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VITALITY OF "MORMONISM."

The Pueblo Chieftain of June 22 has an editorial on "Mormonism in Colorado." It is in reply to a well written article on "The Vitality of Mormonism" in the Century for June, by Ray Stannard Baker, in which it is asserted that the "Mormon" Church controls the politics of at least "holds the balance of political control" not only in Utah, but in Idaho, in Nevada and possibly in Wyoming and Colorado, with a strong following in Arizona, Washington, and other states, "thus directing or at least influencing, not a few United States Senators and Representatives." The Pueblo Chieftain takes exception to the statement so far as Colorado is concerned, and says:

"If the Mormon Church holds the balance of power in this state it is surely a revelation to Coloradans. While Mr. Baker finds any foundation for the statement is a matter for speculation. But then Mr. Baker's peculiar statement may be a matter of guesswork, so far as known."

There are Mormons in Colorado. That much of Mr. Baker's statement is correct. But that the sect holds the balance of power, political or otherwise, is an assertion so palpably absurd that Coloradans do not need demonstration of its falsity. Where the misinformation may prove detrimental so far as this state is concerned, it is in the minds of the large clientele of Century readers who are sufficiently distant from Colorado to be in comparative ignorance of actual conditions in this state."

The Chieftain expresses regret that Mr. Baker has so woefully blundered. We echo the sentiment. The gentleman has given a vivid description of "Mormon" settlements and due credit to the enterprise and foresight of Brigham Young and the "Mormon" leaders, in their great work of planting civilization in the midst of a desert. His description of Cache Valley and its people is particularly excellent, and there is in this much to be said concerning his contribution to the Century: that what he has seen he describes accurately, and errs only when he treats of that which he imagines and that which has been told him by others. Speaking of Brigham Young he says:

"He was a great general, a magnetic leader of crude though undeniable power, and a shrewd lawyer. We may account the idea that he was in truth a divine prophet, but we may scarcely deny him a large gift of the prophetic imagination. He was, perhaps, the grossest materialist of his time, but he got results. Though men of American blood had never before attempted irrigation-farming on a large scale, though the possibilities of the arid country were then undreamed, though the obstacles of great distance from supply centers, of dangers from the Indians and from famine, were seemingly insurmountable, Brigham Young saw with the eye of imagination an empire in the midst of the Great Desert, and such confidence did he place in his visions that his faith bore up and inspired all his people. Natural power is not so common in the world that we can afford to refuse it recognition, even when its exercise is not unaccompanied by glaring abuses."

The sending out of explorers to distant valleys and the planning for the extension of "Mormon" settlements at various points, Mr. Baker calls "the matchless bravado of the dreamer." Yet according to his own accounts, everything undertaken by that great leader was practical and successful, and resulted in benefit to the people. But even this Mr. Baker characterizes as "a sort of diabolical shrewdness," and talks of his

"Reaching out with covetous hands to secure control of all the water within a hundred miles or more of Great Salt Lake, knowing that this would give him absolute command of all the arable land, make him supreme dictator of the routes of travel and of the sources of food supply."

Yet Mr. Baker must have seen, while traveling in this region, that the settlers own the land and the water, having individual titles, and that it was not secured by any "covetous reaching out" either of Brigham Young or the "Mormon" Church.

Mr. Baker's mistakes as to political control of the "Mormon" Church in Colorado, as exposed by the Pueblo Chieftain, are similar to those in reference to other places. He has evidently obtained his information (?) from unreliable sources, and he runs in line with popular opinion. When he comes to matters under his own observation Mr. Baker contradicts the common notions concerning the "Mormons." After speaking very highly of the work accomplished by the "Mormons" in Cache Valley in cultivating the soil, building school houses and colleges, the great Temple "of solid white masonry," flour mills, knitting factories, creameries, beet sugar factory, electric light plants, etc., and of their great faith in sending out into the world 90 missionaries out of a population of 21,000 he says:

"For some reason one expects a peculiar people to possess a peculiar appearance; but the Mormons of Cache Valley and elsewhere are not different in appearance from the people of any other average American farming community. Their dress is the same or better and their talk concerns the same general subjects. A large proportion are of pure American ancestry."

The idea that the Mormons oppose education for the purpose of keeping

religious control of their people is wholly erroneous. They encourage education, but, like the Catholics, they seek to direct it themselves, having Mormon teachers everywhere. Forty school-houses in a community of 20,000 surely would not argue a strong opposition to education."

