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Charles W. Penrose - Editor.
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AS TO "MORMON" VENGEANCE.

We have been favored with a copy of the Cambrian of recent date, a monthly magazine devoted chiefly to the interests of the Welsh-speaking people in the United States. We have given some notice of the magazine before, as it circulates among a number of our fellow citizens whose ancestors hailed from the Principality. It is usually fair in its comments on current topics, and no doubt aims to be so in the present instance when giving its views on "A Harmless Oath." This has reference to what it calls "the Mormon obligation of vengeance."

The Cambrian wants to know "Was it merely ceremonial and a formality?" The reason given for the query is, that "Most of the Mormons have proved false to it, for no great slaughter of Gentiles as the outcome of this terrible obligation has followed," and it concludes from this view of the matter that, "We may classify the Mormon oath with other religious and temperance pledges."

The Cambrian, like other periodicals unacquainted with "Mormon" doctrines and ceremonies, is entirely mistaken concerning this alleged "oath of vengeance." For its benefit we will repeat the assertion made many times in this paper, and affirmed before the committee on privileges and elections, that there is no such thing either in the endowment ceremonies or in any other ordinance of the Church, as an oath of vengeance against anything or anybody. Nor is there anything administered that can be properly called an oath.

We notice that Secretary Carlisle in his argument against the Church before the committee, when speaking on this matter, found it necessary, because of the evidence to which we have alluded, to qualify his words when speaking of the "oath" by adding or "covenant." In every instance, he also had to admit that the evidence concerning this alleged obligation was very conflicting, and it really tapered down to the testimony that all there is about it is a prayer for retribution for shedding the blood of the prophets.

In reply, then, to the question of the Cambrian as to whether the "oath" is merely "ceremonial and a formality," we have to say that it is neither, because it has no real existence, except in the minds of people who desire to make a big sensation of an anti-"Mormon" character. It is true there has been "no great slaughter of Gentiles by the Mormons," nor is there any well authenticated case of personal vengeance against anybody by the "Mormon" Church. One of its most positive inhibitions is, "Thou shalt not kill; and he that killeth shall not have forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come."

The most pronounced enemies of the Latter-day Saints, men who have made it the business of their lives to malign, misrepresent, libel and abuse the leaders of the Church, and who have exhausted their vocabulary of slander and vituperation in persistent attacks, have been allowed to pursue their evil course uninterrupted and without retaliation for years. No one has attempted to harm them or inflict upon them the slightest punishment for their evil words and works.

"Mormonism" does not teach or countenance human vengeance, but leaves those who fight it, no matter with what kind of weapons, entirely in the hands of Eternal Justice. The Cambrian would do well to learn the truth concerning the "Mormons" and quit adopting the accusations and innuendoes of their calumniators.

A DUTY OF THE TIMES.

The discovery that two of the victims to the fury of the mob at Springfield, Mo., as recorded in the press dispatches, were entirely innocent of the crime for which they were inhumanly lynched, has aroused a feeling of general indignation and resentment, and there are loud demands for the punishment of the guilty persons, and particularly the leaders among the murderous mobocrats. It is gratifying to learn of the energy and determination exhibited by the State authorities for the vindication of the law.

The assassins, for such they are, who hung and burned the defenseless and guiltless negroes, ought not to escape a just retribution. At the same time, there should be great care in the administration of the law in their cases, so that no further mistakes will be made nor other victims to popular impulses and demands. Vox populi is a very unreliable sort of judgment. It can be turned like a weather-vane, whichever way the wind of excited sentiment may blow. Many of the same people who howled for the hanging of the suspected negroes, will now shout for vengeance upon the mistaken men who were carried away by the excitement of the hour and roused into the committing of deadly crime.

The fact that the poor creatures who were sacrificed to the fury of a raging mob are now understood to have been innocent of the crime with which they were charged, and for which they were

so frightfully lynched, has really little or nothing to do with the legal aspect of the question. There should be just the same determination to punish the participants in the capital offense, whether the slaughtered victims were guilty or innocent. Mobs have no right to determine such a question, any more than they have to execute mob law.

Civilization provides the means by which accused persons shall be fairly tried and adequately punished if found guilty. Such powers and authority are not vested in the multitude. They are by common consent given up to constituted authority. Mob law is barbarous. It ought not to be permitted in any form or for any purpose. That is a point that should be perceived by every intelligent individual. It should also be rigorously maintained. It is to the interest of every peaceable person to uphold it under all conditions.

