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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 23, 1908.

OUR POSITION.

To our Democratic friends who, according to reports, have taken exception to an editorial in the "News" on "Taft and Bryan," as "unwarranted interference in politics" and, as such, "sure to make certain the insertion of an anti-polygamy and anti-Church influence plank in the Democratic platform," we beg to say, first, that nothing in the "News" has ever said, or is every likely to say, will influence the course of anti-Church agitators of the Dubois brand, any more than the argument of the lamb availed against the hunger of the wolf. False stories, such as this for instance, that leading Church men were sent on missions for political purposes, and the assertions and insinuations that the Church interferes in politics, when such stories and insinuations come from sources not generally regarded as anti-Mormon, are more likely to have the effect of furnishing anti-Mormons with material for anti-Church planks, than anything the "News" can say. It should be remembered that it is the very existence of the "News" and the Church, that is objectionable to them. It is the very existence of the Church that they consider sufficient justification for anti-Mormon activity. To please them, we would have to cease to be, but we are not yet prepared to accommodate them to that extent.

In the second place, we beg to say, that we deny emphatically that the article referred to was written in a partisan spirit. There is not a word in it which can be construed as an attempt to influence anybody, one way or another. The "News" did say that Mr. Taft, if elected, will make an excellent Chief Executive, but we will say the same of Mr. Bryan. He, too, has many of the qualities needed in the exalted office of President. We did say that Mr. Taft, in all probability, will be elected, but that was nothing more serious than a guess we ventured, and if it proves to be wrong, no one, we trust, is injured thereby. We might have said that in the opinion of the friends of Mr. Taft, he will in all probability be elected, but although that was not said in so many words, it was the tenor and purport of the entire article. We did say concerning his election: "Some close students of the situation feel certain of that." And then we gave the reasons why they are certain of it, in quotation marks. If it is an offense to comment on current events of national importance and give the reasons why friends of a Presidential candidate believe that he can be elected, we are not aware of it.

Is it partisanship, let us ask, to speak a good word for a man whom a great portion of this nation honors with the candidacy for the Presidency? Must a newspaper go round with a muzzle every time a campaign is on, like a dog during dog days? That is not our idea of impartial journalism. A newspaper exists for the purpose of giving the news of the day and commenting on current topics, to the best of its ability. An independent newspaper will sustain the authorities that be, regardless of party, if they are worthy of the confidence of the citizens; or, if not, it will criticize such acts as come properly within the scope of legitimate criticism; if will speak well of all, as far as can be done without violating truth, and especially of men and women in the public eye. Such, briefly stated, we conceive to be the duty of an independent, impartial journal.

In the pursuit of the duty as here outlined, we have had the peculiar experience of being made the object of criticism from all sides. Sometimes our Republican friends have thought us rather indifferent to their interests, and sometimes our Democratic friends have made the same complaint, but, on second thought, it has generally been admitted that the "News" has aimed at fairness, impartiality, and consistency. We are proud of this reputation for the organ of the Church, and trust that it may be retained always.

Having departed from our general rule in saying this much for ourselves, we may add that we are again authorized to say that the Church has taken no position whatever in the coming campaign, and will take no position in a political contest of any kind. The Church, as a church, is not in politics. It is a religious organization that exists for the proclamation of the gospel of the Redeemer throughout the world, and it has no other interest in politics than that which other churches have—the interest in the purification of public life and the prevalence of honesty and morality everywhere. Church members, who are American citizens, may have taken their respective positions in the coming campaign, as it is their right and duty to do, and those who have made up their minds will undoubtedly try to influence those who are open to argument, one way or another. That is both natural and legitimate.

The position of the Church has been made clear from time to time. In 1859 a manifesto was issued, signed by the First Presidency, the Council of the Twelve, and Counselors, in which it was stated as follows:

"That this Church, while offering advice for the welfare of its members in all conditions of life, does not claim or exercise the right to interfere with

citizens in the free exercise of social or political rights and privileges. The ballot in this Territory is absolutely untrammelled and secret. No man's business or secular affairs are invaded by the Church or any of its officers. Free agency and direct individual accountability to God are among the essentials of our Church doctrine."