Mr. Baker speaks of a discourse he heard in the Logan Tabernacle, in which there was "a strange mingling of religious exhortation with advice on secular, every-day affairs," and thinks that in hearing that sermon he reached "the heart of the matter" in "Mormonism," and he adds:

"Coming to Utah with the predominant idea that Mormonism is a religion first and foremost, and as such a thing apart from the daily life—an enthusiasm, a fanaticism—one soon resolves strongly the impression that Mormonism is a broad mode of life, a system of agriculture, an organization for mutual business advancement, rather than a mere church. 'The Mormon faith,' a Bishop said to me, 'works seven days every week.'"

As to the notion commonly entertained about the extreme hostility of the "Mormons" towards the Gentiles, Mr. Baker says he was surprised to find the former "singularly without objection to the outsider on account of his religious beliefs." While advised to patronize "Mormon" industries, he states that the two classes associate harmoniously, and says further:

"Yet even in such intensely Mormon communities as that of Cache Valley there are Gentile business men and Gentile professors in the Agricultural College who are held in high esteem, who mingle with the Mormons and have won their confidence."

There is much in the article in the June Century that is commendable and it is certainly readable and interesting, but the writer, as we have intimated, gets astray as to the purported interference of the Church in politics and other affairs. For instance, he remarks:

"Certain it is that when a man is ordered to go as a missionary, he goes, and when the Church says 'vote for Smith,' Smith is voted for, regardless of party, and elected; and formerly, perhaps even yet, when a man is directed to marry another wife, he does it."

That sentence shows that Mr. Baker talks of matters about which he knows nothing. The Church does not "order" a man to go on a mission. The Church does not say "vote for Smith," or for any person or party; the Church does not direct a man to "marry another wife." The members of the Church have complete liberty in politics, in business, and in social affairs. The doctrine of free agency is an essential tenet of the "Mormon" faith, and it is about time that writers for the press should learn this fact, and cease from echoing the nonsense that ever lingers on the lips of anti-"Mormon" preachers and politicians. An article in the "World's Work" for June contains some forcible corrections of this popular fallacy about "Mormon" political dictation, on which we may make some comments at a future time.

AS TO A YELLOW PERIL.

Somebody has calculated that if China should adopt the European system of conscription, that country would be able to put an army of 37,000,000 in the field. And that appears a moderate estimate. For if there are seventy-five million families in the country and only two-thirds of them are able to furnish one soldier each, the army would number fifty million men. The country controlling such a force, if efficient, would be a potent factor, for good or for evil, in the world.

But many are inclined to scout the idea that China can ever become a military power. Why not? The Chinese certainly possess the mental and physical qualities required for national greatness, and they have intense patriotism, and they believe in their own superiority above all other races. Those who know them best have no hesitation in saying that they are fine men, endowed with great powers of endurance; they have few wants and can live on little, and poor food. They are absolutely indifferent to death, and when well trained and well led make first-rate soldiers.

Lord Wolseley several years ago said he had seen under fire and found them cool and undismayed by danger. If they were provided with a small proportion of English officers, and were organized as the Egyptian army has been since 1882, their army would soon be, according to his opinion, one of the finest.

It would be folly, therefore, to disregard the possibility of a "yellow peril." At present the common Chinese have labored under the delusion that their government could, in the hour of danger, command other powers, to fight her battles. No doubt, today, many ill-informed "celestialists" believe that Japan is fighting Russia, at the command of the Chinese emperor. As long as that delusion lasts, they will naturally think they do not need a big army. But if this should ever awaken to a realization of the truth, that they must fight their own battles, or see their country, which contains the sacred remains of their ancestors, fall into the hands of "foreign devils," they would astonish the world, in a few years, as much as the Japanese are doing now. Let them find a Napoleon to guide them, and they will dictate terms to the rest of the world.

FINLAND, POLAND, RUSSIA.

Advices from Helsinki, Finland, state that the Finnish people very much regret the assassination of Bobrikoff, the oppressor, and that is unquestionably true, for the Finns are not given to violence. They are a people who prefer exile to revolution.

Bobrikoff had done all in his power to invite death at the hand of hot-headed patriots. He came to Finland five years ago, to represent the Czar's government. He was made dictator, and he did dictate. The Russian language was imposed on all the higher officials. The Finns were ordered to quadruple the strength of their standing army, which was no longer maintained exclusively for home service, but made liable to be sent anywhere. The term of service was increased from three to five years, with exceptions in the case of Finns who could read and write the Russian language. The Finnish troops were sent to other parts of the empire and Russian troops took their place. Arbitrary arrests were made in increasing numbers and the rule of Bobrikoff

became so tyrannical that the people fled the country by thousands. Not long before the murder, Bobrikoff obtained power to close hotels, shops and factories, to prohibit private meetings, dissolve private associations, and expel from Finland all persons who were considered undesirable. The latest public act by Bobrikoff before his assassination was a proclamation forbidding the people to darken their houses "at unusual hours," whatever that may mean. But notwithstanding all these acts of tyranny, it is probable that he fell a victim of personal revenge, rather than of ill-directed patriotism.

