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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 25, 1905

NEITHER SCHISM NOR WAR.

The Baltimore Sun of recent date
touched editorially upon some of the
foolish sayings of speakers at the
Mothers' Congress in Washington. The
following is an excerpt from the Sun's
remarks:"In the United States there is free-
dom of religion. A man may affiliate
with any church he may prefer or he
may abstain from associating him-
self with any religious body. He is
free to do either of these things, and
the law will protect him from molesta-
tion if he should do either. A church
may expel from its membership any
person whom it considers unworthy,
and in so doing will exercise a right
which cannot be challenged on the
grounds of doctrine or discipline. The
Congress of the United States and the
Legislatures of the several States do
not legislate on the subjects of religious
faith and church discipline. They have
nothing to do with such matters."We fully agree with what the Sun
says on this subject. We commend
it to the attention of our contem-
poraries in the east, some of whom appear
to be under the impression that the
excommunication of two or three mem-
bers of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints is of national im-
portance. Every religious organization
has the undoubted right to regulate its
own affairs and to execute its own rules
and regulations, provided that they
do not interfere with the lawful rights
of individuals or of society.It would seem that every rational
person can see that an individual who
is not willing to comply with the con-
ditions of membership in a religious
body, should be perfectly willing to re-
sist from it, and ought to do so in an
decent and graceful manner as is pos-
sible, but there are people who are
not in the habit of doing anything de-
cently and in order, and so what can
you expect of them?But why should there be any dis-
turbance among other people because
the "Mormon" Church carries out its
own discipline in relation to recalcitrant
members? If a Methodist or
Baptist or Presbyterian refuses to be
governed by the established rules of
the church to which he belongs, and
the hand of fellowship is withdrawn
from him, who makes a fuss about it?
Certainly not the Latter-day Saints.
They recognize the right of each ec-
clesiastical organization to receive, re-
ject or expel any person according to
the established rules of that body. That
is no concern of ours. Nor is it the
business of the State or the Nation to
interfere, unless the expelled individ-
ual is deprived of liberty or property
or some material interest.Because a couple or so of defiant
members are repudiated by the Church
according to its long established meth-
ods of procedure in such cases, there
is no ground for the notion that there
is a "schism" in the "Mormon" Church.
There never was a time in its history
when there were so few instances of
insubordination and defiance of its
principles and discipline as now. It
has been found necessary, occasionally,
from the very beginning of its estab-
lishment to enforce the extreme penalty
which it has the power to execute, that
is, excommunication. Doubtless, it
always will be so. Pruning is required
in every orchard. Dead limbs ought
to be cut off.But this action does not imply any-
thing further of punishment from the
Church. The individual who is no longer
a member is not under its jurisdic-
tion in any manner whatever. It makes
no attempt to do anything further with
him. He is left to the hands of his
God. There are many persons in Utah
whose connection with the Church has
been severed, and they dwell among
their fellows unmolested, enjoying all
the rights of citizens and of neighbors.
In some instances even when they spend
the greater part of their time and en-
ergies in vilifying and abusing their
once familiar friends and co-religionists.There is not the slightest ground for
the opinion expressed by some of the
papers at a distance that there is a con-
flict in the "Mormon" Church, for it
was never more united and full of con-
fidence in its leaders than it is today.
Nor is there any reason for the idea
that society in this city or in Utah gen-
erally is in a state of ferment. The
agitation is all on paper. Everything
here is quiet, although a stranger might
imagine, from the stuff that is drooled
out in some of the public journals, that
there is a terrible state of affairs in
this region and that some folks are en-
gaged in war to the knife. It is all
the most miserable drivell, and no one
should be deceived by it into thinking
that it has any effect here, except to
excite distrust among the few who pay
any attention to it.Utah is advancing in all that tends
to make a grand and permanent state.
It is a good place in which to live. It
has a fine people, of various faiths and
parties, the very great majority of
whom desire to dwell together in peace,follow their respective vocations ami-
ably, protect each other in their re-
ligious, political and social rights, and
observe the golden rule. As for a
few agitators, malcontents, disgruntled
wire-workers, disappointed schemers
and plotters for personal ends, they
will make a noise and work themselves
into a fury, but their end is not far
distant, and the pit of oblivion yawns
for their approach. Utah is all right,
and its future is most promising and
brilliant.