Apologies that are made for lynching have no strength in logic nor excuse in necessity. The practice is a sanguinary blot on the nation. That the negro race is singled out as the object of mobocratic violence is a lamentable fact, but it affords no reason for the fury with which it rages. While victims are rare in comparison, the race prejudice is unworthy the people of this great Republic, where liberty is supposed to be upheld among all peoples and colors and tongues. The perpetrators of outrages, whether in the north or in the south, against the negro or the Caucasian, ought to be followed up by the powers and officers of the law to the very uttermost and legal retribution should be meted out to every guilty individual. Every State in the Union should purge itself of the mobocratic spirit and stamp out lynching, until not a vestige of it remains. This is an imperative duty of the times.

GORKY'S MISTAKE.

Maxim Gorky seems to be woefully ignorant of conditions and sentiments in this country. His criticism of American indicates that he has been disappointed. And if he supposed that American liberty stands for anarchy, it is well that he realizes his mistake, and it can only be hoped that he will tell all the world of it, so as to prevent others from falling into a similar error.

American democracy means law-defined liberty. Sometimes, it must be admitted, it breaks out into mobocracy, as in the case of strike riots, and lynchings, but such cases are exceptions, and prove the rule. We have more law here than the Russians have. The rights and duties of citizens are more precisely defined than in any other country, perhaps, and those who come to sow the seeds of discontent will find themselves engaged in a dangerous pursuit, and all the more so because here the people govern, and not a weak autocrat.

Maxim Gorky, as the representative of an oppressed class fighting for the rights of man, as given to him by the Creator, will find a heart welcome among the American people. Maxim Gorky, the exponent of anti-government principles and the doctrine of free love, will not find congenial company among respectable citizens here. Notwithstanding the scandalous divorce cases that stain the pages of the history of so many men and women here, there is no sympathy with the practices so common in the Old World, and which the Russian novelist appears to regard as a matter of course.

Maxim Gorky is a great man in the literary world, and we have reason to believe that he has performed a good work in the cause of liberty in his own home, but he has committed a mistake in disregarding the decent sentiment of this country. The citizens here will naturally argue that if the Russian reformers are working on the lines Gorky seems to follow, they are not worthy of sympathy, or support. And to that extent he has injured his cause.

MOHAMMEDAN CRITICISM.

The Advance is a new weekly, published in Seattle, Washington, and devoted entirely to Jewish interests. It is a splendidly printed paper and well edited, and should commend itself to all who take an interest in that which concerns the scattered race.

In the issue of April 6 we find some editorial comments on an historical address delivered by Abdul Quillan, Bey, in London. This gentleman is the religious representative of the Sultan, of Turkey to the British Isles, and is worthy of a hearing, since he comes as a messenger from the Mohammedan world to the Christians.

From the remarks of the Advance we gather that the distinguished Mussulman charged the Christian world with idolatry and intolerance. We quote:

"Our conclusion must therefore be that the Jews and the Mohammedans constitute the only believers in the One true and eternal God; that the masses of mankind are today, as ever heretofore, idolaters; that in this estimate are also included the so-called Christians throughout the world, who accept as their god the negation of being described by the papal authority at Rome; as also the Greek church, whose head is the Russian Czar at St. Petersburg."

And further:

"But Russia is a Christian nation, and the Jews and Mohammedans, in the estimation of despotic Russia, are also 'heathens' and therefore ought to be exterminated! Is not this the logic of the Czar of all the Russias and his priestly autocracy? And which of all the Christian nations of Europe has raised an arm of voice in protest against the massacres of the Jews in Russia, the unparalleled horror of which has shocked the world?"

It is but too true that the confessions of non-Christian creeds have a grievance against the Christian world, but that is against the men, not against the system. The trouble is that even so-called Christians have been un-Christian in their dealings with their fellow-men. All error, all bigotry, all selfishness springs from a failure to comply with Christian principles and precepts. There is much less Christianity in the world than shown on the missionary maps. That accounts for many of the anomalies that are incomprehensible to the outsiders.