In the Address to the World, adopted at the Conference, April 5, 1907, the position of the Church was stated thus:

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds to the doctrine of the separation of church and state; the non-interference of church authority in political matters; and the absolute freedom and independence of the individual in the performance of his political duties. If, at any time, there has been conduct at variance with this doctrine, it has been in violation of the well settled principles and policy of the Church."

Let these facts be told wherever anti-Mormons, whether of the Utah or Idaho type, are trying to influence conventions in favor of anti-Church planks on the ground that the Church interferes in politics.

THE JAPANESE WAY.

The divorce mill, which grinds so merrily on in our courts, does not abate its persistent output of the product of unhappy marriages, how would it please our youths and maidens to try the Japanese way of making matches? A dispatch from Seattle announces the arrival there of a bevy of 47 dusky brides for whom the immigration office is to find husbands. The procedure is simple enough.

According to the customs of old Japan, the women are married to Japanese citizens of this country, although they have never seen the faces of their husbands except in the photograph which acted as the groom's proxy when the wedding ceremony took place in the Orient. Bringing the picture of their husbands with them, the brides have journeyed across the Pacific, and if the groom turns up, is identified by means of the picture, and establishes his right and ability to support the bride, the happy couple will finally be united at the immigration office and leave on their honeymoon following a supplementary marriage service here.

It is said that the most desirable class of proxy brides of which every ship from the far East has its quota, come from Yokohama, where they are, as a rule, of a higher intelligence and education than from Kobe, where the majority of the women on the Shinano formerly lived.

The immigration agents declare that during the last two years the work of the immigration office has grown so rapidly that in spite of additions to the force it is almost impossible to handle all the business of the office with the desired despatch. A board of special inquiry is at work on various cases practically all the time from the arrival of one ship to another, and the officials think it will be only a matter of a few months before a special board will be delegated to devote all their attention to this work.

The Japanese way is less romantic than the American fashion, yet has its advantages. Considering the number of mistakes made nowadays in matrimonial alliances, it might be a good plan for the young ladies especially to seek the advice of their parents before making the marriage venture.

MR. NUTTING REPLIES.

Over a month ago we copied from a sectarian paper, and commented on, a scurrilous attack upon the Latter-day Saints in general and their theology in particular, for which Rev. John D. Nutting was quoted as authority. That gentleman, in a letter dated New York, May 12, denies having written the article in question, though, as he admits, part of it was from a letter of his to the editor and the other part was compiled from his writings. He says:

"Editor Deseret News: In your Semi-Weekly of April 30 is a leading editorial headed by my name as author of a certain article. Permit me to say that I did not write the article, and have never seen it; though the quotations you make about the motives of 'Elders' and the Mormon doctrine of God are (except slight errors) from a letter of mine to the editor, and the one about the Bible is from a publication of mine and is, like the rest, strictly true to the facts. (Since the above was first sent in I have seen the article, and find that it is chiefly a compilation from my other printed matter, making a very kindly as well as thoroughly true statement of facts.)"

After this queer mixture of denial and acceptance of responsibility for the authorship of the slanderous article, he asks for space in the "News" for what is virtually another attack upon the doctrine of the Church.

We care not to reopen the discussion with the Rev. gentleman, except to note that Mr. Nutting, in his letter, makes this suggestion:

"If you, Mr. Editor, or any prominent Mormon, will make out a statement of the Mormon doctrine of God which will include the essential teachings of your prominent writers and speakers from the beginning, so as to make a logical and fairly complete whole, I will agree to use it instead of the one to which you object in whatever I may say or write on the subject in future."

To which it is sufficient to say, that the doctrine of the Godhead believed in by the members of the Church is that contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. We have no other standards of faith. The "Mormon doctrine of God" must be gathered from these books, as ultimate Scriptural authority.

THE POTATO.

In Utah, the land of the choice, large, mealy, fine flavored potato, the production of the very best kind is frequently disregarded by the small farmer.