MAGNIFICENT MUSIC.

More than the passing notice in the
account of Sunday services in the As-
sembly Hall and the Tabernacle on
Easter day, is due to the splendid
musical exercises of the occasion—the
Liberty Stake conference. In the
morning the Stake choir, led by Broth-
er Thos. Ashworth, was at its best, and
he sang most effectively the tenor solo,
"Face to Face." The organ was man-
ipulated in first-class style by Miss Ed-
na Coray, whose artistic playing elicited
general admiration.In the afternoon the great choir, un-
der Prof. Evan Stephens, electrified the
immense audience by the rendition of
the anthems, "Unfold Ye Everlasting
Portals," the "Hallelujah Chorus" and
"The Lord Now Victorious." Mrs.
Lizzie Thomas Edward sang most
charmingly, "I know That My Redeem-
er Liveth," every word and note of
which was distinctly given in rich and
vibrant tones that touched all hearts.
The organ, under Prof. J. J. McClellan,
was never heard to better effect, and
the recital with which he favored an
audience after the close of the regular
service will never be forgotten by his
delighted hearers.The Latter-day Saints are to be con-
gratulated on having so much musical
talent in their interest, and should ap-
preciate the opportunities they have so
frequently to listen to the best produc-
tions, both for voice and instrument,
that are furnished by the masters in
music, among whom are numbered
some of our home composers, singers
and players. Easter Sunday marked
a bright and beautiful day in the annals
of Utah's music.

UINTA RESERVATION.

Inquiries are frequently received at
this office concerning the opening of the
Uinta Indian Reservation. The follow-
ing communication from the Depart-
ment of the Interior, General Land Of-
fice, and signed by W. A. Richards,
commissioner, is therefore reproduced for
the benefit of those interested in that
matter:"In reply to your letter requesting in-
formation relative to the proposed open-
ing of the Uinta Indian Reservation in
the State of Utah, I have to advise
you that the act of May 27, 1892 (25
Stat., 253), provided that the Secretary
of the Interior should cause to be al-
located lands to members of the Uinta
and White River tribes of the Indians
prior to October 1, 1904, on which date
all the unallotted lands within said res-
ervation should be restored to the pub-
lic domain; and that persons entering
any of said lands under the homestead
law should pay therefor at the rate of
\$1.25 per acre."The act of March 2, 1893 (23 Stat.,
989), provided that the time for open-
ing the unallotted lands in said reservation
to public entry be extended to October
1, 1904, and by the act of April 28, 1894
(23 Stat., 207), the time for such open-
ing was further extended to Sept. 1,
1905."The field work of surveying said res-
ervation has been performed, but only a
portion of the surveys have been re-
ceived in this office, where they must be
examined and, if found correct, ap-
proved; until this has been done no al-
lotments of these lands can be made to
the Indians, as required by the law.
"When the allotment of the lands
has been accomplished, instructions will
be issued to the local officers at Salt
Lake City, Utah, relative to the open-
ing of these lands to settlement and
entry, and due notice thereof given to
the public through the press."

WORK ON THE CANAL.

A comparison between the work done
under the American management of the
work on the Panama canal, and the
French, reveals the difference in energy
and push, and gives indication of suc-
cess. When the French operations were
at their height, about 25,000 cubic yards
of earth and rock were removed month-
ly. But last month, according to the
Philadelphia Ledger, 128,000 cubic yards
were removed, and the operations have
but commenced under the new manage-
ment. When everything is in shape for
work, the French record will be totally
eclipsed.There are now two new 55-ton, and
five 70-ton steam shovels at work, but
it is proposed to use no less than 120 of
these modern contrivances, as soon as
they can be constructed, and shipped,
and when they are all at work, the
world will be given an object lesson in
ditch-digging.We understand that there are now
about 1,500 laborers employed, and that
applicants for work are accepted as
soon as they arrive. As soon as practi-
cable, work will be carried on night and
day, and as many laborers will be em-
ployed as can be crowded along the
canal without interfering with one an-
other. The problem of securing laborers,
however, is not without its difficul-
ties. It is a question whether workmen
from northern climes can stand the
tropical climate, notwithstanding the
sanitary measures adopted for the safe-
ty of the employees. Japanese coolies
might be secured, but the labor organ-
izations of this country protest against
that, as un-American. But such dif-
ficulties will all have to be overcome, by
some means, if the gigantic under-
taking is to be completed in the time
allotted.

