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A PLEA FOR FAIR PLAY.

The Latter-day Saints in the south-eastern counties of the State of Idaho are being placed in a very unfavorable light before the people of the United States. To read the effusions of anti-Mormon politicians and papers, one unacquainted with the facts in the case would imagine that those people are of a very low grade of character, immoral, vicious, clannish and altogether under the domination of a hierarchy, denominated the "Mormon hierarchy."

A political faction in that State has been organized for the express purpose of excluding them from the privileges of citizenship, depriving them of the elective franchise and the right to hold office, and degrading them to the condition of political pariahs.

The truth is that they are, as a rule, a most industrious, temperate, progressive and religious people, engaged chiefly in agriculture and stock-raising, peaceable, broad-minded, ready to recognize the civil and religious rights of all people of every denomination and party, and anxious to develop the resources of the country in which they live and to promote the general welfare. Their schoolhouses and places of worship are patterns for others to follow, and their academies are not excelled, either in buildings or courses of study, or the proficiency of preceptors, in any other portions of the commonwealth. They mind their own business, are growing in the acquisition of property, and in politics they follow their own choice of parties and of candidates. Some of the leading men of their faith take an active part in civil and political affairs, as Democrats or Republicans, and all are absolutely free and independent as to choice in such matters.

The charges that are made of their subordination to ecclesiastical dictators are entirely without foundation in truth, nor are any proofs offered by their accusers to substantiate that which is alleged. The very individuals who make a great outcry about "Church influence" have sought in vain to obtain that which they decry, and failing in their efforts, have become enraged and hence the insensate denunciations they put forth. The people who are thus defamed naturally resent this misrepresentation, but say very little about it, only now and then some of the newspapers published in their vicinity make vigorous protest, such as that which we copy below from the Rexburg, Fremont County, Current-Journal.

We may say in passing that the sensational rumors sent out concerning polygamy are of a similar character to other groundless accusations. There are a few families in that region whose plural relations were formed many years ago, but they cut scarcely any numerical figure in the total population. They are few and far between, and there is no evidence of any such alliances of recent date in the entire State of Idaho.

These remarks are simply a prelude to the efforts of the paper we have named to set forth a plea for fair play, and in vindication of a people who are good and bright and patriotic as any to be found within the boundaries of the United States. The Current-Journal says:

"We feel that we speak for all the Mormons when we say that we regret exceedingly this constant agitation against us. We desire to live in peace with our fellow citizens, and humbly take our part in promoting the interest of the State. We are anxious to develop patriotism and the highest degree of citizenship. If there is any good which other sects and creeds have attained to, and show by their example what they mean by the phrase 'American home' as distinct from those we live in. If their politics are cleaner than ours, let them become our instructors. Such help as this we would welcome gladly if given with a desire to make better of us. But when they slander us, shut our delegates out of the convention, and adopt a platform that calls for our disfranchisement, we protest against their action, and shall use our best efforts to defeat them.

We long for this strife to cease. It retards the growth of our state, and hinders the development of high citizenship. The Mormon people are held back and hindered in the development of their highest possibilities, because of this unreasonable prejudice against them. Let us hope that this campaign shall settle once for all that right to stand side by side with the rest of the citizens in Idaho for the advancement of the best interests of the state in every line of activity."

ENCOURAGING RETURNS.

The Boise Capital-News recently gave some particulars of products of dry farming in Council Valley, Idaho. The yield of wheat and oats in that part of the State from land without irrigation is very encouraging to that kind of agriculture. Wheat was produced, giving from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre, and oats from 50 to 70 bushels. Potatoes and other vegetables were also prolific, and some orchards were raised without putting a drop of water on the land, except that which it received by natural process from above.

This experience in our neighbor State is similar to that which has been gained in Utah. Most abundant crops have been reaped this year on lands that have received no irrigation. The returns reported are even greater in some places than those we have men-

tioned as raised in Idaho. It is true that during the present season rain has been much more abundant than for some years previously. But the evidences are sufficient to prove that dependence need not be placed entirely upon irrigation for the cultivation of the soil, in many places, and the production of paying harvests.

Recent experiments have demonstrated that on sandy or gravelly or loamy soil, deep plowing is highly advantageous in dry-farming. Large areas have been plowed up to a depth of from 8 to 12 inches, and this has proved to be in the highest degree efficacious. Of course, when the subsoil is of a hard or sticky clay formation, very deep plowing is not advisable. But it is evident that there are untold acres of land now left to desolation, or the sagebrush and rabbit-brush growth which meet the eye through large stretches of country, that could be cultivated by the dry-farming method wisely conducted, and made to produce abundant crops. They may not give such yields as those to which we have referred, but with a far less product to the acre they could be made to pay well and without irrigation bringing remunerative returns.

