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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 5, 1903.

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"It is a well known truth that the

counsel of the First Presidency of the

Church, in all cases, has been and is

against our brethren joining secret or-

ganizations for any purpose whatso-

ever, and that wherever any of them

have already joined, they have been

and are counseled to withdraw them-

selves from such organizations, as soon

as circumstances permit and wisdom

dictates. In taking this position, there

has not been, neither is it intended

that there shall be, any controversy

with the societies, and with their aims

and objects. The merits of the various

orders are not considered at all; their

aims may be ever so worthy and their

objects ever so commendable. That

matter does not enter into the discus-

sion, so far as a member of our Church

is concerned.

"The gospel of Jesus Christ is true,

and is a power unto salvation, temporal

and spiritual. A man who complies in

every respect therewith has everything

that any society can offer, with count-

less truths and consolations added.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of

God, and his righteousness; and all

these things shall be added unto you."

The Church is divinely organized, and

in that organization there is provision

for the development and practice of

every virtue known, every charity re-

vealed. For this reason and for its

promises of eternal life and glory, the

gospel, and the Church divinely estab-

lished for its promulgation, should be

nearer and dearer to a follower of

Christ than all other things. "No man

can serve two masters: for either he

will hate the one, and love the other;

or else he will hold to the one and de-

spise the other. Ye cannot serve God

and Mammon."

"It is true that many of our people

have been led to join these various so-

cieties on the ground that their aims

and objects are purely charitable and

social in their character; and, besides,

inducements are held out procuring life

insurance at greatly reduced rates. Now,

however worthy their aims and ob-

jects—and there is no controversy on

this point—they are outside the pale

of the Church, and, by joining them,

young men divide with man-made or-

gates have made them strong. They seek first that which is essential, the Spirit of God and his kingdom, and God makes all the incidentals—possessions, food, clothing,—his gracious care. Of them it shall be said: 'Their reward is sure'; they stand prepared to take upon themselves the responsibilities connected with the ordinances of the house of the Lord. Every man who understands the gospel must know that the Church, along the line of its labors of salvation and redemption, cannot ally itself with any institutions that are begotten by and conducted in the spirit of the world; but it must hold itself free from them, of whatever name or nature. Since the Church is made up of members, and since any organization can only be what its aggregate individual membership is, the members must also be free. Those of the brethren who are still in doubt as to the evils of secret associations, will find abundant proof in the history of the Church, as written in the Book of Mormon, to be traced from references in II Nephi 19:15. (References page 35.)

"In conclusion, the members of our Church who have faith to heed the advice of the authorities thereof, will not ally themselves, under any pretense, with any organization not instituted by the Lord for the building up of Zion. Neither will they, for any consideration, allow themselves to imbricate the spirit of the world, or be tempted to lose their faith, which will be the result with those who divide their interests, devoting some to other organizations. This is the testimony of those who have joined and who have later withdrawn. Nothing can be permitted in the members that is calculated to bring division and weakness to the Church; yet those who have been led to join other institutions should not be dealt with harshly, but should be made to understand the position of the Church, and where it is so understood, they should shape their affairs for withdrawal, in humility and repentance, from that which threatens their standing.

JOSEPH F. SMITH."

DESERVES REWARD.

The City Council, we believe, will be cordially sustained in its action in behalf of Patrolman Heath. As suggested by the "News," his faithful performance of a perilous duty deserves recognition. He did not hesitate to risk his life in the service. Very often when the question is of pursuing outlaws, officers will have to be spurred on by promises of cash rewards. In this case there was no such incentive. The services done are no less worthy of special recognition. The suggestion that a gold medal be presented to him, is good. Such a memento can be kept in the family, and be a pleasant testimony to coming generations. But with the honor should go a more substantial reward, such as promotion in the service, or some other suitable mark of appreciation. Any man who risks his life on his post of duty, is entitled to all the recognition compatible with free, popular institutions.

A BRIGHTER OUTLOOK.

The Venezuelan situation today appears less complicated. Confidence is expressed that diplomacy will find the solution of all difficulties in a comparatively short time. The question of preferential claims, if it is satisfactory to all the parties interested, the blockade will soon be ended, and a great element of danger eliminated.

