

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

The secretary of the State board of health states through the press, that he has received the following letter from A. F. Jonas, chief surgeon of the U. P. railroad:

"I am informed that your legislature, now in session, has before it several bills that aim at weakening, and possibly destroying, your health laws. Since the Union Pacific Railroad company enters your State and has many employees within your borders, we naturally feel interested in the matter of contagious diseases, particularly in reference to the prevailing epidemic of smallpox. Is there anything that we can do to assist you in the matter of health laws? If so, please drop me a line of your convenience. Our company has been at considerable expense in maintaining quarantine at various points in Wyoming, so that we feel intensely interested."

That is one piece of evidence that shows how the matter now in controversy is misrepresented, by persons who are responsible for the agitation that has stirred up the people all over the State. There is no movement in Utah to "destroy the health laws." There is nothing in progress to weaken the authority of health boards to establish quarantine. There is no effort being made to limit the power of any health board, to prevent contagion on the trains that enter and leave Utah. The people here are as much interested as any one elsewhere can be, to maintain the public health and prevent the spread of disease.

But instead of carrying out the provisions of the health laws, relating to the entrance and transit in the State of infected persons or goods, causing them to be stopped at the State line or removed from cars or other conveyances, and exercising vigilance as to the shipping or removal of persons afflicted with a contagious disease of any kind, either from one building to another or into or from the State, as positively required by the health laws of Utah (see Laws of 1899, p. 67) the officer referred to has gone off on a tangent, and employed his energies in preventing healthy children from receiving the education in the public schools to which they are entitled.

The legislature has not contemplated any change in the laws which will, in the least, affect the Union Pacific, or any other railroad, in its lawful traffic or in the prevention of the spread of disease. It has simply under consideration a measure to prevent the improper construction of a law relating to the public schools. The only provision in it that appears to give authority to enforce vaccination of children, is in these words, defining the authority of local boards of health as to the public schools:

"To exclude from said schools any person, including teachers, suffering with any contagious or infectious disease, whether acute or chronic, or liable to convey such disease to those in attendance."

There are duties imposed upon the local boards of health as to inspection of school buildings, for the purpose of learning their hygienic conditions, to which few of them seem to pay any attention. But on the strength of the provision we have quoted, they have endeavored to enforce vaccination upon school children and teachers, denying them admission to the schools unless they submit to an operation not required by law.

There is no endeavor on the part of any board of health to compel adults to be vaccinated. There is no law requiring it. But there is just as much law as to that for one class of citizens as for the other. In the same statute which we have cited, appears this provision:

"The necessary rules and regulations concerning cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, whooping cough, measles, and other contagious and infectious diseases, shall be enforced by the local boards of health under the supervision of the health officer."

Now, if the law authorizes the exclusion of unvaccinated children from the schools, it also authorizes any other arbitrary regulation the health officers may impose, and they can exclude from any public gathering of any kind, adults as well as children, who have not been vaccinated. Indeed, if their theory is correct, there would be some show of reason in making the rule general. There is vastly more danger of contagion and the spread of disease from the massing of people in large numbers in theatres, concerts, on street cars and other public places, than there is in the congregating of school children who are healthy, and have been under inspection, in places also inspected as to their hygienic conditions.

The measure considered by the legislature simply contemplates the relief of healthy children, from the embargo placed upon them by a strained construction of the law, such as was never intended by the lawmaking department, that body having refused to pass

a compulsory vaccination measure when so desired by the doctors.

The chief surgeon of the Union Pacific railroad should understand that the legislature and people of Utah desire to carry out and enforce all sanitary and quarantine regulations, that are necessary to prevent the spread of disease and maintain the public health, and that anything of that character which he may suggest will be thankfully received, but it is very doubtful if the health officers in this city will care to consider anything, just now, but that which will help them in their war upon the schools.

If the health laws we have on which there can be no mistake were enforced, there would soon be an end to the needless scare that has been manufactured to frighten people into submission to something which they abhor, and which the law as it stands does not impose upon them nor upon their children.