The dry-farming plan is claiming the attention of our leading agriculturists and we are of the opinion that during the approaching fall, endeavors will be made on a large scale in different parts of the State to turn the wilderness into fruitful fields and raise crops of grains and vegetables and fruits in the desert. This is worthy of a trial anywhere, and that which has been done strongly suggests that which may be done.

THE PORTSMOUTH TREATY.

The celebration at Portsmouth of the anniversary of the day upon which the peace treaty between Russia and Japan was signed, is very appropriate. For that war marks the beginning of a new epoch in human history. That conflict turned back, temporarily at least, the tide of Slavonic invasion of Asia's Pacific coast. By it the Japanese, who were the first Asiatics to wake up from a long slumber, won the position of arbiters of the fate of eastern Asia. Japan became a world power, to be heard in the council of nations, the ally of Great Britain. The autocracy of Russia received by that war its death wound, for the struggle for popular government that followed it in Russia will, in all probability, never cease, until the people shall have obtained the rights they demand. By that war China was awakened, and the day cannot be far distant when the uncounted millions of that vast empire will come forward with demands for recognition as human beings. And this general awakening of nations to a consciousness of their natural rights, is spreading. Persia has had a revolution without bloodshed, and the question is whether India can escape the general agitation. The Russo-Japanese war marks an epoch in history, as important as that which was commenced by the Napoleonic wars at the beginning of the last century. It is therefore very appropriate to remember the date on which it closed, Sept. 5, 1905, and to mark the spot where the peace treaty was signed with a suitable monument. Further, the peace treaty was a great victory for American diplomacy. The true story of the Portsmouth conference has not yet been given to the public, but it is generally understood that for the timely suggestion and disinterested counsel of President Roosevelt, Japan would not have granted the terms demanded by M. de Witte in behalf of his sovereign. The event is therefore one of interest to this country. History will record it as one of the great achievements of an American president.

THE CUBAN STRUGGLE.

A Havana dispatch says that the opinion has prevailed among foreign investors in Cuba that the United States would have to foot the loss they may sustain by the Cuban rebellion. The impression was that the Platt amendment to the Cuban instrument of independence placed this obligation upon this country. But this illusion has been shattered by a leading American lawyer at Havana, who has shown that the Platt amendment makes no such provision, and that the United States government is not responsible for any depredations by insurgents, whether it sees fit to interfere or not. He even doubts that the Cuban government can be held responsible for the burning of cane fields or the destruction of other property by rebels. Perhaps this will be an inducement to land owners to assist the government in restoring order. If they have no prospect of being reimbursed, it is to their interest to aid in the maintenance of peace.

According to all accounts the Cuban situation is critical. The President is generally regarded as patriotic and honest, but some of his advisers are charged with fraud and graft. They are openly accused of diverting the public funds to their own pockets, and the disturbances are therefore likely to continue. It is thought, as long as the government has money that can be spent for army supplies, and military preparations. In the meantime the industries are suffering. The men are being taken from productive occupations and put into the ranks of the army.

The real trouble in Cuba, as in other countries where strife is dividing the citizens, is that private interests are placed before the welfare of all. When the time comes that the great majority of men and women labor for the good of the community first, there can be no strife. There will be nothing to quarrel about. It is when individual interests are pushed to the front that clash is inevitable. In this respect human beings are more stupid than the bees, or the ants, because they permit selfishness to dominate and cause strife, which is destructive of peace of mind, and happiness, as well as comfort. The little insects mentioned do not make war upon their fellows in the same colony. They work and toil for the interest of all, obeying the laws of nature to which they are subject, and finding whatever happiness they may be capable of enjoying, in the working out of the common problems of existence. How much wisdom man could learn from the ant! Selfishness is the

real cause of strife in the home, in society, in the state. When self is sacrificed and consumed in the flames of brotherly love, there will be no possibility of discord between man and man.

A GYPSY CONGRESS.

A congress of gypsies has just been held in the capital of Bulgaria. Representatives of that strange people were present from many countries, including America, England, France, Egypt and the Caucasus. They had many topics to discuss. They aired their "wrongs," and told about the difficulties in their way in all lands in dealing in horses; they discussed the suspicion of Christians and how to remove it, the advisability of accepting the Christian faith and various other matters. After a week's conference they had a week's feasting. Then a queen was elected for five years, and the next place of meeting was decided upon.

