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CHOLERA AND MOHAMMEDANISM.

The ravages of the cholera in the orient and in some Mediterranean ports has again drawn the attention of the public to some religious rites peculiar to the Mohammedan world and to which it is thought much of the dreaded epidemic can be traced. One of our exchanges, the Sacramento *Record Union*, devotes an editorial to the subject and uses some pretty strong language. It says:

If Mecca and its dirty pilgrims, the Koran to the contrary notwithstanding, quarantine regulations are such a measure to the civilized world, what should the latter do about it? March upon Mecca, fill up the well, cleanse the whole region, and at the point of the bayonet teach those vagabond and filthy religionists that before God cleanliness is a first law of holiness.

It is hardly necessary to advocate such radical measures, and yet the question is grave enough and ought to be considered by the European powers whose words are law in the Sublime Porte.

Every year, in the last month of the Mohammedan year, thousands of pilgrims gather to worship in Mecca. It is not true that they are a particularly filthy set. On the contrary, they compare favorably with the thousands of Christian pilgrims who flock to the Holy Land. Their religion prescribes cleanliness to exaggeration almost, and the pilgrims, above all others, follow the precepts to the letter. Yet the crowding together of so many thousands, the absence of sanitary regulations and the tropical heat of the country are very favorable to disease.

But the really dangerous feature of the whole matter is the custom of offering sacrifices on a grand scale to the pilgrimage. When the black stone at Mecca has been kissed and the thirst is quenched by the water of the well Zemzem, in memory of Hagar's wandering in the desert, the devotees go to the mountain Arafat to listen to a sermon. In the valley Mina, where according to Mohammedan tradition, Abraham was about to slay Isaac, the great sacrifice takes place. Thousands of animals are gathered together. The wealthy pilgrims kill one camel or more. Some chalifs are said to have slaughtered a thousand of these animals. But even the poorest will sacrifice a sheep. And not only in this valley but all over the Mohammedan world the day is celebrated with sacrifices. It is the "great feast" or the Kurban Bairam, the "feast of sacrifices" of the followers of the oriental prophet. The result is easily imagined in places where the salt waves of the sea do not wash away the blood and the remains of the killed animals. The stench in a few hours becomes almost unbearable. And no wonder that the public slaughter places become the receptacles of dangerous germs that only need favorable winds to be carried over Europe and Asia.

In later years the Turkish and Egyptian governments have endeavored to prevent the danger by prescribing certain rules and regulations, but these do not go far enough. The effective remedy would be the establishment of crematories in the places where the sacrifices are slain, and we believe the sultan could easily be persuaded to have such erected, if proper arguments were used. The civilized world which is threatened by the cholera has a perfect right, not to compel the Mohammedans at the point of the bayonet to cease one of their religious practices, but to surround it with such safeguards as not to make it an incessant menace to the health of the rest of mankind.

MR. "TOM" SAUNDERS.

Through the medium of the New York *Sun* of the 26th ult., we are introduced to one Mr. "Tom" Saunders, a personage whom it describes as "Mr. Hoke Smith's evidence hunter and witness collector," and of whom the Atlanta *Constitution* gives these generous particulars: "Mr. Saunders's connection with Mr. Smith's legal practice in Atlanta was of a very close and confidential nature. He had charge of the collection of evidence to Mr. Smith's large damage practice, and it was to get witnesses together and locate important evidence in the cases to which his attention was directed."

It appears that the losing and finding of Mr. Saunders have constituted one of the journalistic sensations of the southern city. The *Sun* quotes, and we to complete the story reproduce, from another Atlanta paper, the *Herald*:

Tom Saunders was, until recently, an attache of the office of Mr. Hoke Smith.

Everybody who had any dealings with lawyers in Atlanta knew Tom. He was a big, portly fellow, middle aged, active, and generally regarded as a valuable assistant of the secretary in his legal work here.

For several years he was a faithful employe.

Suddenly a month or so ago the royal Saunders disappeared from his customary haunts. He used to be quite conspicuous about the court house, but he is never seen there now.

It has developed that Mr. Smith has remarked his present mark. Saunders's neighbors on West Fifth street, just beyond the Technological school, say that he's gone to the White House. Better than that!

He's gone to the interior department. At present he's representing the United States in Utah as a land office agent.

The appointment was made early this month.

