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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 28, 1902.

JOSEPH SMITH AND POLYGAMY.

We publish today, in another part of this paper, an article which appears in the "Arena" for November, by President Joseph F. Smith. It is on a subject that would not have been pressed to the front, just now, but for a misleading, unnecessary and incorrect communication to the same magazine in August last, from the President of the "Reorganized" or "Josephite" church.

We can understand the objections raised by that gentleman and others who reject the doctrine of a plurality of wives. They are in accord with the great majority of people in Christendom. We are familiar with all the arguments and sentiments entertained, and presented against it. That it runs counter to the prejudices of centuries, deep-rooted and strongly grounded in the hearts of the multitude, we are fully aware. We also recognize the force of public opinion, materialized in statutory enactments and much binding upon citizens whether in the majority or in the minority. But we do not comprehend how persons occupying the position held by the leader of the "Reorganized" church can maintain the notion that the doctrine of plural marriage was not introduced by his honored father, now deceased, whose blood was shed by assassins and stains the earth with the blood of other martyrs for his truth.

The evidences that Joseph Smith, the Prophet, both taught and practiced the principle of a plurality of wives, as a divine institution revealed to him, are given in part by President Joseph F. Smith, whose article had necessarily to be brief so as not to extend over more space than that to which he replies. The proofs that have been and might be imparted to establish these facts, are sufficient to put the dispute beyond all question in the minds of fair and unbiased inquirers.

This may not appear to some people of any particular consequence. The real question in most minds when the subject is presented, is the right or wrong, the advisability or inadvisability of the practice of polygamy. But it should be understood that this is not just now up for discussion. The highest tribunal of the United States has upheld the action of the legislative and executive departments of the nation for the suppression of polygamy, and that ends the contention as to its practice. President Smith does not attempt to revive it, nor is there any desire on our part to discuss it on its merits or demerits. It is a simple question of fact which ought not to be distorted, falsified or avoided.

To deny that Joseph Smith, the martyr, presented the revelation on celestial marriage to the leaders of the Church during his lifetime, and showed his faith in the doctrine by his works, is to accuse his successors and their immediate associates, and the good and noble women who have given their testimony on this subject, of deliberate falsehood and in many instances of direct perjury, because they have given their evidence under oath. It was, therefore, eminently proper for President Joseph F. Smith, as the living head of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to make his statement on this subject, over his own signature, in the same widely read magazine as that in which the misstatements were published to the world.

We commend the article to the consideration of the Latter-day Saints everywhere, although most of them are thoroughly satisfied as to the source of the revelation referred to, and have not the slightest doubt that it came through and was practically observed by the great Prophet, who, under the inspiration and commandment of Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ, ushered in the last dispensation. It is also good reading for everybody who takes any interest in this branch of an important subject.

THE FATE OF THE VETOS

The City Council on Monday evening disposed very quickly of the Mayor's two latest vetoes. In one reference to the attempted removal of the site for the city jail, and the other relating to the repairing of the sidewalk on the east side of the Salt Lake Theatre. Both of them, to use a favorite phrase of a morning contemporary, were "ill advised," and the first named was more than that. It was absolutely absurd. Our contemporary seems out of humor over the settlement of the contention about the site for the city prison, and attempts to make an excuse for the Mayor's void veto, and calls the course pursued by the council in relation to it "unhappy." It then proceeds to put the matter in a false light so as to justify its own position.

That the council did exactly right, and that the ruling of the president of the council was correct, holding that the Mayor had exceeded his prerogative, needs no argument, and it is folly to attempt to hold to the contrary. We noted from the records on Monday

evening, and proved that the Mayor and City Council formally selected the site for the building of the new city prison last April. The matter was brought up again, on a motion to inquire into the advisability of making a change. The committee to whom the proposition was referred reported back to the council that the change was inadvisable. The council adopted the report. That was the end of the matter. The Mayor had nothing to do with it, legally. There was nothing left for him to take action upon. His veto, therefore, was ridiculous, if not to say "unhappy." His advisers and apologists had better say no more about it, if they are really his friends.

In giving the Theatre people authority to repair the sidewalk on the east of their building, the council followed the usual course in such cases, and as Councilman Fernstrom remarked, a vote of thanks ought to have been extended to the Theatre people, instead of an attempt to suppress their good intentions, for the work they proposed to do is part of the regular work of the City Council.

There is too much of a disposition exhibited to block the way of the City Council, in measures designed by that body for the public benefit. One of its worst manifestations was the opposition to the only feasible immediate means of increasing the water supply at a critical period. That factious opposition ultimately failed, but not until after irreparable damage was done and much loss entailed. Pet measures, personal animosities and political or private grudges, are entirely out of place in the relations between the executive and legislative departments, and every supporter of good government should do his best to stamp them out of existence.

The rights of the Mayor should be fully upheld, but excess of authority and endeavors to annoy and hinder where he cannot stop action by the council, should not be approved by the press or the public. The City Council is as independent in its sphere as the executive department is in its own domain. There should be harmony between the two, and the public welfare should be kept in view, away and above all personal predilections, private schemes and individual desires. Let us have union if possible, at any rate let us have peace!