NEW YORK'S RELIGION.

The New York organization known as
the Federation of churches has issued
statistics showing the religious com-
plexion of the population of New York.
The total number of inhabitants is
now given as 3,945,907, an increase of
over half a million since the census
of 1900. Distributed among the various
churches, and outside the churches, the
population is classified as follows:Roman Catholic 1,300,000
Greek Orthodox 1,500
Greek Orthodox 1,500
Armenian Apostolic 300
Jewish 725,000
Protestant communicants 331,993
Additional Protestant attend-ants 497,547
Churchless Protestants 1,087,762
What the term "Churchless Protest-
ants" means is not clear; the Protestant
church members and their friends are
only 829,245, which is less than the Pro-
testant "churchless" population by 258,
517, and not much greater than the
number of Jews in New York, now esti-
mated by The American Hebrew at 750,
000, while it is far below the number
of Catholics.A comparison of figures further dis-
closes the fact that the Protestant pop-
ulation is falling off; that is to say, it
does not keep up with the general in-
crease of the population. This fact is
not very satisfactory to Protestant pas-
tors and workers, but there seems to be
no remedy for it. Protestantism, what-
ever is the cause of it, is hardly holding
its own in the world.The decline noted is really not sur-
prising. Protestantism separated it-
self from Catholicism, and placed
above councils and above popes, the
Bible, as the highest authority in all
matters of faith and conduct. But
lately so-called higher criticism has
played fearful havoc with this dis-
tinctly Protestant doctrine, by assail-
ing the Bible with as much vehemence,
though in more polite terms, as Lu-
ther ever assailed the pope. Higher
critics have endeavored to show that
the Bible, so far from being an infall-
ible guide, contains much that is myth-
ical, and that much is of pagan origin.
The Bible writers, they admit, have
given us an admirable code of ethics,
but they were no more infallible than
were the Greeks as teachers of art,
or the Romans as teachers of law.
Such doctrines have been proclaimed
in pulpits and press, until many accept
them as beyond controversy. The result
is rejection of the Bible as the author-
itative guide, and the consequent de-
cline of Protestantism. Higher criticism
has undermined the foundations
upon which the Reformers reared their
structure. That is one reason why it
is abandoned as unsafe.It is worth while noting in this con-
nection that some of the higher critics
have kindly endeavored to console the
Bible readers for the loss they are in-
flicting on them, by praising the an-
cient records for their marvelous beau-
ty of style. In other words, they would
like to prove those books valueless, ex-
cept as models of composition. But
this is worse than useless. If the Bible
does not contain the word of God, it
is a fraud, no matter how beautiful
its phraseology may be. If it is not a
declaration of God's will, through His
inspired servants, it is no more than the
Eddas of the Icelanders or the Iliad of
the Greeks. It is not true that it is
a model of literary composition, though
there are lofty passages, unapproached by
profane writers. But these are excep-
tions. There are also tedious tautologies,
obscure descriptions, apparently faulty
logic. In fact, the human instrumentality
in the sacred writings is very evident, and
for that, infallibility can certainly not
be claimed, any more than for the ancient
authors of the Book of Mormon. As a
recent student of this subject puts it:"The man who turns to the Bible for
instruction in narration, description,
exposition, and argumentation, will, as
Professor Baldwin proves, come upon
pretty doubtful examples. As a mere
piece of narrative, the story of David
and Abimelech, or even of the Prodigal
Son, is by no means incomparable. The
description of the Tabernacle, which
Professor Baldwin cites from Exodus,
is certainly not remarkable for clear-
ness. Exposition of all kinds has been
better done by modern masters. No
expositor of science would set the Bible
above Huxley and Tyndall as models.
In argumentation, there is hardly a
passage in the Old Testament or New
in which evidence is marshalled and
tested as by Burke or Webster. In-
deed, we cannot expect to find in the
Bible a clear conception of the cur-
rent theories of evidence which deter-
mine the form of an argument."Protestantism is, then, assailed by a
most formidable foe. By means of
archeology, it has successfully defeat-
ed the infidels who assailed it on his-
torical grounds. But this very science
has supplied the new weapons of attack,
of which higher criticism avails itself.
If that criticism, as understood by
some of its foremost exponents, is
true, then Protestantism has no longer
any foundation for its faith. It has
no Bible to appeal to, as a divine or-
acle. It cannot consistently preach re-
pentance, rebuke sins, or proclaim for-
giveness, for it has no divine code of
ethics, no infallible standard, no uni-
versal authority. If all the claims of
higher critics are true, Protestantism
must fall with a crash, as the bridge
Bifrost, before Ragnarok, when Surtr
and his hosts attempt to take Asgard
by storm.