## WHY NOT BE RATIONAL?

The statement that the legislature, or the advocates of open schools, are endeavoring to "stop vaccination," or that they are opposing vaccination, is one of the many untruths that are being circulated by the advocates of force. Nothing is being attempted in that way. If the doctors and others who coincide in the very common belief that vaccination is a good thing, want their views to prevail, they should not attempt to cram them down the throats of unbelievers, nor stick them with a knife into people or their children whether they will or no.

Why not use reason, argument, persuasion, advice? Are not these sufficient? We may be asked what would you do with people who do not see the necessity for quarantine. Our answer is, if they are diseased as to be a menace to the public health, we would have the laws enforced. Would not that be compulsion? Certainly. But is it possible that sane people cannot see the vast difference, between excluding from public contact, persons afflicted with a contagious disease, and shutting out of school healthy children who have not been exposed, and who may be examined as to their health previous to admission?

Why not be rational on this point? Why get angry and vituperative? The secretary of the State board of health calls people who differ from his notions and those of his fellow physicians, either "ignoramuses," "idiots" or "liars." Others, who do not go to his lengths, become wrathful because free citizens, who think for themselves and do not accept the dogmas of the day, dispute the right of any health officer, to deprive children of education because they have not been diseased with cowpox.

In all the discussion before the health committees of the Senate and House there was not a direct or logical argument presented to show why healthy children should be barred out of school. The evidence on that side was simply as to the virtues of vaccination. No special effort was made to oppose that, but incidentally it was proved that some successfully vaccinated persons had both contracted and died of smallpox. But that was met by such circle reasoning as: "Vaccination renders a person immune. But vaccinated people have died of the disease. Ergo, they were not vaccinated; that is they were not vaccinated successfully."

Just so as to the bad effects of many cases of vaccination. It was argued in this way: "No ill effects can possibly follow the operation when properly conducted. But here are instances of terrible effects following it when all the precautions known were taken. Ergo, the vaccination was not properly performed." It is useless to offer evidence with that kind of logic.

However, it should be most distinctly understood that those who want the schools opened to healthy, unexposed children, are not fighting vaccination, except in its obnoxious compulsory form. Preach it, explain it, take all lawful means to inculcate it, but don't deny the right of entry to the public schools to children who cannot possibly be a menace to the immune, and who bring no danger to others if they carry no contagion. Cannot reasonable people see these points, without getting angry with their friends who are as willing as anyone to submit to health laws that protect the public, but are unwilling to bow down to the force now attempted and which is foreign to the genius of American liberty?

## SPENCER ON SANITATION.

Mrs. Nation is still at work in the crusade against the saloons, and even the rough treatment to which she is subjected by other women does not cool her ardor. She believes that there is no law by which she can be punished for destroying the property of such places, and her experience in the past has strengthened her in this belief, for she has always been set free whenever arrested on the instigation of "the enemy." The entire exhibition well illustrates the truth that law-breaking breeds contempt for law, and further transgression. Kansas is a prohibition State, and if the laws relating to the liquor traffic are flagrantly violated, perhaps with the aid of the officers who should execute the law, it is but natural that other statutes should be broken, too. The lesson of this crusade is this, that if it is impossible to enforce a prohibition law, it is better to repeal it and endeavor to regulate the evil of drink in some other way.

On the question whether drunkenness is increasing throughout the country the views differ. The New York Evening Post thinks that the annual report of the State prison commission shows that about one-third of the commitments to penal institutions are for this cause. On the other hand it is pointed out that drinking among business men has declined. Half a century ago, the average man of affairs began his day with an "eye-opener," and whenever important business was to be transacted, drinks were called for. Now it is different. The business man who takes intoxicants during working hours is the exception. Commercial travelers, as a rule, are prohibited from treating those with whom they do business. It has come to be realized that the man

who will succeed can take no chances with stimulants.

The conclusion seems therefore justified, that the cause of temperance is gradually gaining ground among the class of people that may be considered the strength of the nation. Religious influences, social usages, and business interests are all united in the crusade, and with telling effect. The violent tactics of Mrs. Nation will have no permanent influence for good. Let her take the platform and proclaim against drunkenness. Let her use all influence for good, in an intelligent manner, but in the interest of the good cause, she ought to confine herself to such methods as are in accordance with law and the gentle instincts of her sex.