ESTIMATES ON THE STRIKE.

The Milwaukee Wisconsin gives two estimates of the financial loss caused by the late strike in the anthracite region. According to one of these estimates, the total loss is \$12,500,000, and according to the other, \$26,210,000. The larger table embraces the following items:

Loss to operators in price of coal	\$55,100,000
Loss to strikers in wages	28,700,000
Loss to employers other than strikers	6,900,000
Loss to railroads in earnings	13,400,000
Loss to business men in the region	16,800,000
Loss to business men outside the region	10,300,000
Cost of maintaining coal and iron mines	2,300,000
Cost of maintaining nonunion men	650,000
Cost of maintaining troops in the region	850,000
Damage to mines and machinery	6,500,000
Total	\$326,210,000

But this is regarded as exaggerated, by a former mine superintendent, who proposes this list of losses:

Loss to railroad companies in freight	\$14,000,000
Loss to anthracite operators from unusual sales of bituminous coal	6,900,000
Cost of coal and iron police force	1,000,000
Loss to miners in wages	4,410,000
Damage to mines	800,000
Total	\$26,210,000

The second table does not take into consideration the loss to the public, except as far as the maintenance of an extra police force is concerned. And neither of the tables counts as loss to the donors the considerable sums donated to the striking miners. It is very clear that if one table is exaggerated, the other is too conservative, and the real truth would have to be sought somewhere between the two. But even at the lowest figure, the loss is tremendous.

The strike lasted but a little over five months, and it cost as much as a little war. That is one of the most potent arguments in favor of compulsory arbitration. That point should not be lost sight of. Arbitration is the only way by which such troubles can be settled. The questions involved are even now before an arbitration commission. Why should there not be in existence such a commission before which the parties interested must bring their differences first, instead of having to wait until property is destroyed, lives are lost, and both sides have been exhausted?

THE AMERICANISTS.

The Americanists in session last week in New York discussed many things of general interest. One of these was the unity of the native races of this continent. Some have held that all the inhabitants of the western continents are of one race, modified only by the different circumstances in which they have been placed. According to the Americanists this theory is not accepted by all ethnologists. The "Lansing man" was also the subject of discussion. As already stated in these columns, that find has been regarded as very important, as proving the existence of man in this hemisphere many thousands of years ago. A Chicago professor thought the skeleton must have been from 15,000 to 20,000 years old. It is almost complete, from skull to toes. The bones preserve their structure, and show no traces of fossilization. The man, it is said, was about 55 years old, slightly above medium stature, and of ordinary strength. Dr. Hordlick of the museum of natural history finds that the skeleton approaches closely to that of the Algonquian Indian, and on that ground he does not accept the ancient date for the owner of the skeleton. Prof. Putnam, on the other hand, said "there is no reason why man should not have lived on this continent even 100,000 years ago, and his cranial formation, in a general way, be the

same as that of the present-day Indian. The two things are perfectly consistent. In fact, were the cranial formation of the "Lansing man" different from the existing type, I would be inclined to have a suspicion of its being an intrusive object." And thus opinions differ. It is very plain from the deliberations of the congress, that, as to ancient America, there is room for much speculation, and that much research is needed, before science is in a position to pronounce in favor of one hypothesis or another.

One of the later sessions was devoted to the pictorial and hieroglyphic writings of Mexico and Central America. It was stated by Dr. Edward Seler, a German savant, that as little could be learned of the lives of the people from their writings as could be learned from the sacred writings of the Egyptians. It would be interesting to know whether that opinion is shared by a number of students of the subject.

WOMEN AND WAR.

A field cornet in the Boer army, Mr. Otto de Thompson, is quoted as having said that the Boer women are almost extinct as a consequence of the late war. He has recently been in St. Louis for the purpose of perfecting arrangements for the colonization of 3,000 Boers in Missouri. In the course of an interview, says the Kansas City World, Dr. Thompson was asked how many women he thought there would be in the colony and he replied:

"Ah, the women! Where are they? We have none to speak of now. They will be few—very few of them—in this colony. The Boer women are no more. The flower of our families has gone. The reconcentrado camps brought about their death. How many died in these human slaughter pens God only knows. The lists of dead have not been published and they are not apt to be for some time. When they are, the story will appal civilization. The truth must come out at last—it cannot be hushed forever. The flower of our families has gone."

That is a sad view of modern war, which has adopted the system of concentration of non-combatants, evident to the purpose of striking down those whom modern civilization has exempted from death by the more direct modes of warfare. The concentration system should be abolished as barbarous. Its effects were seen in Cuba, and in all probability they have been bad in Africa, too. The world needs such women as the Boer women were—heroes themselves, and mothers and sisters of heroes. The loss of such women in cruel warfare is really a loss to the entire world.

Coming elections cast their ballots before them.

These pleasant days make thermometers absolutely useless.

Adding fifty cents a ton to coal is a new way to Baer the market.

Those who did not register this Tuesday cannot vote next Tuesday.

In politics neither side has all the virtues though both claim them.

Strange as it may seem, these pleasant autumn days give one the spring fever.