It is rather strange to hear about a world congress of gypsies. Are they, too, receiving impressions of civilization? Undoubtedly their position in the world is becoming more and more difficult. Fortune telling is no longer implicitly believed in. It is not accepted as true that any gypsy woman has the power of lifting the veil of the future and giving to the curious a glimpse of that which lies beyond. There is too much enlightenment for that. The peculiar form of horse trading to which gypsies are said to be devoted is no longer as profitable to them as it used to be, and horse stealing is undoubtedly dangerous. And the countries of the world are becoming closely settled and cultivated, the wanderers are being restricted to the highroads and the outskirts of cities. It is therefore clear that the golden age of gypsies is waning. But the fact that their chiefs are gathering from all over the world and discussing the situation that confronts them, proves that they have caught the spirit of the age. Evidently, they do not propose to be crowded to the wall without an effort to preserve their existence as a people, strange as that existence may seem to others.

The gypsies are a people about which very little is known. They are thought to be of Hindoo origin. They are found in nearly every country in the world and they accept in part the customs and languages of the countries through which they roam. But they preserve, nevertheless, their own characteristics. It is supposed that much of the folklore of Europe is of gypsy origin. The student who would devote himself to the investigation of the language and history of that strange race would possibly bring to light some facts of value to historical and ethnological research.

"Home rule" is the children's rule.

There is more need for alphabetical than for spelling reform.

Cry of the campaign managers: "A dollar in time saves nine."

"Arid America" as an expression has the merit of being alliterative.

It can't be Cuba Libre so long as the island is not free of rebellion.

"By their fruits ye shall know them." Utah took first prize for fruit at Boise.

Speaker Cannon's denunciation of Mr. Gompers was well deserved and well done.

For the first time in many years, Russia is importing grain. This goes against her grain.

It was "Perdicaris alive or Raisull dead." Now it is, "Ex-Banker Stensland, if you please."

Lincoln's welcome to Mr. Bryan was a splendid example of the saying, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Few people are so good at spelling as to be able to tell the difference between the old and the new style.

The rumor that Battling Nelson was dead fortunately was untrue. Still, pugilistically speaking, he is dead.

Hippie's methods of pledging securities was a close imitation of Davy Crockett's pledging of the coon skin.

If the Germans want to win yacht races they should have their boats made in America and not in Germany.

Some of those Real Estate Trust company directors were close seconds to some of the New York Insurance officials.

The fourteenth annual session of the Irrigation congress is a thing of the past. And it is a past of which the delegates to it may be proud.

On the one hand Premier Stolypin is going to carry out his reform measures and on the other enforce his repressive policy. Between the two he has got his hands full.

It is unwise to introduce political subjects into the Irrigation congress. Their discussion raises party issues and creates partisan feeling, and these tend to impair the influence and usefulness of the congress. They should be eschewed.

"Our elections, where national political parties are involved, have become little more than a scramble for office, in which each candidate declares how good he will be if elected to office, and vies with his opponent in claiming true: busting and anti-corruption virtues, not forgetting to emphasize how warmly his heart beats for organized labor," says District Attorney Jerome. If not the whole truth, that is the truth and nothing but the truth.

CUBA.

New York Times.
Beyond question, sensible Americans would prefer that the Cubans should work out their own destiny. But if they make it plain to us that they prefer to make us the guardians of their future, it will be a condition, not a theory, that will confront us. To President Roosevelt the crisis will be the question of the raising of the question of Cuban annexation will work a most harassing confusion of issues in the Congressional campaign. His own temperamental liking for ex-

pansion and aggrandizement might incline him to seize the opportunity for such a notable increase of the national wealth, for Cuba is rich in resources. But it is certain that the beet-sugar interest, the cane-sugar interest, the tobacco-growing and manufacturing interest would instantly and in the greatest alarm oppose the policy of annexation. The Watson letter would no longer suffice as a campaign note.

HOW TO SPELL IT.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.
Speaking of spelling reform, perhaps you have seen the rather odd puzzle invented by some genius to illustrate certain eccentricities of the English method of denoting sounds by letters. The puzzle was to pronounce the following word: "Phtholopyrrh." Of course nearly everybody "fell down" on it. But if you stop to think that "phth" has the sound of "t" in "phthisic," that "olo" has the sound of "ur" in "colonel," that "gn" has the sound of "gn" in "gnat," and "pyrrh" the sound of "er" in "myrrh," it is easy to see that the product of the letters is "turner."

WORKING FOR THEMSELVES.

London Daily Mail.
In the town of Klingberg, in Germany, taxes are unknown, and this year \$50 was paid to every citizen from the profits of the municipal brickworks.

NOSE JEWELRY.

