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WE ARE FOR TRUE FREEDOM.

If you are a Mormon in religion be a free American citizen.

That is a specimen reason given by the maligned of the "Mormon" people why they should "vote the American ticket." Now the rumpus is over, so far as the election is concerned, it may be well enough to notice this little bit of presumption and buncombe. Is there any "Mormon in religion" who, if born or naturalized in the United States, is not a free American citizen? Is there anything in his religion which prevents or hampers his political freedom? Is there anybody holding authority in that religion who claims or exercises the right to interfere with his full liberty as an American citizen? We say NO to all these questions. Every "Mormon in religion" who is not false to that faith and retains his sanity and his conscience will join heartily in that negative.

Then why should he "vote the American ticket?" What would he gain by that? Are the persons whose names were placed upon it any better or more highly qualified for the offices named than those on the other tickets? We will not stop to be personal, though we could make comparisons that might indeed be "odious" to individuals on that ticket, but we will leave them to consider the principle involved in the request to vote it. By complying therewith the "Mormon" voter would endorse the implication that he was in religious bondage. That he was bound in ecclesiastical fetters. That he was under obligation by his religion to vote as he was told by some religious boss or dominant superior. That all the falsehoods told by the promoters of that un-American faction were true. And that he approved the calumny, abuse and virulent libels emanating therefrom under the guise of political free speech.

Every so-called argument used in the campaign now closed to induce people to vote the "American" ticket was based on the assumption that the "Mormon rank and file," as they were designated by their pretended deliverers, are in a condition of absolute serfdom politically. That was taken for granted. It was asserted by the scoundrels who used it, but not a scintilla of proof was advanced in its support. They said so and proceeded to contend for certain conclusions as logical deductions from that premise. They sometimes went farther than that, and assumed that in effect the "control" and "dictation" and "influence" of the Church dominated both the legitimate political parties and their leaders, and that thus the whole state was under the "one man power" personified in the President of the "Mormon" Church.

Now what evidence was adduced that there was even a shadow of truth in this bald assertion? Was it shown by any fact or circumstance that the Church President had interfered in political matters, or even intimated to anybody that he wanted anything said or done in the interest of either party or candidate? Not at all. The agitators assumed it, when it was not only unsubstantiated but well known to be positively untrue. The "Mormon" people know that they were not instructed or urged or asked by the Church authorities to vote in a given way, but were left perfectly free to make their own choice, and that they did exercise their freedom and voted for what they chose and scratched their tickets at will.

With the Australian ballot, who was to know how or for whom they voted and whose names they scratched? How could they be coerced in any direction? By what means could they be held to accountability for their political action? And as for the non-"Mormons," in what way did or could the Church authorities affect their freedom or their political or social interests? Where is the bondage out of which they were to be delivered, by the rampant declaimers and spread-vulture shriekers, who have sought to wreck their own parties by causing strife and division and reviving decayed animosities? A small grain of common sense applied to all the fuss, and fury, and gas without light that have obscured the truth, would have saved hundreds of our citizens from the folly of joining the miserable movement.

"Liberty," indeed! The aim and purpose of the shouters for freedom from mythical "Mormon" Church control, are to deprive certain American citizens of the common rights of citizenship. These gentlemen must not express a political opinion. They must not venture to mention their choice of a party or a candidate. They must not say or do anything which might be interpreted as likely to "influence" other people. They must leave all that to the un-Americans, keep their mouths shut as to the affairs of the state and of the nation, and leave the wire-pullers and tricksters and aspirants for power an place to manipulate everything as they please. If these pretended liberators want "Church influence" to effect their ends, it must be extended in their favor

or they will strive to bring about disfranchisement, revolution and ruin!

What have a number of ordinarily sensible men and women in this vicinity been thinking about, that they have suffered themselves to be hoodwinked and stirred up to anger and animosity over a fantasy? That some prominent "Mormons" have been active in politics is no doubt true. But that they have used any kind of compulsion or undue influence is false and absurd, and no one knows this better than the columnists and paid agitators who have uttered the libels which have been as common for weeks as are disease germs in an epidemic. The right of those citizens to take part in public affairs cannot be disputed. The wisdom, the expediency, the propriety of such prominence are matters of taste and opinion.

We are for the utmost liberty compatible with human rights. This is a free country. Free speech is guaranteed to all citizens alike, limited only to the line of infringement upon others' rights. The privilege to hold office when it is conferred by the popular voice, runs parallel with the elective franchise. To deny one is to trample on the other. The abuse of prominent "Mormons" would deprive them of those rights and privileges, and their fellow citizens of the power to choose them for any office in the gift of the people. "If you are a Mormon in religion be a free American citizen." Certainly. That's just exactly what we intend to be. And therefore every "Mormon" who has not lost his senses, and every non-"Mormon" who understands the situation and is a true American, will avoid the schemes and plots and conspiracies of the so-called "American" party as he would the ravings of lunatics and the wiles of "confidence" conspirators.