It seems that Gen. Tscherkoff, the governor of Warsaw, was stricken with apoplexy, when he heard of the fate of the governor of Finland. He, no doubt, was seized by fear for his own life. It struck him that the Poles might feel inclined to imitate the example of the Finns, Poland and Finland are two countries where tyranny has temporarily triumphed over liberty. St. Petersburg must feel startled at the events of Helsinki and Warsaw.

London advices are to the effect that all over Russia uneasiness is manifested on account of the disastrous turn in the war with Japan. It is hinted that an agitation is brewing in favor of a change of rule, and that the Czar may be practically compelled to give the country a sort of constitutional government. Alexander II contemplated this, but was prevented, by assassins, from carrying out his plan, and ever since the reactionary element has had the upper hand. Possibly the time now has come for a change in liberal direction. Let us hope that the disasters in Asia, will result in good, ultimately, to the people, and especially to those who for centuries have felt the hand of oppression heavy upon them.

Prepare for the Sixth of July.

It might have been—"Uncle Joe" Cannon.

The Lion House looks like "a miracle in stone."

It was more like a peace congress than a nominating convention.

Tufts college has made Julia Ward Howe an LL. D. Nature made her & L. A. D. Y.

Most platforms have a trap door for the escape, in case of necessity, of those who stand on them.

There was a woeful lack of strenuousness, and strenuousness is what Mr. Roosevelt desires.

Every added bit of news of the General Slocum disaster is but a piling of horror upon horror.

There is one objection to Senator Fairbanks' nomination. Everybody is saying: "I told you so."

And now Ralsall wants another province. That man's land hunger surpasses Oliver Twist's soup hunger.

The day will come when Senator Fairbanks' nomination will be the chief incident of an Indiana historical novel.

Senator Fairbanks will almost surely use his vice-presidential nomination as a stepping stone for a presidential one.

For many "favorite" sons who wanted second place there was not a ray of sunshine in all that great convention hall.

An eminent German military critic predicts that the Russian will win in the long run. Otherwise, in the course of time.

The Russians are expecting a great battle very soon. Here is a case where the expected rather than the unexpected will happen.

When Mr. Perdicaris paid his tribute of praise to Ralsall, saying one couldn't help but like him, he forgot himself and yelled before he was out of the woods.

The trans-Atlantic steamship companies are running a steamer passenger bargain sale. There is a great rush for the counter, and the goods this country receives are rather damaged.

The Japanese have surprised a strong Russian force, the latter's casualties numbering twelve hundred. One would think that by this time nothing the Japs could do would surprise the Russians.

The New York papers are telling about the lessons of the General Slocum disaster. One lesson is that there should be a more thorough and more frequent inspection of excursion steamers.

Senator Dewey must have taken a leaf from the diary of Marine Murphy of Manila Bay fame, who wanted to finish the Spaniards before breakfast. The senator wanted to make nominations yesterday and get done with it.

The acquittal of Mr. S. J. Kelley by a jury on instruction from the court should clear him from the cloud which his enemies have cast around him. It was a just verdict, for there was not a particle of direct evidence that he committed the offense with which he was charged.

A pocket edition of the Doctrine and Covenants has just been published by the Deseret Sunday School Union. It is a very handy little volume, neat and handsome in every respect. It is distinctive enough to rest snugly in the pocket, and yet the print is clear and easily read. It has the references and index, and is identical with the larger editions. It will be especially welcomed by missionaries and others who travel and who desire to carry with them this standard work of the Church.

THE SLOCUM HORROR.

New York Evening Post.

In fixing responsibility for the loss of life on the General Slocum, certain discriminations should be made. For the condition of the boat up to the moment the fire broke out, the owners

and the government inspectors are answerable; for the handling or mishandling of the situation after the cry of fire was raised, the captain is solely responsible. Accordingly, the line of inquiry should be a three-fold one: first, the presence of defective life-preservers must be traced back, first, through the government inspector who declared them good May 7, last; second, to the company that bought them; third, to the manufacturer who made them. The facts to be accounted for are these: (1) The covering of many life-preservers was so rotten that it burst and released the ground cork; (2) certain life-preservers were filled with material originally so bad or subsequently so deteriorated that they quickly became water-logged and sank. The steamboat inspectors are as yet clearly responsible only for passing life-belts with rotten covers and fittings.

Springfield Republican.