Once again the Irish Nationalists in parliament are having the time of their lives.

Just now they are having a diggins of a time down in the anthracite coal region.

The President's birthday seems to be made of the same strenuousness as any other day.

After Tuesday next a great many will remember Ben Bolt though they forget sweet Alice.

No game of chance is more uncertain than the visit of the Boer generals to the United States.

Next Thursday the public will know when the next meeting of the strike commission will be held.

There is one institution in the state that is in every respect up to date—that is the registration.

It is to be hoped that the strike commission's length of days will not be as great as was the strike's.

The Commons is getting to be as bad a place for rodneyism as the Reichsrath or the Indiana legislature.

The University of Chicago was an educational big bug before it secured that collection of fifty thousand bugs.

A Boston man proposes to use water for fuel. Here, after years and years of searching and waiting, is the very man to set North river on fire.

Secretary Leslie M. Shaw says that the Pacific Ocean is destined to become an American sea. That may or may not be so. At any rate we shall see what we shall see.

Mary MacLane says that she has been receiving offers of marriage at the rate of a hundred a day. By not accepting she shows that she really has more sense than those who would marry her.

Dr. Koch still insists that tuberculosis in animals cannot be communicated to man. He is a great authority on the question and for the sake of mankind it is to be hoped that he is right in his contention.

Columbia has a full appreciation of the monetary worth of the Panama canal to her, and wants Uncle Sam to pay handsomely for the privilege of digging it. If not more careful the little revolutionary government will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

A very severe attack upon the distinguished Austrian physician, Dr. Adolph Lorenz, was made in the county medical society last evening, one physician declaring that he is liable to arrest for practicing without a license and that he is also getting far too much advertising.

The case hardly comes under the jurisdiction of the local medical society until he enters the confines of the state. And if he is doing anything unprofessional it can scarcely be more unprofessional than to attack him before he even comes into the state. Now would be a good time

for those who are so jealous of the honor of the profession to study the parable of the bean and the mote.

THE DANISH ISLANDS.

Portland Oregonian.

Denmark would gladly part with one of her islands for the benefit according to the most important, commercially, of the group, St. Croix, and the United States would gain the only advantage she wants, viz, the fine harbor and naval station at either St. John or St. Thomas. It is said that Denmark would be entirely satisfied with this settlement, and would like this quasi alliance with the United States. In case Denmark retained two of her islands, she would establish a fine steamship service to the West Indies. In our judgment, this substitute treaty which the Danes have in mind is better for the interests of the United States than the treaty that has just been rejected.

New York Mail and Express.

The Danish people, in spite of the opposition of the conservative classes who obey the will of the aged king, are bound to see that they have no moral right to keep the islands in this degrading tutelage. The present treaty, however, is likely to lapse. It may be well to let the next proposition on the subject come from the Danes—unless indeed, the people of the islands, driven to despair by this decision, so gravely opposed to their best interests, change in disorders which the power of Denmark will be inadequate to quell. In such a situation the United States may have something to say.

New York Evening Post.

May it not be possible that these old men have some such feeling in reference to the sale of the islands as most Americans would have if a foreign country should offer to buy Florida or Alaska from us? Perhaps they have some such feeling as the subject that should have in like case, seeing that Denmark has held those islands longer than we have held anything, longer than we have had an independent existence. Tradition is a strong force among the political elements of nations and it is especially so in the minds of aged senators.

Springfield Republican.

The failure of the Danish islands purchase treaty to pass the Danish Landtag, the vote being a tie, means that another treaty is dead, and that the Danish flag will continue to fly in the West Indies for an indefinite period. Possibly an attempt will be made later to dispose of the islands to the United States, if the insular deficit continues to be a charge upon the Danish treasury, but for the present, at least, the status quo is likely to be maintained. In this there is nothing that can give the United States a single anxious thought. So long as a weak power like Denmark holds the islands they can be no possible menace to American interests in the Caribbean and at the isthmus. There is no good reason why Americans should not be perfectly satisfied if the Danes wish to retain these unprofitable insular possessions.

THE SAMOAN VERDICT.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The disposition to charge King Oscar with anti-American sympathies is natural, but the decision will be accepted of course without formal demur, and there is consolation in the suggestion that such cases hereafter will go to the Hague. While national sympathies may not be absent from that tribunal, it will be a mixed court of trained men having a far deeper knowledge of international law than most heads of states. Moreover, as time goes on, it will establish a valuable body of precedents and introduce new elements of certainty into its decisions. In spite of the disconcerting events that have happened since the conference it will probably be fully justified in the future.

New York Mail and Express.

The decision of the Samoan controversy in favor of Germany and against the United States and Great Britain will arouse in this country some surprise, but a little chagrin, but no protest. The ruling of the king of Sweden and Norway will be accepted as final, the claims will be paid and the incident will be closed, leaving only a feeling of regret that an unintentional wrong was done by American officials to Germany, coupled with gladness that the United States retains its place among the leading advocates of international arbitration.

Boston Transcript.

King Oscar's decision with respect to the Samoan matter is a little disappointing, perhaps, but it is much preferable to bloodshed.

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