We are further informed that the pay of Mr. Saunders in his new position will be $1,500 a year, and railroad expenses; and since it is now ascertained to inquiry among local officials that the gentleman is somewhere about the Uintah reservation, investigating matters and things in that interesting region, we desire to record the opinion that the compensation is little enough, and the railroad expenses will not be excessive. Furthermore, we cannot join in the sarcastic levity with which the *Sun* treats the subject, and with which, indeed, it is always pursuing Secretary Hoke Smith. On the contrary, we cherish the hope that Mr. Saunders will prove as genial, energetic and popular as his chief, and that as an evidence hunter and collector of witnesses in this Territory he will serve himself with much glory. Finally, we trust that he will not return to Washington or Atlanta without giving us an opportunity to convey to him at closer range the assurance of our most distinguished consideration.

FORECASTING THE SESSION'S WORK.

Speculation as to what the extra session of Congress will and will not do is rife and will continue till supplanted by the doings themselves. All things indicate the re-election of Judge Crisp as speaker of the House; Senator Harris has already been chosen for president pro tem of the Senate, and with so much accomplished the forecasting business has a narrower field in which to operate than would otherwise have been the case. Congressman Springer in a dispatch this morning announces his belief that the session will not last longer than ten days, but there are many others who think it will prove to be the free part of the regular session, one beginning where the other leaves off.

The New York *World* in a lengthy special quotes Mr. Crisp on the subject as follows:

I have come to Washington prepared for a very long session of Congress. From the present appearance of things I do not think the House will finish the work it has been called together to do much in advance of the time set by the Constitution for the convening of the regular session. Even should the most important work be disposed of by the 1st of October, there would be small inducement for Congress to take a long recess. The weather would then be cool, the members would be in good legislative trim, and the big machine would be moving at its normal rate. It would be better, I think, and I believe that will be the opinion of the majority of the members of the House at least, that if there is any time to spare within the early year the session shall be shortened, next summer rather than by taking a recess this fall.

Mr. Crisp is of the opinion that the Sherman law will be repealed but as to how early he would not even hazard a guess. A bill to that effect will be introduced into the House at once and may pass at an early date, say thirty or sixty days, but the Senate might labor with it for months; he thinks the fight in both sides will be determined and strong, but no outside means will be resorted to. As to the question of rules the opinion is expressed that they will be amended sufficiently to prevent the use of obstructive tactics and the closure will be employed whenever necessary. This coming from a Democrat of high standing is decidedly interesting.

RETURNING TO THE CHARGE.

This morning's *Tribune* contains an affidavit "executed" in that of Mr. Drake, and as it is reproduced in full in today's News together with some further matter of the same character, the reader is referred thereto for information. There are one or two singular features in connection with the case on the other side—Mr. Ryan, upon whom the onus of the whole matter rests so far as Mr. Drake's affidavit is concerned, is absent, the witnesses being supplied by a subordinate, and the actual manner in which the more salient of the charges is evaded. The allegation that Drake worked part of the time with Shafer on the mine is not denied; the allegation that he signed the city pay roll and was paid by the city is not denied; the allegation that he never resided a mile from the owner of the mine is not denied and yet from mine to the gravamen of the case! At the end of the "counter" affidavit is a general denial, but this amounts to nothing more than the affiant's conclusion, just the same as pronouncing the matter "sacrilegious" is his conclusion. If Drake did not do private work at the time he was working for the city, Shafer, affiant, fails to disclose that; while the statement that the timber and material used on the mine were paid for by private funds must be for a purpose, but alone leaves such an statement which this one traverses, when one is not. Like nearly all the rest of the "counter" affidavit, it is the merest subterfuge if nothing worse. That which is alleged by the first affiant is not denied specifically if at all, and that which is not alleged is brought out and paraded as though it had some relevancy.

The *Tribune* says we charge it with taking sides, and the facts bear us out in so saying. No fault was or is found with it for so doing; in fact, it is rather the other way, since an accused person should have a defender. It also charges the News with grievously taking sides, to which we reply, only to the extent of giving facts or statements as they are developed and all that can be obtained from either party. We said yesterday that whether an officer by or against the waterworks superintendent or any official was committed we would prosecute the case to the best of our ability, during the grandstand construction of the contemporary's antagonistic brass on our excellency; we have taken sides—both sides, and this is the proper thing to do in such a case.

Meantime, it would seem to be advisable for Mr. Ryan to change attorneys.

