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THE DIVORCE EVIL.

A Chicago divorce is of the opinion that the divorce evil is worse than "Mormonism." This was embodied in an opinion delivered by the learned interpreter of law, in a divorce case. The parties were Edward L. Schraeder, an artist, and his wife, Elizabeth Ritcher. They were married, the report says, March 24, at Milwaukee, and on their return to Chicago were remarried by a minister, March 17, the woman had obtained a divorce from Patrick J. O'Connell in the Circuit court. They lived together four months and then separated.

Judge John Gibbons, in an opinion filed with a decree dissolving the marriage takes the position that marriage by persons divorced in Illinois, even in other states, within a year are illegal. Accompanying the decree is a written opinion in which the judge says that "by reason of the many causes of divorce under the laws of this state, marriage is reduced to the level of commercialism, and the consequences are more baneful to society than Mormonism." He adds:

"The question merits, and should receive, most careful and serious consideration, because anything which affects the stability of the home or the integrity of the family is of great moment to society."
"It may be stated as a general rule of law, subject to some exceptions, that a contract of marriage entered into by parties capable of contracting, which is valid under the laws of the state or country where made, is legal anywhere. Had the parties remained beyond the jurisdiction of this state their marriage would probably be held valid in every state and country whose laws or public policy would not be thereby violated."
"Although we grant hundreds of divorces annually in obedience to the statute of this state, I nevertheless believe that divorce should be allowed, except possibly for one cause, and this I think should be the policy of the state whether viewed from the standpoint of divine or human law."

"More baneful to society than Mormonism!" That expression only proves that Judge Gibbons has a very hazy conception of what "Mormonism" is. As so many otherwise well informed men and women, he evidently meant to say polygamy, and supposed that "Mormonism" and polygamy are identical. A moment's reflection would have saved him from committing himself to a serious blunder in the use of terms in an important legal opinion. If he had considered that "Mormonism" existed and flourished before the revelation on plural marriage was given; that it exists and flourishes after the Manifesto abolishing the practice; that thousands of Latter-day Saints never lived in plural marriage, and that millions of the human race have been, and are now, polygamists in theory and practice, he would have seen the absurdity of referring to polygamy, even by implication, as "Mormonism." Plural marriage, it is true, was at one time accepted by the Church as a divine institution, but the Church never stood nor fell by virtue of it. The fundamental principles of the Church are faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has reason to feel proud over its position on the marriage and divorce question, which forms one of the serious social problems of our age. Legislators and courts have declared plural marriage as contemplated in the revelation to the Prophet Joseph, each man taking proper care of his families, illegal, and the Latter-day Saints have yielded to the authorities of the land, because they are loyal and law-abiding. But the problem remains in another form, and we agree with the Chicago Judge that the consequences of the species of polygamy created by frivolous divorces and remarriages are baneful to society. How is that problem to be solved? Reformers, legislators, and courts, seem to be grappling with it in vain. It is a form of polygamy that is growing in popularity, and many do not even recognize it as an evil. What is to be done?

The Church teaches that marriage is a sacred covenant that should not be entered into lightly, or without due consideration. It teaches that the covenant should extend for time and all eternity. It teaches the absolute necessity of fidelity on the part of both sexes. Where these teachings are accepted and carried out, the marriage covenants will not be broken lightly, by divorce proceedings. We firmly believe that if the divorce evil is to be eradicated it must be by the application to public conscience of the principles of the Gospel. We see no other remedy.

IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

The Christmas number of "Bikuben" is a very creditable publication. It is, probably, the most elaborate effort by that, or any other, Scandinavian paper in Utah. Elder Andrew Jensen, who, for a number of years, has been identified with "Bikuben," in this number announces that he has been called on a mission, and therefore severs his connection with the paper. Elder H. J. Christensen, who for some years has been the assistant editor, takes his place. "Bikuben" is a Danish Church publication. Its first issue appeared in 1876. It was then edited and published by A. W. Winberg. It is now a very good paper, very much appreciated by

the Danish and Norwegian-speaking population, particularly by the older people, who have not been able to master the English language to any great degree of perfection. The "Utah Posten" is a Swedish Church publication, edited by Elder L. Dahlquist, and very much appreciated by the Swedish speaking Church members, both here and in the Old Country. The German Church publication is "Der Beobachter," which is a very ably edited paper, doing a great deal of good in its sphere. It is edited by Arnold H. Schulthess. We wish them all success in the new year. We hope the Scandinavians and Germans will patronize us liberally, and pay promptly, so that they may be able to fill all obligations, make improvements, and accomplish the important mission of being light-bearers in the world.

SHADE-TREE COMMISSIONS.

The creation of a State shade tree commission is a work that might be undertaken by the legislature now about to convene.

The beauty of our towns and cities, the valuation of city and even rural lands, and the tempering of our summer's heat, all depend, more or less upon the presence and number of suitable varieties of shade trees.