The improvement of potatoes as of farm animals consists, firstly, in selecting good stock for propagation, and, secondly, in methods of culture that will permit the stock to demonstrate its good lineage. This selection is artificial rather than natural, but in all cases natural laws are followed. When a variety runs out it is usually because of a selection which might be called the opposite of natural selection. That is, selecting the weakest rather than the strongest specimens for the parent stock.

A successful Illinois producer gives out a record of the things which have

enabled him to put the best of potatoes on the Eastern market. His advice is, probably, applicable to average conditions in Utah.

Seed potatoes, he says, should be selected in the spring only from those stored in crates, shallow bins, or loose barrels, in a dry cellar, with plenty of ventilation, and at a temperature between 32 and 40 degrees. Heating in the bins in storage is frequently the cause of poor stands in the field. Heated potatoes cannot be detected in the spring, and the only way to avoid the difficulty is in using care in storing. Treatment of seed potatoes with formalin and corrosive sublimate before planting to prevent scab has not in most cases proved successful. Exposing the seed tubers to the light and air in the fall and again in the spring before planting appears to be more satisfactory.

In selecting the potatoes the hill or plant is the unit to be considered. The points of excellence in the plant are: First, health and strength of plant; second, a good number of uniform, medium size tubers; third, all tubers should conform to the ideal type of that particular variety; fourth, the eyes or buds should be shallow, so as not to cause too much loss in preparing for the table. When tubers are selected from bins it is impossible to know whether the individual tuber no matter how perfect it may be, came from a plant which produced all perfect tubers on the plant; consequently with bin selection the tendency is more apt to be toward running out than toward the upbuilding of the variety.

Tubers from ideal hills should produce plants similar to the parent plants, but a certain per cent of them will be poor hills owing to a reversion to the parent stock further back than the first generation. With each year's selection this reversion becomes less and less, until the percentage of poor hills should be very small. A good practice is to leave seed tubers exposed to the light for a few days after digging before storing for the winter. This practice, known as "greening" the seed, toughens the skin and makes the tubers more resistant to disease in storage.

Utah potatoes ought to be the very best and bring the highest price. If they do not, the reason usually is that the gardener who selected the seed or who raised them has not given attention to the details of his vocation.

Is the weather man an aquamaniac?

Is there to be a return of the glacial period?

Yale can have but one prouder day than today.

Mr. Roosevelt's retreat is Oyster Bay and nothing more.

The new potatoes are small but the price of them is big.

The Kaw still seems to be cawing to the windy tall elm tree.

Chicago estimates her population at 2,340,000; all estimable people.

A platform "plank" has to be as broad as it is long to be on the square.

There is not much to choose between a man of wind and a man of straw.

A summary of our summery weather to date shows a deficiency of temperature.

It is much easier to make "rats" out of "pigtails" than silk purses out of sows' ears.

The love of office comes pretty nearly being as much the root of evil as the love of money is.

Judge Hough makes paper money for the government by fining the Manila paper combine.

At Berlin are diplomats rated according to Bradstreet's or the Almanach de Gotha?

There is to be no clean sweep in the fire department; only a little flushing here and there.

How is it that a politician can stand on one platform and jump on another at the same time?

Economy is not the only road to wealth, for if it were there would be far more wealthy people.

When the lid is off Sundays at resorts and like places, the first person to go in is generally Satan.

Madam Anna Gould and Prince Heli de Sagan will go to England to be married, but not to Gretna Green.

The chances are about even that those suffragettes made that demonstration in Hyde Park for the purpose of showing off their new gowns.

Mighty good advice to candidates is Proverbs 13: 3: "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth his lips shall have destruction."

No teacher is allowed in the Chicago public schools who is over fifty years of age. A person of that age is not too old to learn and why should he be to teach?

Saltair is a popular resort, and will always be one of the great attractions of this region. We trust the management will be able to keep the various concessions within the boundaries of law and order.

Mark Twain is at the head of an "educational theater" movement in New York. If that qualifying adjective does not make of it a qualified success at best it will be very strange indeed. "Educational" is not a word calculated to enthrone crowds.