## KANSAS CRUSADE.

The San Francisco Chronicle comments on a bill introduced at Sacramento for the creation of a "commission" of doctors representing three different schools, the duty of which shall be to pass upon the qualifications of applicants for license to practice medicine in California. In the course of its comments, the paper remarks that it would be a positive danger to the peace of the State, to have such a commission meet in one room, because the members of the different schools generally regard one another as ignoramuses, and dangerous characters. The Chronicle then adds:

"Once there was but one 'school.' Each of the later ones has struggled through abuse and ostracism into 'recognition,' and no one knows how many more schools will fight their way up into equal usefulness. So great an authority as Herbert Spencer distinctly names sanitary measures as out of the proper realm of State interference, and at any rate we have now law enough on the subject. If legal restrictions of the practice of medicine are necessary the people themselves who are practiced upon are quite competent to devise means for their own protection, and it is unnecessary for those to move in the matter who may be liable to the suspicion of being as much interested in diverting fees to their own pockets as in saving mankind from destruction by bunglers. And we do not want any more 'commissions' for any purpose."

Matters relating to the health of the public are of much interest at the present time, both in this State and elsewhere. No one with common sense wants to antagonize the men and women who have devoted their time and talents to the study of the ill that afflict humanity, and the remedies, but arrogance is justly condemned, even if assumed under the much abused name of science.

## AS TO HEREDITY.

The Boston Herald thinks Queen Victoria may be regarded as a fortunate example that heredity does not always perpetuate ancestral traits.

The first two Georges are not monarchs of fragrant memory, and her grandfather was the man who brought on the American revolution. Her uncle George IV., was an embodiment of what was worst in his house. Her other uncle, William IV., who intervened between her and his predecessor, was better in his morals than in his manners. From this unpromising stem comes Victoria, of whose father the best that can be said is that nothing very seriously to his discredit is recorded, says the Herald.

We believe the question of heredity has hardly been given the full consideration its importance demands. Many suppose that by the law of heredity the character of every human being is so predetermined, as to almost do away with free agency and responsibility. The fact is that human beings enter the world with a very complex inheritance from ancestors. All inherited traits of character are not bad, nor are all entirely good. And none are at first developed. It follows that it depends largely first on the training of early childhood, and, later in life, on the individual himself, which traits of character are to be most developed and become preponderating. Evil traits can be conquered, and the good can be strengthened. And here is where responsibility comes in. If the opportunities for growing in righteousness are neglected; if the individual yields to the promptings of the evil influences, and surrenders without a struggle, he clearly becomes responsible for his own character. If, on the other hand, he fights the good fight with inherited tastes for that which is evil, as well as with temptations from without, and thus enlists on the side of righteousness, he is entitled to credit, and all the more so because of possible inherited disadvantages.

If Queen Victoria did not spring from a tree that was incapable of bearing fruit of a doubtful quality, her life by which she rose to an eminence beyond reproach, is an encouraging example, not of the small importance of the power of heredity, but of the power of the human being, aided by divine grace, to conquer moral obstacles and gain final victory.

Mrs. Nation's hatchet bids fair to become as famous as Washington's.

It might be well to kill instead of scotching that "Crazy" Snake in the Creek nation.

Mrs. Nation wants help. Heretofore she has given most convincing proof of her ability to "go it alone."

One of the foundation principles of Mr. Bryan's new paper is to do common justice to all men.

People are getting somewhat used to saying "King Edward." Practice and patience will make it quite easy.

A London dispatch says that three doctors visit Mr. Kruger daily and that his life is despaired of. What else is to be expected under the circumstances?

There is not a politician in the country who could do half the talking that Minister Wu does without getting his foot inextricably into it. All of which shows the difference between a politician and a diplomat.

It is to be feared that the public does not properly appreciate the value of the news from the Philippines. It may at times seem a bit trivial and commonplace, but when putting a true estimate upon its worth it should ever

be remembered that it costs almost five dollars a word.

The disciples of force will have a merry time in prosecuting officers and school principals for performing their duty as agents to responsible persons and boards. Will they try to "prosecute" the legislature, too?

If Mayor Thompson, whose legal learning we are not disposed to dispute, will kindly quote "the laws relating to vaccination and smallpox," which he proposes "enforcing" he will do the public a favor and show the source of the authority he claims.