Mohammedanism has brought forth

some excellent fruits, but it is probably not a misstatement of fact to say that it has utterly failed to lift its followers to the highest levels of civilization. The highest ideals of art, the greatest achievements of science, the most notable accomplishments cannot be credited to the followers of Mohammed, but to the nations that have adopted Christian ethics, and ordered their conduct accordingly, though imperfectly indeed. The thought is pertinent: If the small medium of Christian truth that is to be found among the Christian nations has proved an inestimable blessing to the entire world, what may not be expected, when that truth in all its perfection flows freely in the various channels of human knowledge and thought, as will be the case when the Kingdom of God shall have been established upon the earth?

QUEER USE OF FIGURES.

For many years, in fact ever since the beginning of the warfare of the teetotalers against drunkenness, it has been preached and proved and illustrated in song, story and picture, that the greater part of the crime with which society is afflicted, is traceable to intoxicating drinks. Figures have been adduced to demonstrate how much better off a community would be both morally and economically, if there were no dram shops. It is therefore a surprise to find "the other side" also represented by statisticians. It has been commonly accepted as an axiom that all the figures were on one side of the argument.

We find, however, that one gentleman, Dr. Reich, is taking the side of the drunkards. According to the reports he actually maintains that drunkards as a rule are amiable, abhor crime, and are peaceable and mild characters. In proof of this the learned gentleman quotes from a report on crime as shown by the Eleventh census. And these are the figures:

"That of 272 crimes committed by adults against the government only 96 were committed by drunkards.
"That 6,981 crimes against property were committed by total abstainers and only 6,281 by drunkards.
"That 917 miscellaneous crimes were committed by total abstainers and only 885 by drunkards.
"That 3,280 total abstainers, in the juvenile class, committed offenses against property and only 56 drunkards.
"Finally, that 11 juvenile abstainers offended against the government and no juvenile drunkards at all."

There is nothing in the report to show that Dr. Reich is joking about the matter. His figures are to all appearances as formidable as that class of argument can be. And they remind us that many a faddist has no stronger proof for his particular hobby than this so-called proof for the blessings of drunkenness. It has often been observed that figures can be made to prove anything. If they can be employed in support of the civilizing influences of the saloon, they certainly can be found serviceable in any other cause, no matter how bad. And yet, it is true that figures do not lie.

It looks as though looping the loop on roller skates were the ne plus ultra of looping.

Many a man who calls himself a plain, blunt man is nothing but a plain, dull man.

The "Black Hand" society is said to have invaded Russia. Its members doubtless hail from the Black Forest.

If county officials will but enforce the state statutes there will be no need for a city ordinance closing theaters on Sundays.

Secretary Taft says that Congress must determine at once what type of canal is to be built at Panama or work will have to be suspended.

Maxim Gorky will learn one very valuable lesson from his visit to the United States. It is not to "butt in" where he has no business to be.

Dowie has positively refused to accept Voliva's proposal to arbitrate their differences. It may prove to be the stone that was rejected.

It looks very much as though old Geronimo were going to the happy hunting grounds. No doubt he will welcome any change from Fort Sill.

Congressman Donald E. McKinley, who last year visited Japan, has been giving the result of his observations. Boiled down, they are, "The yellow peril is an awful peril and it is perilously near."

The San Francisco earthquake makes us realize better the ruin wrought and the panic of the people of Naples and surrounding towns caused by the eruption of Vesuvius. And how long was the time of terror there, too!

About a year ago an English gentleman who professed anarchist principles, was deported because of his avowed opinions. A noted Russian who holds the same principles comes to this country, sends a message of sympathy to men charged with complicity in the assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho, and yet no heed is taken of his presence and doings here. It surely looks like an invidious distinction.

Attorney-General Moody has retained Consul Hughes "to take under consideration all the acts now known or which can be ascertained, relating to the transportation and sale of coal in interstate commerce, to advise what, if any legal proceedings should be begun, and to conduct, under the direction of the attorney-general such suits or prosecutions, if any may be warranted by the evidence in hand and forthcoming."

The value of modern means of communication with the outside world is but imperfectly realized, until suddenly a great calamity occurs, and all wires are down. It was reported that one gentleman in this city offered \$500 for a telegraphic message from San Francisco yesterday morning, immediately after word had been received

of the earthquake. On such occasions the contrivances of civilization are worth something.

HARD WORK.

The Looker-On.
How many of us appreciate the hours that the "captains of industry" spend on the cars, or steamships, traveling backward and forward (without rest), weaving the web of commerce, while the delvers in details are smoking the pipe of irresponsibility, or sleeping quietly? Is the president of the United States an entirely happy man? "Un-easy is the head that wears a crown!" Even labor leaders are beginning to appreciate the burdens of responsibility.

