DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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SINS THAT HAVE FAILED.

"The failure of Protestantism" is the title of a little book recently issued by a Protestant minister in New York. Mr. Thomas Dixon, Jr., in which he points out with keen logic that modern churches utterly fail in the greatest age to carry out their mission.

Viewing the field in New York, he asserts that Protestantism in that city, instead of growing stronger every year is gradually losing ground. The churches are declining in vitality while godliness is growing, until New York city, he says, has become one of the most godless cities in America. In proof of this assertion he quotes that the statistics of the Baptists, for instance, show a net increase of 375 members during seven years, from a total membership of 13,069 in 1885 to 14,144 in 1892. The normal birth rate during these years should have given an increase of at least 3,000, the death rate being more than balanced by accessions from other churches; so the Baptists managed to hold their own to the extent of one fourth of the children born in their own homes.

The Methodists during the same period increased 1,862, or from 12,568 to 14,140. They held about half the number of their children. The Presbyterians increased 4,128, or from 10,518 to 14,737. The normal birth rate should have given them an increase of 3,584, and they, therefore, managed to hold about two-thirds of their own children. The Lutherans show an actual decrease of 623 during the seven years, or from 14,000 to 13,375, so they have not only failed to hold the children but lost hundreds of their older members.

But these figures, the author continues, tell only part of the story. It is a fact, he says, that many churches now keep the dead members on their rolls in order to have a large showing. One of these records was seen one day to contain 4,000 names while not 200 members could be found. The fact is that there are actually today a smaller number both of Baptists and Methodists than there were twenty years ago.

Discussing Catholicism the author finds that it is unfolding an activity in behalf of the foreign immigrants altogether unknown to Protestants. He says:

> This news would not be held from the devil for twenty-four hours if it were not for the power of the Catholic priesthood. You would have to turn your guns into these streets and sweep them with grape and canister without them. What have we done to reach these people? Nothing. What are we going to do? Nothing. Who are doing that work? The Jewish rabbis and the Catholic priests. If they do not do it, it is not done. If you take those forces away, you have left the people absolutely in darkness. If that is a fact, we must recognize it, and that these forces are being utilized not good.

Yet he finds that Romanism does not hold the key to the future situation, inasmuch as its failure is even more serious than that of Protestantism. Counting the children born of Catholic parentage, the Catholics have lost at least 6,000,000 within the past two generations.

Statistics, of course, may be suspicious as a basis of argument, but it is beyond question that modern forms of Christianity show the decrepitude of old age in a marked degree. Wrapped in dogmas rendered venerable by nothing but high antiquity, anathas but they should be exposed to the winds of modern thought, they will not, or cannot, take an active part in the social struggle in which the nations now are concerned. The power that characterized the Apostolic Church is gone and is no longer sought for. Eloquence in the pulpit is but a poor substitute for divine inspiration; dissertations on semi-political and social topics cannot satisfy the longings of a soul hungering and thirsting for revealed truth; a pandemonic worship is normal, without regenerating effect.

Christianity of today, with its multitudinous creeds and schisms and dogmas, resembles some of those relic sections of ancient arms and weapons seen in museums. They may be of value for historical research and interesting to the student of man's history, and they are therefore properly taken care of, well encased in glass and kept bright and shining. But their day of usefulness for active service is past, however formidable they once may have been in the hands of their original owners. The world moves and new conditions require constant readjustments. In all other affairs of life, this fact is recognized, but the standard bearers of modern Christianity seem to be content with the rather antique and crude system of the middle ages for their battles. This is the real crisis of the Church. The remedy is now a question outside to every sense and changed conditions.

This truth has been pondered in this age, and although the world is slow to recognize its importance, there are many indications that it will be acknowledged at last. The religion of the future will be that based on the teachings of the resurrected servants of the Lord. It will be the restoration of a much institution, in relation to the Master, of a condition of a child to his father, and in addition to his fellowship, to a state of this brotherhood. The religion of the future will be that of the Lord Jesus Christ in deed as well as in name.

AN ANTI-NAVY ARGUMENT.