Simultaneous with this cheerful news from Washington comes a report from Berlin, that Emperor William has decided to send a delegation to Washington with the Frederick the Great statue that he is desirous of presenting to this country. The delegation, it appears, is to consist of high army officers, including probably Count Waldersee. The emperor is evidently anxious to create a favorable impression in this country, even if he goes dangerously near reserved ground. He does not desire Uncle Sam to bear any malice, even though a corn be stepped upon.

Our state department has asked the Emperor to withhold the statue, until it shall be convenient to accept it, and that hint ought to have been taken. It would be time enough to attend to the German statue which the Emperor is so anxious to set up on American soil, when the Venezuelan matter is satisfactorily settled. The American people will not feel festive until then. No ceremonies can blind the public eye in this country to the fact that the proceedings in Venezuela are intended for a challenge to the United States.

It is a wonder that the American people have viewed this defiance so calmly as they have done. The bearing of the nation now is a great contrast to the excitement when the boundary dispute came up and President Cleveland interpreting public sentiment correctly, strongly insisted on arbitration. But this tranquility in the face of critical conditions is an evidence that the people are conscious of their own greatness and power. Uncle Sam knows that he has an influential position in the council of nations, and that he can afford to view with calmness the little disputes of others. He knows that no one will seriously infringe upon his rights. The Spanish war showed the world what the country can do when put to the test. The reputation of this country has been pretty well established abroad now, and there is no need of excitement over things that a country with a standing to gain would take more seriously.

WHY PEOPLE SEPARATE.

Diverse proceedings throughout the country show clearly the great need of stricter regulations of separations between husband and wife. Generally, drunkenness and brutality are the charges preferred by wives against husbands; ill temper and neglect are common charges of husbands, though complaints of drunkenness are becoming frequent against wives, too. Unfaithfulness is also a common charge on both sides. But there are many other grounds on which divorces are applied for. Stepchildren, cold feet and a tendency on the part of the husband to keep all the money he makes are complained of. One woman in New York accused her husband of making

her go to a masquerade ball while she was suffering with measles. Another woman accused her husband of coming to bed from a cold bath without drying himself. One man avowed that his wife had dyed her hair "an improper red." A wife complained that her husband had insisted on ordering a coffin for her. Another complained that her husband made her live in a flat, while another could not live with her husband because he "spoke only one language." It is but too evident that there is in the world today very little understanding of the marriage relation. Were people really aware of the nature of a marriage covenant, there would be few hasty and ill-considered marriages, and consequently few divorces.

FOR THE FAMINE FUND.

A couple of weeks ago the "News" appealed to the public for aid for sufferers from famine in Norway, Sweden. Contributions have come, and are continually coming, to Elder A. W. Carlson, Z. C. M. L., this city, in response to this appeal.

We are now requested to state that the Theater has been very generously donated for a matinee and evening performance on Saturday, Feb. 14, and that the dramatic club of the University also has volunteered to appear in the Amazons on that day for the benefit of the famine fund. We hope the public will bear this entertainment in mind, and patronize it liberally. The purpose for which it is given should appeal to all, without regard to nationality or creed, and the University students are well worth seeing in the play mentioned. The entertainment is arranged by the Scandinavian committee in this city, and it should be a financial success. In the large cities of the east similar efforts are made with marked success.

Community of interests—the public debt.

It is the coal men who have a snap during the cold snap.

The future holds about the same kind of luck that the past held.

Captain Hobson having failed to resign his only alternative is to die.

County government in Hawaii might be County Guy and still be all right.

Policeman Heath has done a great deal to suppress idleness in the city.

The program of the allies appears to be to reckon without their creditor host.

In this Venezuelan mess the old adage applies: "Too many cooks spoil the broth."

The dead highwayman has been positively identified as several different people.

"Ugliness is a sin," says someone. Original sin with many, they being born that way.

People who desire a Sunday shave will have to wait Saturday or go without.

The Erie canal is to be improved. In its prime days it was about the greatest improvement in the country.

Has E. Benjamin Andrews raised this great storm in Nebraska? He generally raises one wherever he goes.

Sevier county pays a bounty of five cents a head on jack rabbits. The county will have a bountiful harvest.

If Policeman Heath will kindly kill another highwayman the council and people will be glad to double his reward.

When the sheepmen and cattlemen of the southern Big Horn country meet in battle array will Gertrude of Wyoming be there?

Cole Younger has been granted a full pardon. A long experience in the Minnesota state prison convinces him that Stillwater runs deep.