THE END OF AN ERA.

Chicago Tribune.
There is something singularly pathetic in the story of the final muster of the Ninetieth Pennsylvania regiment of Civil War veterans, when 26 men met at dinner in Philadelphia on the last day of March, all that could be gathered together out of 1,200 whose names had been on the roster of the command from first to last. No one who was present had any cause for shame or for tears which filled the eyes as the patriarchal colonel said: "Boys, we are getting too old, and those of us who are able to get around are so scattered that we can't come together and for the country that speech marked the end of an era."

QUAINT BETROTHAL CUSTOMS.

Philadelphia Record.
In Siam the lighting of a cigar indicates a betrothal. In that country a person wishing to become engaged to a girl of his choice offers her a flower or takes a light from a cigar or cigarette if she happens to have one in her mouth; and thereupon, provided there is no impediment, steps are at once taken to arrange for the payment of the dowry. The families of the bride and bridegroom each have to provide a considerable sum. In Calabria, as in many parts of India, a lighted taper or lighted pipe betokens the acceptance of the suitor for the hand of the lady in marriage. In Siberia it is the custom that when a suitor has been accepted by a girl she presents him with a pair of shoes and a pair of slippers, as a sign that he is to be master in the house.

GOLDSMITH'S SHOWY CLOTHES.

Sartorial Art Journal.
Goldsmith was ludicrously fond of showy clothes. When he sought to take orders in Ireland he tried to dazzle his bishop by a pair of scarlet breeches. While studying medicine in Edinburgh he wore "rich sky blue satin," "fine grey blue shalloon" and silver hat lace. Before Johnson, Reynolds and Garrick he strutted about bragging of his bloom crested coat, and when his reputation had been made by his two principal poems he blazed forth in purple silk small clothes, a scarlet greatcoat and a physician's wig. He carried a gold-headed cane, and a sword hung by his side, and was so disproportioned to his diminutive stature that a coxcomb who passed him in the Strand called out to his companion to "look at that fly with a long pin stuck through it."

JUST FOR FUN.

A Parisian Paradox.
A judgment has recently established the fact that to kiss a woman in the street without her consent, a crime qualified as an offense of "slight violence," is atoned for by a fine of 3 francs. That is not enormous. And if she consents to it? Oh, if she consents, it is much dearer.—Le Figaro.

"My, aren't you on friendly terms with the Washingtons?"
"Mercy sakes, no," replied Mrs. Snobley, "they are not in our set. They can't afford anything better than a party line telephone connection."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Miss Peachley—Mr. Spoonamore, have I ever given you good reason to think I preferred you to other young men and wanted to marry you?
Mr. Spoonamore—No, to tell the truth, you never have. I learn from the other fellows that you kiss them good night when they go away, the same as you do me.—Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Jawback—For the land's sake! You are the slowest woman about dressed I ever heard of. How much longer are you going to be?
Mrs. Jawback—About an inch and a half, after I get into these high-heeled shoes.—Washington Star.

Mrs. Torkins—This paper says that in Russia the censor opens everybody's mail.
Torkins—Huh! Some blamed woman, I'll bet.—Chicago News.

A Social Problem.
Binks—There's young Jimson over yonder. How in the world did he come to run away with Jorkins' wife?
Winks—I haven't seen the lady, so I can't tell whether he did it from motives of philanthropy or not.—Pick-Me-Up.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Louis Joseph Vance, author of "The Private War" and "Terence O'Rourke, Gentleman Adventurer," is now writing a series of novelettes for The Popular Magazine, based on the adventures of Faraday Bobbs, a bright, hustling young American who makes a business of going wherever history is being made, and there taking photographs for the public prints. The novelette, "Rowdy of the 'Cross L,'" by B. M. Bower, is a tale of ranch life, in which the characters are drawn with great skill.—Street & Smith, New York.

In the May Ainslee's there is the first installment of a two-part story by May Sinclair, author of "The Divine Fire." It is entitled "Mr. and Mrs. Nevill Tyson." Elizabeth Dune, charming novelette, "The Lord of the Isle," is another noteworthy feature in this issue of Ainslee's. W. A. Fraser, James Branch Cabell, Kate Jordan, Mrs. C. N. Williamson, and other well known writers contribute stories, and there are two clever essays and some charming poetry besides. The cover design is by C. Alan Gilbert.—Street & Smith, New York.

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