Pall Mall Gazette.
I suppose that in five years' time anybody who doesn't wear spectacles will be liable to arrest and imprisonment with or without the option of a fine. I cannot believe that all people who wear spectacles suffer from defective vision. I think that the great bulk of the people who wear these things with pieces of gold-mounted glass do so out of vanity. They consider that it improves their appearance and tends to make them look more intellectual. You will notice that no prettily woman or handsome man ever goes about with a gold nose-improver. It would, indeed, be an extraordinary thing if our oculists were to tell us that beautiful people never had defective eyesight.

JUST FOR FUN.

As a Matter of Course.

Reporter-Colonel, how do you stand on the question of spelling reform?
Political Leader-Any system of spelling that suits the plain people of this country, sir, is good enough for me.—Chicago Tribune.

One Way Out.

For a little while they were between the devil and the deep sea. Then the woman got her some dresses made, and went down to the latter. But the man, after some hesitation, went to the former.—Puck.

Trade Active.

J. F. Minkler received a handsome black Percheron stallion from Kansas yesterday in exchange for some tombstone work which he did for the stallion's owner.—Carthage Press.

She was an obvious American, and she brought a breath of hominy into the coiffeurs in Hanover street. Said she: "I want you to send a man, right away, down to the Cecil to shingle my daughter's bang."

M. Toupet-Madam, I am a coiffeur, not a building contractor.—London Pall Mall Gazette.

Mrs. Jones—I wonder what it is that makes baby so wakeful?
Mr. Jones (savage)—Why, it's hereditary, of course—this is what comes of your sitting up at night waiting for me.—Stray Stories.

"Pa, Uncle James has given me his steamer trunk."
"Well, what of that?"
"Now, pa, don't be peevish. Couldn't you give me a trip to Europe to sort of round out Uncle James' present?"—Houston Chronicle.

"Ray, Halton, what is the name of that new poker club you are going to join?"
"Why, the Office."
"The Office? Isn't that a rather odd name?"

"Not at all. It is so very convenient to tell your wife you were detained at the Office."—Chicago News.

Schroeder (to his neighbor, a widow)—Why did you send your housekeeper away, since she was such a good cook?

The Widower—She made such splendid puddings I was afraid I should marry her.—Fliegende Blätter.

"Young Bliffers is a pretty prominent fellow, isn't he?"
"Yes, he's a good deal before the public."

"What's his business?"
"He marks up the baseball score on the big bulletin board."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Let me see," she said, "what is it you call these men who run automobiles?"
"Pardon me," replied the gallant man, "I'm too much of a gentleman to tell you what I call them."—Philadelphia Ledger.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Young's magazine for September offers a number of readable short stories. Among them are: "An Affair at Cairo," B. H. Fredericks; "Through Paper Walls," Mary Stempel; "A Marriage of Today," Gyp; "A Woman of Baby," William Young. These are but a few of the many that compose the list of contents.—114 E. Twenty-eighth street, New York.

The August number of the Arena contains a great many features of interest. The frontispiece is a portrait of Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace. The following is the list of contents: "San Francisco and Her Great Opportunity," George Wharton James; "The Court is King," William Lloyd Garrison; "The Spirit of American Literature," Winifred Webb; "The Right of the Child Not to be Born," Louise Markschaffel; "A Criticism of Mr. Grimké's Paper," Arthur M. Allen; "The Old Woman and Her Witherspoon," J. C. Kaseel; "Picturessque Rotterdam," William Lloyd Garrison; "An Australian Artist Who Believes in Art for Moral Purposes," B. O. Flower; "The Virgin Birth," Katrina Trask (Mrs. Spencer Trask); "Mr. G. H. Wells: The Prophet of the New Order," Ivey Chauncey J. Hawkins; "Our Next Ice-cream," John C. Miller; "Common Ground for Socialist and Individualist," John W. Bennett; "British Egypt," part II, Ernest Crosby; "Shall Prohibition Be Given a Fair Trial?" Finley C. Henderson; "Food-Production of the Future," John A. Mearns; "Byron: A Study in Heredity," Charles Kaseel; "Tried by Fire," a story, Wilma Porter Cockerell; "Politics, the People and the trusts as Seen by Cartoonists," "In the Mirror of the Present," B. O. Flower; Alfred Russel Wallace: Scientist, Philosopher and Humanitarian," a book-study; "Books of the Day" and "Notes and Comments,"—4 Park Square, Boston.

The following are among the special features of the September number of Moody's Magazine for August: "New York City Road Sales," John P. Gibson; "Amazing Prosperity of the United States," C. Snyder; "The Utilization of Waste," H. C. Nicholson; "Money Supply Should Be Regulated," Hon. A. J. Warner; "Investment Features of Railroad Stocks," R. C. Keeler; and "Cycles of Grain Speculation," Thomas Gibson. This is a magazine especially for investors.—35 Nassau St., New-York.



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