In Boston it has become quite the proper thing to have a Harvard professor read the Bible with eloquentary effect and outline its literary effect. It is not stated whether the Bostonese regard Job and Ecclesiastes and Isaiah up to the Brook Farm standard.

If Health Commissioner King will kindly refer to any Federal law relating to compulsory vaccination, or show wherein the Federal power can interfere with State laws concerning it, he will obtain greater respect than he has gained by his absurd and tyrannical threats through the press.

The question has been raised whether Hon. C. A. Towne is a United States senator. As he has sat in the Senate and participated in its proceedings the question becomes academic rather than practical. He certainly is a senator de facto whatever may be said of him as a senator de jure.

Embezzler Neely says: "My innocence can be proved, but I never expect to be able to prove it." A strange statement indeed. If his innocence can be proven, and he says it can, it certainly should be, for he now rests under such grave suspicion of guilt that it may be said, that the public holds him to be a guilty man.

Gen. Merritt has written an article on hazing at West Point. When he was superintendent of the academy he did what he could to suppress it, and he tells how hard it was to get some of the officers to co-operate with him. In fact some of the younger officers were diametrically opposed to him. This confirms an impression that has been held by a very large portion of the public that the trouble in suppressing hazing at West Point was the indifference or encouragement of the officers in charge.

There died in New York some days since a woman who for thirty years had worn men's clothes and successfully hid her sex. She was buried in women's apparel. This has aroused the ire of Dr. Mary Walker, who utters this protest: "I think it is an outrage that they buried that poor woman in skirts. She had worn men's clothing all her life because she liked it, and she should have been buried in it. If anybody tries to put skirts on me after I'm dead, I'll haunt them." The good doctor has been a good deal of a spectre for many years.

It is a very alarmist story about the growth of the German navy that comes from Washington via a New York journal. Throughout the article the impression is conveyed that Germany has some hostile intent against the United States, and it is gravely asserted that she is expected to disavow any sinister purpose. It then goes on to tell how small our own navy is in comparison. It is all very thin and all very amusing, and its sole purpose is to encourage the idea that this country is menaced and needs a great navy to protect it from any such danger. It is part of a propaganda and is but an adapting of the arguments and methods of the Kaiser to influence and scare the reichstag into carrying out his own army and naval program.

## QUEEN VICTORIA.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Therefore, although the queen was not the source of all the glories of her reign, its splendid literature, its more splendid achievements in sciences, its material and imperial development, she is identified with these glories by something more than the mere accident of birth. She had distinction enough as a sovereign to take a place beside that other English queen and confer her name upon the period as Elizabeth had done.

San Francisco Call.

The time has long gone by when British politics and foreign policies were to any considerable extent dependent upon the personality of the sovereign. The chief political effect of her death is the dissolution of Parliament and the election of a new one. It is not likely, however, that the result of the election would materially alter the government, for Salisbury has so recently been given a new lease of power it is not likely he would be defeated in the new contest.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It would not be at all surprising if to the other heavy sacrifices entailed on England by the south African war should be added that of the queen who has for nearly sixty-four years reigned over the British empire, and given her people a better example of public and personal life than had been given by her predecessors for many generations.

Chicago Record.

Queen Victoria was married in February, 1840, and it was in November, the year preceding, that the young sovereign walked into her council chamber with an imposing document in her hands which she was to read to her ministers. She wore a long, simple mourning gown of black silk, with lace collar about her throat and no ornament save a bracelet containing a miniature of Prince Albert. Her hair was, of course, in bandeaux and very soft, pink and lovely. Her voice was sweet and true, but her hands trembled so that she was barely able to hold the paper. Even those who had opposed the marriage on political grounds could not help but sympathize with the young woman's confusion. The marriage declaration, drawn up from a form handed down from the days of Henry VIII, was, of course, accepted by the council and made public. The queen had already formally notified her family of her engagement, one of the small matters of precedence that gave offense to the council. The duchess of Gloucester, on congratulating Victoria asked her if she had not been very nervous about the necessary declaration before the privy council. "Yes, indeed," said the queen, "but not so nervous as a fortnight ago when I had to do something much harder—propose to Prince Albert!"

Kansas City Star.

History does not record a more pa-

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