Without trees, the semi-arid region is desert-like; with them, it is a country most beautiful and desirable. In the forest States of the northern Mississippi valley, the people are learning to appreciate trees in about the same ratio that the trees are tending to disappear.

The most general cause of the rapid decrease of the forest acreage of the country, apart from the destructive action of human industry and waste in the form of timbering, grazing, and forest fires, is the increase of the insect foes that prey upon the trees.

The employment of artificial measures against insects injurious to shade trees is more imperative in the cities than in the rural districts. Since the advent of the English sparrow, which is not a pronounced insect-eater, many of the insectivorous birds that formerly nested in the cities have been driven to more remote districts. The result is that insect life has become abundant in the cities in about the same degree that the native birds have become rare.

A tree in the city has a struggle for life. The air it gets is impure and smoke-laden; its roots do not get sufficient of either air or water; and it is subject to frequent mutilation that tends still farther to weaken it. If insects attack a city tree, it is therefore more likely to perish than is a tree growing in the open country.

Insect treatment for trees by individual householders is unsatisfactory. They may aid in, but cannot carry on, the work necessary for insect control. Tall trees require strong and expensive spraying, with the services of two men to operate a large sprayer. Moreover, individual spraying is uncertain; in many cases, it is neglected altogether.

It seems, therefore, that the only effective method will be for each city to support a tree-spraying department. Competent, experienced men should be chosen to look after all the public shade trees on streets or in parks and to do the necessary spraying on private grounds for a reasonable charge.

The present park commissioners should be empowered and directed to plant trees in every vacant and available place under public control, giving especial attention to the species selected and the location for planting.

As is well known the various kinds of trees are unequally exposed to insect depredations. Some are almost immune from insect attacks; others are so susceptible that in certain regions it does not pay to grow them.

Dr. E. P. Felt, in an excellent work on "The Insects Affecting Park and Woodland Trees," has tabulated the more common trees of New York state with relation to their liability to insect attack. Utah conditions vary considerably from those found in New York state, yet, the classification arranged for New York holds good in the main here. Dr. Felt's rating, with a few alterations that will be designated later, is as follows: "The figure 3 has been placed opposite trees which are practically immune from insect injury; 2.5 indicates some damage. Trees having one somewhat serious enemy are rated at 2 and those having at least one notorious insect pest at 1.5. Greater likelihood of injuries is indicated by 1 and still more by .5. The species are arranged according to the comparative injury as follows:

- Tulip tree.....3
- Tree of heaven.....3
- Ginkgo.....3
- Red oak.....2.5
- Scarlet oak.....2.5
- Oriental plane tree.....2.5
- American plane tree.....2.5
- Sycamore.....2
- Sugar maple.....2
- White oak.....2
- Burr oak.....2
- Red maple.....2
- Honey locust.....2
- Catalpa.....2
- European linden.....1.5
- American linden.....1.5
- Horse chestnut.....1.5
- Soft or silver maple.....1.5
- American elm.....1.5
- Hackberry.....1.5
- European elm.....1
- Scotch elm.....1
- Cottonwood......5
- Balm of Gilead......5
- Yellow locust......5

The tree of heaven and the hackberry have been only in parks or in such small numbers that the rating can be regarded as provisional only.

The above rating is that of J. S. Houser of the Ohio experiment station, and it differs from that of Dr. Felt in the position of the catalpa. The Ohio station rates it as 2; Dr. Felt rates it at 3. In Ohio the catalpa is "subject to attack from the catalpa sphinx in the southern sections of the state and rather generally to the action of the catalpa diplosis (or a closely allied species) working in the tender, growing tips. Also the hackberry and elm are rated 5 higher because of the fact that the elm leaf-beetle is not well established in Ohio."

Dr. Felt points out that it is not best to plant clumps or rows of a single species, because an insect, on the hunt for its favorite food plant, is much more likely to locate a collection of trees than single indi-

viduals scattered here and there. So, too, a pest is more easily disseminated when once it becomes established on one of a number of trees of the same variety growing close together, than if the trees were at least alternated with other kinds.

The "knocker" seldom has things opened unto him.
Few people understand themselves much less others.

"O joy! O fracture!" sings the automobile joy rider.

One half the world doesn't know why the other half lives.

Why doesn't Castro go to Vienna and become a looker-on?
In explanation of his defeat Burns says, "Too much Johnson."

The dealer who gives short weight usually has a long elastic conscience.
General Bell is the latest to sound a tocsin alarm in favor of a big army.

Pittsburg is a great nursery for municipal corruption as well as infant industries.

People, Ill., claims the divorce record. Divorce and whisky too often go together.

If eastern suffragists would offer men the ballot for the ballot they might get it.

By withdrawing her battleships, Holland has solved a great problem for Venezuela.

Only three days more of leap year. In them the male order houses should do a rushing business.

"No woman worth her salt is without a secret of some sort," says Julia Dawson in the Woman Worker.

In a crowded streetcar a man will stand up for his rights long before he will stand up for a woman.

American helresses are great adepts at falconry. Just see how they take everything with their American double eagles.

