'no man, as things now stand, can enter into a chancery suit with any reasonable hope of being alive at its termination, if he has a determined adversary.'"

The picture as drawn by the great historian is not bright, but true. It is worth while contemplating. The only way, whereby mankind can be truly elevated is by humiliation, faith, and repentance, but these must be preceded by knowledge of the utter helplessness of human nature, except for the assistance of Him who came to save that which is lost.

SOCIALIST MAYORS.

Haverhill and Brockton are two small cities of Massachusetts attracting considerable interest because they both have Socialist mayors. The world is anxious to know how their principles operate when applied to practical affairs.

The mayor of Haverhill was re-elected, and now he recommends as part of his municipal policy free clothing for poor school children and a free reading room in connection with the public library. Another recommendation is a new city charter which shall provide for the initiative and the referendum, and the right of the people to recall their officials. If this is carried through, the city will be watched with curiosity to see what effect that Swiss procedure will have upon American political life.

The mayor of Brockton in his inaugural message recommends the public ownership of utilities and declares that "there should be no franchise granted to any corporation whatever until the people's interests have been carefully safeguarded, and a proper return made for the valuable privileges extended, and under no circumstances should a franchise be granted to a street railway corporation until proper assurances have been given that its cars will be run to suit the comfort and convenience of the people."

It will be found generally that when Socialists are elected to office, they speedily see the necessity of progressing slowly along the lines of reform they desire. Revolutionary measures would be destructive. In their conservatism they find strength. Both these mayors, in their recommendations, keep within conservative limits, but they are laying the foundations for future development in Socialist direction, and on that account their election to office is an event of no small importance.

A BAD APPOINTMENT.

The Boston Herald tells a story which proves that Uncle Sam is not half as particular about the moral standing of his representatives, as some preachers, male and female, would have him believe he is.

One W. Godfrey Hunter of Kentucky, the Herald says, represents this country in Guatemala. The wife of the British representative there gave a reception, to which the United States minister was not invited. This was peculiar, in view of the friendly feelings between the Anglo-Saxon countries, and the matter was looked into with the result that it was found that the reputed character of the gentleman was such that the British minister's wife refused to entertain him among the rest of the guests.

It was further found that United States residents of the Central American State had almost in a body petitioned the government for Mr. Hunter's removal.

The paper from which the above is learned also charges him with political treachery, but notwithstanding all, he was deemed fit to represent this country at a foreign capital. Where were the Pharisees and the Zealots when Hunter was appointed?

WHERE BLOOD FLOWS.

The record of murders committed in the United States during the past year places the number at 6,225. This is a terrible record. It means that one in every 12,000 inhabitants of this country has a chance of being murdered. It means that in one year more people were slain in the United States than were killed in battle during the war with Spain and the Philippine rebellion, for two years. It makes it appear that the army camp is a comparatively safer place than the ordinary haunts of citizens at home during times of peace and prosperity.

In view of the steadily increasing tide of crime, the question of its source should be all-important. If there ever were a "relic of barbarism," murder is one. Why does not the cry for vengeance that must ascend from the blood-sprinkled soil of this country to ward high heaven, command more attention among the people? We are shuddering at the bloodshed in the Philippines and in South Africa, but relish as a morsel of "news" any blood-curdling story of murder at home.

Once in a while a voice is heard for more Draconic laws, and the more prompt execution of those already in force, but the administration of justice is hardly influenced by such spasmodic movements. They may cause momentary excitement, but this, like New Year's resolutions, is soon forgotten, and everything moves in the common rut.

There will be no cessation of crimes until the people realize that social conditions are largely responsible for them. Only recently, a club went from Washington, D. C., to Charleston, S. C., for a pleasure trip, and they were entertained by the hospitable citizens of the latter place. One of the features of amusements provided was an invitation to a lynching, which is described as "realistic but not fatal." What is to be expected when the standard of morality has fallen so low that a most revolting crime is made a feature of a social entertainment? Then the dramatic reproductions of crime have their influence, as have the daily pictures that are presented by an unscrupulous

press. All have the same tendency. It is to familiarize the public with that which is low, degrading and demoralizing, and the result is seen in public life.

It is sometimes urged that to the pure everything is pure, and though that is true, the inference that familiarity with crime does not hurt those that are pure, is false. No one can handle coal without getting black, or soot without showing the marks. And the whiter the hands, or the dress, the sooner the dust will show, by reason of the contrast. It is so with the moral pollutions that modern society so freely offers. It appears most plainly when purity is forced into contact with it.