Togo is lying low for black ducks.

In St. Louis a dry Sunday is called
a drought.Having left Kamrah bay Rojestven-
sky will be at bay on the high seas.Castro challenging fate is far more
inspiring than Ajax defying the light-
ning.Local option in Texas seems to mean
to go as you please and kill whom you
like.Delcasse's withdrawal of his resig-
nation shows that he has staying
qualities.The President has moved his hunting
camp and the wild beasts have
changed their lairs.Some of the insurance companies
seem to have a lot of skeletons among
their assets.Colonel Roosevelt would do the coun-
try a signal service by routing the
bears out of Wall street.The general agents do not purpose to
be out-generated by Mr. Hyde. They
say it is neither just nor equitable.If the federal grand jury now inves-
tigating the Beef trust will skewer its
courage to the sticking point it will
not fail."Russia has suddenly become a vast
lunatic asylum," says the Grashdanin,
and the chief home of detention seems
to be Tsarskoe Selo.

"At all events we'll never have a so-

ciety of the descendants of John Paul
Jones," says the Boston Herald. But
there are other Joneses."Don't write," said Jim Fisk. "Don't
talk," says Tom Lawson. "Don't,"
said Fisk to the man who thought of
getting married. The don'ts seem to
have it.After forty years of study Secretary
Vignaud of the American embassy in
Paris declares his belief that Columbus
was a humbug. To which answer
might be made: "Et tu Brute."The receipts from the Whistler exhi-
bition in London amounted to four
thousand pounds. And not one who
visited it thought he paid too much
for his Whistler.A whole lot of violators of the bicycle
ordinance have been arrested. This is
as it should be. How much better it
would be if there were no occasion for
such arrests. The occasion can very
easily be abolished if the bicyclists are
so minded.The Russkoye Slovo says that one of
the Russian survivors of the Port
Arthur siege narrates that he saw the
following announcement on the walls
of a street in Dalny: "The command-
ing officer of the 24 Regiment of in-
fantry, Col. N., has been sentenced to
death by a council of war for failing
to support a neighboring troop in a re-
cent action. The sentence will be car-
ried out tomorrow." No Spartan dis-
cipline ever beat that. No wonder the
Japanese army wins victories.United States Consul-General Bray
of Melbourne, Victoria, has recently
written a brief article in regard to the
damage that has been done in the island
continent by the introduction of the
English starlings. These were brought
out to aid in the destruction of in-
sects; but in Australia they have com-
pletely changed their habits and have
become so destructive to the fruit in-
dustry that the protection at first ac-
corded them by law has been repealed
and steps taken for their extermina-
tion. The English sparrows were in-
troduced into this country to aid in
the destruction of insects, and they,
too, have become a nuisance but not
so great as the starling appears to
have become in Australia.

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