NO UNIFORM LAWS.

The election is over, and the great contest is decided, but it may nevertheless be of interest to be reminded of the fact that election laws are different in different states, and that what qualifies a citizen for the exercise of the franchise in one state, does not necessarily give him the rights of a voter in every other state.

According to the New York Evening Sun, aliens who have declared their intention to become citizens may vote in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. In some of these states the intention must have been declared a year before the election; in others much less; in Nebraska only thirty days. In some of the states the voter must be registered; in others, registration is not necessary. In some states a citizen cannot vote unless he has paid a poll tax; in Delaware he must pay a "registration fee" of one dollar. In Georgia, if he is taxable, he must have paid all his taxes due since 1877. In Virginia, where a poll tax is a requisite, it is waived in the case of those who served in the army or navy of the United States or the Confederate states. In some of the southern states which have adopted new constitutions to reduce negro suffrage to the minimum the voter must be able to read or write, or must own \$200 worth of property, or be the son or grandson of a citizen who was entitled to vote on Jan. 1, 1867 (the grandfather clause). Massachusetts requires capacity to read and write, but many of the states do not.

Literacy and full citizenship ought to be required of all voters. People who are unable to read and write can hardly be expected to be well posted in public affairs, and those who are not citizens have clearly no right to decide by whom the government is to be administered. And yet, it is possible that, in a close contest, the result of an election might depend upon the vote of the illiterate and the alien.

THE NORTH SEA BLUNDER.

It is earnestly hoped that the trouble between Great Britain and Russia can be adjusted without disturbing the peace of the world; and the diplomats will certainly exert themselves to the utmost to maintain peace. It is to be feared, though, that the patience of the English people and government will be put to a severe test, by Russian methods.

As far as ascertained by the preliminary investigation, there were no torpedo boats among the fishing vessels; the warships passed so close to the fishermen that their identity was clearly established and the fishermen suspected no danger when their vessels were struck. Before they had time to get over the first shock of astonishment, the Russian fleet had passed, leaving wreck and death behind, and without waiting to find out the identity of the alleged torpedo boats which they claim to have seen. There can be no other explanation of this fact, than a desire on the part of the Russians to get away from the scene of the blunder as quickly as possible.

Russia flatly refuses to be party to a hasty inquiry. The Russian government wants time, and even intimates that any attempt on the part of England to hurry matters would lead to unpleasantness and perhaps further complications. Meanwhile, it is reported that four Russian officers detached from the purpose of giving testimony before the Russian board of investigation, have arrived at Paris, had an interview with the Russian minister at that point, and have departed on their way toward St. Petersburg.

It looks as if Russia's plan in this controversy is to first find out all the facts through English sources, and then offer, as her side, whatever explanation may seem most plausible and advantageous. The Russian admiral hurried off for Vigo in Spain, through English newspapers he learned what had happened, and his report about Japanese torpedo boats seems to have been suggested by the statement of one of the fishermen that a torpedo boat had been seen after the result. If such tactics are followed throughout the controversy, the prospect for arbitration is not very bright.

The patience of Great Britain may become exhausted, and public sentiment may demand action.

Russia clearly aims at getting her ships out of the way, before taking the controversy up in earnest. When the ships are at a safe distance from Great Britain, British demands will be listened to with less nervousness.

The votes and the die are both cast.

"Mormon" Church influence again, eh?

"It might have been." But it wasn't.

Now the paying of fool election bets will be in order.

And now the decks are cleared for the Christmas "News."

Too bad that "Church influence" should carry New York!

"Many happy returns of the day"—to the election judges.

At present Port Arthur is the world's great storm center.

The most ephemeral of all literature is campaign literature.

At Goldfield, Colorado, yesterday the voters led the strenuous life.

The ballot boxes were so stuffed that they were full to overflowing.

The whisky market is demoralized. Whisky will demoralize anything.

President Roosevelt might issue another Thanksgiving proclamation.

The election is over. Now let the winds blow and the rains descend.

That Second Pacific squadron has become as peaceful as the dove of peace.

Well, there won't be any more straw votes and that is a most excellent good thing of itself.

The people have had fair weather and a fair count. What more can they ask on an election day?

The Austrian ballot should be popular with the Filipinos if for no other reason than that of origin.

When the North Sea Inquiry commission convenes, will it sit on Rojstvenak as well as on the case?

Who were the emissaries of the "Mormon" Church that "fixed things" in West Virginia and Indiana?

Returns from the Philippines will be slow coming in; there are so many islands, and they are so scattered.