Our Savior could eat and associate with "sinners" without being contaminated, because He went among them, not to partake of their enjoyment, but to save them from a continued life in sin. To a certain extent mortal man can do the same. He can seek that which is lost, without himself, becoming lost. But no one can live in and breathe a morally polluted atmosphere without becoming contaminated. And this is the condition today. There are many sources of contamination. People shun the clear, God-given atmosphere. The result is seen in the increase of murder, and crime of other kinds, in all classes of society. What is the remedy?

ENGLAND'S ARMY.

The Chicago Times-Herald presents some interesting figures, illustrating the strength of Great Britain at this time. The calculation is from a German representation of the armies and navies of the present, and is based on the number of men brought under arms in the war of 1899.

At that time the total population consisted of 14,942,646 souls, and the actual war strength was \$21,650 men. The present population is estimated at 40,000,000, and the war strength should, according to the proportion of 1899, be 2,300,000 in the British Isles alone.

The actual army strength available for war purposes is somewhat smaller, being estimated as follows:

Army at home and abroad	238,172
Reserves	78,798
Militia	29,000
Militia	95,000
Yeomanry	8,800
Volunteers	230,000
Imperial native army of India (excluding native states)	150,000
European volunteers in India and elsewhere	30,000
Imperial service troops	20,000
Canadian militia	32,000
Canadian militia reserves	200,000
Cape Colony volunteers, mounted rifles, etc.	7,400
New South Wales forces	10,000
Victorian forces	7,000
South Australian forces	3,000
Forces of other Australian colonies	2,000
New Zealand forces	7,000
Other colonies, etc.	12,000
Total	1,168,170

What possible chance has Oom Paul against such a force? Even one-third of this strength would greatly outnumber the Boers, and from present indications it is evident that Great Britain is determined to carry the point in the controversy with her antagonists, even if it takes her entire army to do so.

President Kruger is said to be willing to quit fighting at any time. Rumor has it that the American consul, Macrum, is on his way to Washington as the bearer of an earnest appeal from the Transvaal president to President McKinley, in behalf of a cessation of hostilities. If so, it is evident, the Boers are not in the war for the fun of it, but because they are fond of military duty. But it is not probable that any appeal from Washington would turn Great Britain back from the path of conquest. Whenever President Kruger obtains peace, it will be on the terms dictated in London, unless by a miracle the course of events is changed. Great Britain is preparing for a long war, if necessary to the success of her arms.

A SOUND POSITION.

The Ogden Standard, which is a non-"Mormon" and Republican paper, has, it appears, provoked some hostility in consequence of its attitude on the Roberts question and that of the present situation in Utah. It has argued that the Congressmen-elect has, a prima facie right to a seat in the House of Representatives, and that he possesses all the legal qualifications necessary to that position. Also that Utah has observed the terms of the compact with the nation on the subject of polygamy. And further, that the only just and reasonable method of dealing with that question now, is to prevent further plural marriages in the State, and to permit the old relations formed previous to Statehood to remain undisturbed until death shall put an end to them, and the practice thus become extinct.

This has provoked some slurring comment, and recently it has been insinuated that the reason the Standard has taken this position, is because of its "Mormon" advertising patronage. But the Standard comes back with facts and figures demonstrating that its principal advertising support comes from non-"Mormon" sources, and altogether makes out a very clear case in rebuttal.

That paper then proceeds to explain its position on the controversy which is yet in process, and makes the following very sensible remarks which we reproduce in full. They require no comment of ours. The Standard has not been answered on this matter, and we do not believe it can be met successfully.

"Now, as for the Standard taking the Church side of the Roberts-Tribune fight, we deny that also. The Church side of the Roberts-Tribune fight is not a subject to the matter. President Snow says the Church is out of politics and he permits Mr. Roberts and the Tribune to fight their own battles without the Church taking either side."

"The Standard gives its opinion on all subjects as its editor sees the right, and we care not whether our public expressions favor Gentile or 'Mormon.' We are establishing a record for the Standard, in which its future must stand. The paper in the future will have the past for its foundation and on that foundation the Standard expects to prosper. It is therefore important that we be eminently just in our treatment of the rapidly revolving wheel goes no farther than to show that in that condition magnetism possibly is drawn from the earth; but it gives no

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explanation of where the earth obtains its supply. Perhaps a more complete statement will make Dr. Rowland's claims clearer.

R. M. Devine, who was known in Wyoming as a terror to outlaws who infested the Hole-in-the-Wall region, has had the privilege of reading some very complimentary biographical notices of himself. He was reported as having been killed at Harvey, Kansas, and the newspapers had good words to say for him. Now he announces that so far as he is concerned, the alleged murder is a canard—that nobody even tried to kill him. But none will try to take back the compliments paid him.