Andrew Carnegie says that he is two years older than he thought he was. But that does not make him eligible to the Ananias club.

It is surprising that the organ of the Pseudo-American party does not charge the alleged slow delivery of mail to the "hierarchy."

A Pennsylvania man says that the world will come to an end January 1. Like so many people in Pennsylvania, that man is talking through his hat.

That Frenchman who attempted to pull President Fallieres' beard will find it much safer to beard the lion in his den than to make the attempt a second time.

The night rider does not take his life in his hand when he goes forth on his raids. He takes that of another in his hands. It is this that makes him such a terror.

Leaders of both political parties in Congress want the extra session called immediately after inauguration. If it is to be done, then 't were well if it were quickly done.

"If the nose of Cleopatra had been shorter, the whole face of the world would have been changed," said a great Frenchman. And here comes a great Italian historian, shortens her nose, changes her whole face and says she was not beautiful.

PRESIDENT AND HISTORIAN.

Washington correspondence New York Post.

According to Mr. Ferrero, he and the President enjoyed together many hours of discussion on historical topics. They are both great admirers of Julius Caesar. "Mr. Roosevelt," said the historian, "is like Caesar, the greatest character in history, a noble type of manhood, well worth imitating; but he despises Napoleon as the greatest hypochrite, that ever trod the face of the earth."

Mr. Ferrero has expressed himself of the opinion that history should be written by live politicians, by men who have had practical experience in legislative or executive government, and who can speak with authority on their subject. He says too much history is written by professors, isolated from the world in their libraries. That the President concurs with him in his views in needless to say.

LIVING GHOSTS.

Frank Crane, in the Atlantic.
Those ghosts die hard, yet they, too, die. The divine right of kings, the dying spasms of 1793 and 1849, mangled many an innocent onlooker. The divine right of property will doubtless die with not less deadly struggles, trusts and labor unions fight themselves already for the killing. This is a hag-ridden world. Upon the pale brow of the schoolboy sit the ravens of Latin and geometry, and when we would drive them away they flap their wings and croak "Nevermore!" Ghosts make our clothes; the words we speak are not signs of our thoughts, but signs of dead men's thought. The most cultured person is the dearest in manner. We go to church, not to pray, but to repeat dead men's prayers. Artists, musicians, writers, fight their way through swarms of extinct ideas. Long, gray arms reach out of the past and enfold the ministers in the pulpit, and, waving, hypnotize the occupants of the pews. Viewless but potent monsters brood above the Senate, and threaten any live being who may occupy the White House. Ghosts, ghosts, ghosts, thick as leaves, float from the past to cover us, to smother us in their rotting mold.

COMMISSION PLAN.

Chicago Record-Herald.
Commission government is no longer a doubtful experiment. Success is claimed for it in many sections, and it probably has a "future" in the United States. Des Moines proudly boasts of having become the Mecca of students of municipal reform and efficient administration. Its commission government has surpassed expectations and disarmed opposition. Like reports come from Cedar Rapids, the other Iowa city that has called itself the general law enabling municipalities to do away with councils, checks, and balances,

etc. Paterson, N. J. is to establish government by commission. The supreme court of the state having just declared an act for such a form of municipal administration to be constitutional. Kansas, Missouri, and New England states have passed similar enabling laws, and the municipalities have in several instances voted to establish government by small elective commissions. Haverhill, Mass., has adopted a new charter, which provides for a mayor and four aldermen, as well as for a school board of only four members. The charter also does away with political designations or marks on the primary ballots, and there is a provision for the recall of any city official during his term of office. The Haverhill plan is the Des Moines plan, modified to some extent. Gloucester is to vote at its next election on the question of changing its form of government to an elected commission. President Eliot's faith in that plan is possibly an influence of some importance in Massachusetts.

JUST FOR FUN.

Wait Till She's Older.

On her sixth birthday Ethelbert's father gave her a nice little ring with a tiny pearl in it. Not very long after that she appeared in her father's office looking very weebegone.

"Oh daddy," she said, "I've lost the little pill out of my ring."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Post-Election Conversation.

Applicant—Have yez got—
New Office Holder—Is it anything of value yez want?
"It is, begorrah."
"Thin we haven't got it. Th' party goin' out has taken it wid 'em."—Puck.

Perhaps.

Pearl—In the first chapter of this novel it states that the heroine has hazel eyes and in another chapter it alludes to her liquid eyes.
Ruby—Liquid? Well, er—perhaps she has witch hazel eyes.—Chicago News.

First Impression.

While in the country last summer Bertie listened in astonishment to the clucking of a hen to her brood of small chickens.

"Mamma," she said, "the poor old hen has got the hiccoughs."—Chicago News.

How It Was.

"De po' child died fum eatin' too much watahmillon."
"Well, den, dar wasn't enough boy."—Puck.

Remonstrance.

"So your family disapproved of your going on the stage."
"Yes," answered Miss Gawzy.
"Why?"
"They saw me act!"—Washington Star.

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