The power of the "Mormon" Church is awful, is it not? To think that not only Utah and Idaho have been swung into line, but all the doubtful States in the Union. Something will have to be done, sure.

The police were not compelled to use the "big stick" at all yesterday; the soft word did the work every time.

Crime as well as virtue has its reward. Ten thousand dollars is offered for the capture of the Cody bank robbers.

And now Mexico favors an arbitration treaty with the United States. It would be a good thing to have down on the Rio Grande.

The Russian army has got a lot of new generals, but it remains to be seen whether they will prove to be new brooms and make a clean sweep.

It looks as though the Russian and Japanese armies had had their bellies full of fighting for a while. While neither cries "Enough!" still neither raises the Oliver Twistian cry of "More!"

When Judge Parker said to visiting delegations, who were carrying away rakes and hoes as souvenirs, "Don't take them; I shall need them after election," he prophesied better than he knew.

PORT ARTHUR.

Portland Oregonian.

Port Arthur seems tottering to its fall. Russia has made tremendous defense of a position into which she forced herself, at the conclusion of the war between China and Japan—through the support of France and Germany. Russia has no right to Port Arthur; never had. An immoral compact between nations of Europe placed her there; and if Japan can turn her over to a great state will have been taken towards restoration of the equilibrium of the Oriental world. Russia, France and Germany, in this business, each and all are in a false position, and each and all know it. France wouldn't have been in it but for her upset in the Franco-German war. Naturally she ideas that control France are completely at variance with those that control Russia and Germany. But France, smarting under defeat, and on the search for an ally, supposed she had got Russia, but was duped both by Russia and Germany.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Japan's answer to the announcement that the Russian fleet had finally sailed was the launching against the fortifications of the most furious onslaught yet made. This has been renewed from day to day until now "practically all the outlying defenses are in the hands of the Japanese." So says the Associated Press correspondent with Gen. Nogai's army, who is permitted for the first time to send dispatches direct from Port Arthur, a fact which indicates Nogai's belief that the beleaguered garrison in their last circle of defense and that publicity can do no harm. Even if, as is admittedly possible, the defenders can hold out for a month longer at the extremity of the peninsula known as the Tiger's Tail this time is too short to admit of relief by the ships now in the Mediterranean, even if they could make an unprecedentedly rapid and uninterrupted voyage.

Chicago Record-Herald.

During the Chinese-Japanese war Japan was accused of concealing her losses till after the war was over, and so far as Port Arthur is concerned she has acted on the same principle in the present war. She has concealed many things the publication of which would harm her, but it had been assumed that whatever she officially stated was true. It will, indeed, be possible to make much the same assumption in the future, however, only with a slight discount to cover exceptional cases.

New York Evening Mail.

It is time for them [the Japanese] to act. It is credibly reported that they have lost, by the explosion of a mine, another battleship, the Yamashiro. If this is true, they have but four modern battleships left. The Russians are on the way out from the Baltic to meet them with eight. It is incumbent upon them to wipe out utterly the remnant of the Russian fleet in the east, and they can do so only by taking Port Arthur.

Los Angeles Times.

The story of the latest assault on Port Arthur puts to the pale anything that has come down to the world from the history of war, either in written words or from the traditions of those dim ages before history was written. Never since man first drew his brother man in the blood of battle has he done so much on the one side, or withstood so much on the other. Never has an army so long, so stubbornly and so tirelessly thrown itself against the reeking jaws of death as have the Japanese upon the sorry slopes of that grim and gloomy Russia-avenue above the Yellow Sea, and never before have defenders held out so bravely and so well as Stoessel and his splendid fighting men have done.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The World Today, in its November issue, deals interestingly with the affairs of the nation, world politics, the world of sport, and the religious world. Among special articles are "British Municipal Practice versus American Municipal Theory," illustrated; "An American Soldier," illustrated; "An Experiment in Communism that Failed," illustrated; "Turkey and the American Schools," illustrated; "What Party do Immigrants Join?" illustrated; "The American Woman in Art," illustrated; "Who is Morton?" illustrated; "Election Day among the Mountaineers," illustrated; "American and British Dramatists of Today," with portraits; "The New Galveston," illustrated; "The Canadian Elections,"—67 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

In the November number of What to Eat, space is given to the discussion of such topics as "The Thanksgiving Table," "Dietetic Health Hints," "Toasts and Sentiments," "What the Japanese Eat," "Seasonable Dishes," etc. There are numerous recipes and practical suggestions.—Pierce Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill.

Among the interesting features of The American Boy for November is a picture and a brief description of "The Battle," the largest vessel ever built. The number has numerous features of special interest to boys, and to all magazine readers.—Sprague Pub. Co., Detroit, Mich.

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