Colorado farmers are making a test of alfalfa tea as a substitute for milk in the raising of calves. If the tea is not too thin, and some addition of albuminous and fatty matter, in which lucern is deficient, be added, there appears no good reason why the tea should not make a fair food, though it is questionable whether an equally good ration can be found that is cheaper in these times than cow's milk.

ENGLAND'S WAR.

Denver Post.

In press reports from Washington it is asserted that Macrum, the American consul who so mysteriously disappeared from his post in Pretoria, will make his appearance the latter part of this month as the bearer of dispatches from President Kruger of the Transvaal to President McKinley, asking the mediation of this country to put a stop to the Transvaal war. Macrum is coming through the Mediterranean on a German ship, and will not touch England on his way over here. It is also intimated that his coming has caused a very uneasy feeling in governmental circles, as the administration will possibly be much embarrassed. The matter may reach Congress and there enter into debate.

Boston Herald.

There has been a good deal to find fault with on both sides; but we have not the least question that, if simply a continuance of the local independence of the Boers possessed had been the object they were striving for, very little difficulty would have been found in securing this through peaceful means, while at the same time they could have built up, by the judicious extension of their naturalization laws, a strong, though mixed, population, which would have been of itself a guarantee of their continued possession of political self-control. The policy followed by the Boers was one which was bound to produce discontent, and, in time, interference. It would have produced the same results here if we had tried it, or in any other civilized country, and certainly to this extent they are responsible for the war now going on, and are in no sense entitled to the special sympathy of neutral people.

New York Mail and Express.

Dependence upon England is accompanied by greater liberty and more numerous blessings than the history of European conquest justifies them in expecting at other hands—at least at the hands of any other nation in a position to bid for control. We cannot doubt that the Balkan States, for example, would hasten to offer aid were they as they are upon Russian, Turkish or Austrian support. We do not doubt that minor independent States generally would regard the collapse of England's imperial pedestal as an unmitigated misfortune, inviting, as it would, interference in their affairs by nations less conscientious in dealing with alien

Springfield Republican.

The sudden prominence of Delagoa Bay, and its port of Lourenco Marques on account of the neutral trade, which there finds entrance to the Transvaal has been a reminder to the world of the existence of Portugal. A more forcible reminder has been the probable story that the Portuguese colonial possessions would soon be partitioned between Great Britain and Germany—Delagoa Bay, of course, going to Britain because of its great importance to any power that would be supreme in South Africa. Altogether, it may be assumed that Portugal's present position is not as comfortable as it might be.

Boston Transcript.

Rightly or wrongly, England's colonial secretary is regarded as mainly responsible for the South African war. It is quite true that Mr. Chamberlain's single vote could not have brought on this terrible and unhappy conflict, the nature and extent of which no man can measure. But while the Salisbury cabinet consists of nineteen members, it must be borne in mind that the four men who constitute the inner cabinet and really govern England—whose opinions must be had on all momentous questions—are the premier and Mr. Balfour, the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Chamberlain; and of these four, the colonial secretary has the most aggressive personality.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

That Portugal will in time dispose of its African possessions, which are now under the control of the British, is doubtless, and that Great Britain is the most likely to get possession of Delagoa bay scarcely requires argument. If the outcome of the South African war should be the extension of British supremacy over the two Dutch African republics, the acquisition of the territory between the Transvaal and the sea on the east will be a logical necessity and will be effected in some way. But there will be other parties to that arrangement besides Great Britain, Germany and Portugal when the time for making it comes.

Chicago Record.

The advantages which must accrue to the British from the possession of Delagoa bay and the strip of Portuguese territory were apparent at the opening of the war; they have become still more obvious since the South African campaign has proved to be a more serious matter than the British minister or any officer seems to have expected. The Boers have been receiving men and munitions by way of Delagoa bay, and so long as it remains a neutral port will continue to do so. The acquisition of the Portuguese territory, enabling Great Britain to open up a new and very short route by which to send forces into the Transvaal, would give Great Britain an enormous advantage. That the British are soon to possess Delagoa bay and the adjacent territory seems highly probable.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

The cessation of hostilities at the front in South Africa bodes ill for the Boer forces. Lines of communication are being repaired, new recruits are hurrying to the Cape, the best military thought of the English army will control offensive operations and confidence in ultimate success will be a moving spirit in every charge and flank movement. There are surprises in store for the Boers and unpleasant news will come over the wires to the German papers that now confidently predict the overthrow of British arms. If the subjects of Emperor William expect additions to their colonies they may as well look to other portions of the world than South Africa. England has never parted with any of her possessions except to people of her own blood.