The colored man who stuck his head into a barrel of whitewash, employed a very crude method of whitewashing. They do these things better in Congress.

The cry is still for smoke consumers. There are seventy thousand in the city for not a man, woman or child but consumes smoke every time they take a breath.

One would naturally think that New York's famous fatiron building would smooth matters but it doesn't. It rattles them up.

Joseph Prairie, who for twelve long years traveled as Barnum's bearded lady, is dead. Here was a living witness to Barnum's first principle that the people love to be humbugged.

The Savannah Press says that as a rule the man who carries a pistol is a public enemy, and ought to be treated as such. That's true, and the dead highwayman was treated as such.

"Mr. Teller, of Colorado, now joins Mr. Smoot, of Utah, in the cheerful act of wondering whether he will be let in," says the Mail and Express. Neither gentleman is "wondering," both being satisfied that they will take their seats in the Senate without let or hindrance. But how very badly it will make the M and E feel.

THE SUBMARINE BOAT LOBBY.

Washington Post.

According to the theory of Mr. Lester, there has been some submarine log rolling in progress.

New York Daily News.

Experience is teaching us that it requires a strong searchlight to show up a submarine boat scandal.

Boston Herald.

Congressman Lester's description of the submarine lobby as wine, terrapin and women is quite appetizing.

New York World.

Let the probing proceed. This fascinating story of friendship and an appropriation cannot be too fully explored.

Chicago Daily News.

Evidently the submarine boat agents were not expecting anybody to touch off an investigation under them.

Albany Argus.

If we catch the point to Mr. Quigg's

somewhat rambling and incoherent remarks, it is that having been a member of three Congresses, he should be above suspicion. That theory might make some of the old stagers smile.

Buffalo Courier.

If the character and quality of the equipment of the navy depends upon the dictation of a lobby at Washington, it is high time the people should know and insist on a reform in this matter before the country thinks of engaging in any fresh war.

Baltimore American.

When a man is approached with a bribe and tells, and when another man is bribed to say that he never offered the bribe but was bribed to say he offered it, the thing has pretty nearly reached the ten-and-a-half-and-a-half stage for the investigators.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The February number of the Improvement Era presents for frontispiece a fine portrait of Dr. Milton H. Hardy, first territorial secretary Y. M. M. L. A. The epigraphic is the first half of Elder B. H. Roberts' closing paper on "The Mormon Doctrine of Deity," in reply to Mr. Van der Donck's article on the same subject. "Gray's Song of the Builders" is a piece of poetry written for the Era by Livingston C. Ashworth. "Living Faith—The Secret of Mormon Success" is an address delivered by Elder Nephi Pratt at Spokane, Wash. This is followed by a paper by W. J. Sloan, "In Memory," "Birthday Song of Prairie," is the title of a tribute to President John R. Winder on his birthday. The author is Lulu Greene Richards, and the song was sung by the Temple choir on that day. Elder Hugh J. Cannon contributes a description of a famous picture in one of the Berlin galleries, entitled, "The Chase After Fortune." "A New Year—A New Year" is the title of a paper by J. Lloyd Woodruff. "Fruits of the Fall" is the subject of an address by Elder J. Preston Creech. He was awarded a prize for this oratorical effort. Dr. J. M. Tanner discusses interestingly some leading events in the current history of the world, and Elder Alma O. Taylor tells about "Funeral Rites of Japan." President Joseph F. Smith writes editorially on secret societies, and replies to questions regarding them. The Era concludes with "Answers to Questions," "Notes," and "Events of the Month." Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

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KEEP YOUR FEET WARM FOR 45c

Nice comfortable House Slippers. Made in fancy and plain styles. Felt and Leather Soles. Nothing nicer for these cold days and nights. Priced from 45c and up.

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With Her Superlatively Beautiful and Elegantly Gowned Chorus.

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NEXT ATTRACTION.

KIRKE LA SHELLE'S ARIZONA.

Week of February 16th.

The Campbells Are Comin', Hurrah! Hurrah!

AFTERNOON AND EVENING SATURDAY, FEB. 7,

And Evening, FRIDAY, FEB. 6,

—AT THE—

TABERNACLE

SIXTH GREAT CONCERT TOUR.

THE KILTIES

Gordon Highlanders,

CANADA'S CRACK

MILITARY BAND.

40 Musicians,

10 Soloists,

16 Vocal Choir