GENTLEMEN, YOUNG GENTLEMEN!

We owe a courtesy to one just been shown the News and many of its readers by the Union Pacific Railway should not be allowed to pass without appreciative mention. We refer to the arrangement by which the afternoon train from this city for the north has been scheduled for four o'clock, at which hour an excellent edition of this paper can be issued, containing the day's news of the metropolis, the Territory and the earth, and distributed in time for perusal on the cars or around the supper table by the good people of the Junction city and contiguous and intermediate towns. The intention had been to start this train at 3:30, but a suggestion from this office, embodying the foregoing idea, received prompt and favorable notice, with the result stated. The people of Salt Lake, who will thus be permitted to enjoy for half an hour longer the presence of northern visitors in their midst, and the esteemed northern visitors who will thus have the pleasure of staying half an hour longer in the coal city of the mountains, should join us in thanks to Mr. Harley who has given this matter his attention and to the other officials who have entered it into effect. Both the favored classes are patrons and friends of this paper, which for itself and them expresses gratitude for the act of friendly consideration and thoughtfulness.

ONE-SIDEDNESS.

Advices received are to the effect that the people of southern Florida fear an outbreak of the Seminole Indians. The strained relations between the Seminoles and whites is said to be due to an indiscretion of a settler, who caused a son of the chief to be thrashed for poaching. "It would seem," says an exchange, "a dangerous proceeding to attempt to restrain Indians from exercising the right to hunt. A people accustomed to regard all wild animals as their natural prey will not easily submit to the artificial barriers which the white man assumes to erect for the preservation of game of other persons. If the people of southern Florida are strong enough to completely overawe the disaffected Indians the whipping of the chief's son must be set down as a foolhardy trick." And there you are. "If the people are not strong enough" to overcome the original inhabitants they are very foolish for practicing wrongs upon them; otherwise, as usual, it doesn't matter. The Indian so against the white man has no case whether in the right of it or not.

EX-GOVERNOR FERRIER, who has been appointed U. S. senator from California to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Stanford, made several sea voyages as cabin boy and sailor to various parts of the world, and turning up in California, made a fortune before his political honors came to him. The fact that this successful career began with his running away from home in Maine when 12 years old renders none the less proper though rather less effective the advice that a boy ought'n to run away from home.

A REPORTER on the Philadelphia *Ledger*, a grandson of the late A. J. Drexel, has come into a fortune of a million dollars under the will of the deceased banker, and is spoken of as the richest newspaper reporter in the country. But there are scores and hundreds of young reporters, and some of them right here, whose grandfathers were not bankers and who have no expectation of coming into a fortune through anybody's will, who are still worth a million of any man's money.

A MINNESOTA editor has been arrested for refusing to work his poll tax. The poor fellow has neither hands nor feet, having lost them in a blizzard yesterday, and he didn't appear to have enough for an item to stay the commission by press ing himself at the designated place with a pick and shovel!

AND NOW it is Mrs. Eli Fisher, who ran for mayor of Kansas City, last spring, that declares she will sue from the Kansas Republican, she contributes to Rip Saville's "she has to resort to blow up to her rate." Texas wrangling expeditions, all necessarily planned so as to be performed through roddy streams of gore, are becoming so frequent that they have quite lost the charm of novelty.

A WALL STREET struggle has this sign in his window: "Cast wheels taken at par for low-cut coils." Very and every other dealer on Wall street will be glad to take "cast wheels at par" for anything below they are through with it.

THE FREE light in the British house of commons a week ago recalls that the last time a blow was struck in that body the offender was sent to the tower of London, but that was 200 years ago.

THE FACT that Andrew Bunge is being exposed to the Old World suggests that the time is nigh when homebuilding foreigners will have to change their tune about the backwoodsman.

HAVING escaped from her Siamese unclipping without injury, France might try the experiment of making love at and scaring her neighbors on the other side of the Rhine.

AN INDIANA girl named Trout was drowned last week in a small stream running through her father's farm. What's in a name?

SEE the Round Trip tickets to Weber, Cascade and Wasatch.

The Union Pacific will sell tickets at above rate to Weber Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and for Cascade and Wasatch on Sunday morning. All tickets good for return until Monday.

ALL THIS WEEK!

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We shall offer ALL STRAW HATS, at Half-Price.
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We shall offer LACES IN VARIETY Your Own Price.

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