ATLANTIC RECORDS.

New York Evening Sun.

We have grown accustomed to the smashing of Atlantic speed records that we take a how one almost as a matter of course. It is not believed that the Lusitania and her sister ship, the Mauretania, have yet shown what they can do when they are put to it. Indeed, it would have been foolish to take too large a slice off the length of the jour-

ney right at the beginning of the game. There is naturally a great deal of public interest taken in the efforts of the older of the vessels to keep the pre-eminence which she gained before her big sister came upon the scene. It looks as if the assailing between the two would go on for a considerable time before one or the other establishes her right to undoubted pre-eminence. This is a state of affairs which must be very gratifying to the smoking room enthusiasts who grasp the skirts of happy chance once every twenty-four hours.

BIBLES ALWAYS BLACK.

Pail Mail Gazette.

Why should our Bibles always be bound in black? was a very pertinent question put by Bishop Tutwell, fresh from his field of labor in western equatorial Africa, at a meeting in connection with the Religious Tract society's one hundred and nineteenth anniversary. The bishop viewed with satisfaction the many Bibles and prayer books of the society bound in bright red cloth. Instead of the hitherto invariable black, a color which is mostly associated with what is melancholy. Bishop Tutwell would no doubt appreciate the brighter and more attractive color for the heathen converts more especially. One is reminded in this connection of the now almost extinct black gown, to which objection has been taken for the same reason, the dominion of which by the parson before delivering his sermon savored so much of the judge's putting on the black cap before pronouncing the death sentence, whereas the gospel message is one of peace and life.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The frontispiece of the July Century is the first reproduction of the Melchers' portrait of President Roosevelt, showing the President in riding dress. The canvas was painted for the Freer collection of the National gallery, Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, and is considered a notably virile portrait. The July Century gives much of its space to articles pertaining to the business interests of the country, that of special timeliness being Mr. Edmond Kelly's discussion of "Employment for the Unemployed," in which he describes in some detail the results achieved in the Swiss farm colonies. How the west is coming to greatness and power by the hardship of the trail and of the pioneer home is shown by Ray Stannard Baker in his account of the Western Spirit of Restlessness, while William Garrott Brown presents the existing status of "The South and the Saloon," and Geo. Trumbull Ladd shows that the business morale of Japan is not so black as they are commonly painted, and at any rate are sure to mend. In the "The Turning Point of Mr. Carnegie's Career," by David Homer Bates, author of "Lincoln in the Telegraph Office." A growing American industry, described by Charles R. Stockard. Of the serial features of the magazine, Dr. George F. Shrady's account of "Gen. Grant's Last Days" concludes the sympathetic study of the business of the final struggle and the end at Mount McGregor; "The Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill," abound in anecdotes of Rubinstein, Wagner, Paderewski, and Bayreuth opera; and the chapters of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's "The Red City" give a vivid and dramatic picture of the scenes and horrors of the plague's ravages in 1788—New York.

A real war is going on in the heart of our own country. In four states men are burning and blowing up buildings, uprooting fields, and shooting to kill, if need be. Mr. Day Allen Wiley has made an investigation of the Tobacco war and its causes for the Magazine. His article, "The Night Riders," appears in the July number. Professor Hugo Munsterberg of Harvard University, the celebrated scientist, has an article in the same number on "Hypnotism and Freedom," which weighs the value of hypnotism as a curative agent. An article of great interest is "The Passing of the Peries," by Jackson Cross, splendidly illustrated with photographic studies by Alvin Langdon Coburn. "Waterloo Today," by Robert Howard Russell, compares the battlefield as it was when Napoleon's army thundered across it, with its present state. Charles Livingston Bull has another of his stories of the fur bearers in the July number. The fiction is of unusual quality, including "The Color Line," by Lucy Pratt; "The Wedding Journey of Felice Arguello," by Charles Frederick Holder; "The Intruder," by Mayne Lindsay; "The Marygold," by Helen Wolaska; and "Rajah," by Robert Alexander Watson—3 West Twenty-ninth street, New York.

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