There will be the usual and largely futile attempts made to fix responsibility somewhere; effort will be made to put up a few safeguards that will promise some little degree of future protection; and then all will go on about as before, until another disaster shall come and the same program be followed over again. Meanwhile, we all know that the fire protection of wooden steamboats is wholly inadequate, that the pretense of life-preservers is a farce, and that the risk invited by big excursions under such circumstances is always great.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

Something more than an inspection of life-saving appliances and boilers is needed if excursionists are to be protected. Had the Slocum not been so indammable the fire would have been put out, or at least held in check, so that the shore could have been reached.

Philadelphia Press.

At every attempt to alter the law the friends of ship-owners in Congress interfere to prevent a change. The owners of harbor excursion boats are safe from any loss above the value of the vessel, and this pays for itself in a few years. The law imposes no adequate precautions against fire, requires no trained crew and leaves fire drills as they would be for a permanent crew on a long voyage. The awful result is tragedies like that of yesterday—all preventable. Certain under our present statutory requirements and inspection, but surely prevented by adequate laws.

Baltimore Sun.

The New York authorities should probe the matter to the bottom, in order that the responsibility may be placed where it belongs as well as for the protection of the public against such disasters in the future.

New York Evening Mail.

Amid the horror of the burning of the Gen. Slocum, the only brightness is to be found in the instances of individual heroism and fortitude. Children on the boat—girls and boys—gave life-preservers to their mothers and other women; boys, having saved themselves, joined in rescuing others. One lad saved a party of nine women and children. The police deserve every credit for what they did. So often and so quickly is the force criticized that it is a pleasure to be compelled to praise it without stint. From the two officers on the Slocum to the highest in the department, the police did nobly. Men on leave reported for duty; burned, wet, without food, the police worked for hours, saving lives, systematizing the work of rescue, recovering bodies and handling the crowds of mourners as gently as if they, too, were of them.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Red Book for July has a number of short stories by recognized writers of fiction. The illustrations are excellent particularly the photographic art studies that adorn the opening pages.—158 State St., Chicago.

The Rand McNally Economizer is the title of a booklet, which appears to be a complete guide to the world's fair at St. Louis. Intended visitors to the show will find it very handy. They will find it as indispensable as a Haeckel to many tourists.—Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago.

The Booklovers' Magazine for July has a fine portrait of President Roosevelt for frontispiece. The table of contents is as follows: "The Philippines at St. Louis," William Powell Wilson; "The Forbidden Land: The March of Civilization into Tibet," W. C. Jameson; "A Gallery of Popular Art: The Corcoran Collection in Washington," Lella Mechlin; "A Great German Portrait-Painter," Harrison S. Morris; "The Two Pacifics," The Dawn of a New Era in China," Harold Boase; "Gods, Gems, and Mascots: The Life-Work of Maxwell Sommerville," Harry Dillon Jones; "Studying Poetry with a Camera: A New Idea for a Book Photographers Club," P. W. Scott Humphreys; "Mountain and Shore: Typical Summer Playgrounds of America," "Vanderdecken: A Chante," Osmer L. Shepard; "The Man Who Held the Chain," a story, Joseph H. Johnston; and "The Best New Things from the World of Print." The illustrations are, as always, numerous and artistic.—1223 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

Mr. James W. Alexander, the president of the Equitable Life, in a contribution to the current issue of Leslie's Weekly, explains the meaning of what is known as the "convention number." The double page pictures the nomination of Roosevelt at Chicago, and a splendid double-page picture of President Roosevelt himself is given as a supplement with the issue. Other illustrations include pages of the Sunday school excursion disaster in New York Harbor.—New York.

(Joseph F. Smith, President)
Ora Romney, Vice President.

Z. C. M. I.

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10:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.	12:30 a.m.
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Gents' fine suspenders, worth 35c, for	15c
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Solo, "Honor and Arms"		Handel
Organ solo		Mr. J. J. McClellan
Soprano Solo, "Polonaise" (Mignon)		Thomas
Solo		Mrs. Lizzie T. Edward
Male Quartet		Mr. J. Willard Squires
Imperial Quartet, Messrs. Ashworth, Squires, Christopherson and Phillips.		
Solo, "Fairest Aida"		Verdi
Violin solo		Mr. R. C. Easton
Solo and Chorus, "Inflammatus"		Mr. Willard Weihe
Solo		Mr. W. F. Andell
Organ solo		Mrs. Lizzie T. Edward, Tabernacle Choir and Organ.
Director, Evan Stephens; Accompanist, John J. McClellan.		

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On the above day and hour we will sell to the highest bidder for cash or credit a \$45 Garland Steel Range, we to deliver and connect with water jacket or reservoir at the auction price. It is absolutely essential to be present by 3:30 p. m. in order to bid on the range.

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