There has been a great deal of criticism of the administration and Congress because of the failure to make estimate increases in our navy. Some fleet days auditions have been made, but the claim is not up and strongly urged that these are wholly inadequate for the needs of today and almost valueless in the face of possible emergencies of trouble with other power. While it is quite common for newspapers in all parts of the Union to "scratch" government for its alleged tardiness in this business, there are some influential journals, representing all shades of political opinion, who hold to the position that Congress is doing just right, that an expensive navy would be a waste of money so far as the necessities for defense of this country are concerned, in view of the fact that with the resources of the United States and the existing knowledge of handling explosives it would not be a difficult matter for this country to defend its coasts against the combined navies of the world.

One of the journals that oppose a powerful navy is the Springfield Republican, which insists that the new torpedo boat is as effective a means of defence on the coasts of this country require, and it can be built cheaply and quickly. With regard to the Holland torpedo boat, which government officers have given strong endorsement to, the Republican declares that "such a boat ought to be a match for a whole fleet of British warships off New York or Boston harbor;" and surely it ought to be if the accounts given of its accomplishments are correct.

This Holland boat is a submarine craft for handling torpedoes, and its inventor has been twenty years perfecting it. As now constructed the boat that has been undergoing test, and is soon to have an official government trial, is a cigar-shaped vessel eighty-four feet long, can speed fifteen knots an hour on the surface, fourteen when partly submerged, leaving only the smokestack in sight, and eight when completely submerged; she can dive seventy-five feet without being crushed by the weight of the water, and can run eight knots an hour for sixty miles when under the surface entirely. When on the surface she uses steam for propulsion; when submerged, electricity; and when running at full speed above water she can dive from sight within twenty seconds after the giving of orders. As a fighting machine she is a wonder. When awash, or with only the smokestack in sight, it will be very difficult to see her, and when entirely submerged the navigator can thrust up through the little turret a slender steel tube bearing a camera lucida, by means of which the movements of an enemy can be closely followed. Her offensive armament consists of five Whitehead torpedoes, which can be fired when she is submerged as well as on the surface. The craft carries provision for three days' stay under water and buoyant rubber suits for the crew to use in reaching the surface in case the big machine goes wrong and has to be abandoned down below.

This kind of vessel would be almost as strong an anti-navy argument as can be adduced; and if Uncle Sam has a few of them available for armed crusade of foreign countries would give his cause a wide berth in time of trouble. With submarine vessels as easily and successfully operated as this claimed to be, the time does not seem far distant when an attack on a foreign coastwise except with aeroplanes will be out of the question. It certainly looks as though another turn in the wheel of progress in maritime warfare is about to be made.

A RELIC OF 1841.

We have received from Elder William Hulme now sojourning as a missionary in West Virginia, an interesting relic of Nauvoo time shortly after the assassination of the Prophet and Patriarch. It was obtained from a Mrs. Smith, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fox, to whom the letter was written, and who were members of the Church. The document is in a sheet of foolscap paper, folded so that it could be mailed without being placed in an envelope, a small black seal left to the address. On this is the postmark "Nauvoo, Ill., Aug. 18, 1841 and the address, Mr. George Fox, Lonsdale, Armstrong county, Pa." The paper has grown quite yellow with age, but is in a fair state of preservation. The writing is in a clerk's fine hand, the ink showing little if any indication of growing dim, although the letter was penned nearly fifty years ago. Mr. Smith relates it as a valued memento of those days, and expects to return the letter soon.

The letter reads:

> Nauvoo, Hancock County, Ill.,
> August 18th, 1841.
>
> Dear Brother and sister Fox—Your kind favor is at hand and truly it was joy and gladness to our souls, that it did not go to the bottom. We were quite uneasy for you as we had not heard from you for a long time. Some days after we wrote to you we got a letter from Brother Morgan's family, which was very cheering to our souls, for we had been uneasy for a long time, fearing some accident had befallen you. Brother Morgan's family is now in good health and the spirit is flowing mightily among them. Just as I was writing this letter, a letter was brought to me