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SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 19, 1901.

THE SAME OLD STORY.

We have received several clippings from newspapers in the east, which contain reports of anti-Mormon discourses, chiefly rehashing of old slanders that have been discredited in similar forms for forty years or more. Friends who send us these extracts wish the Deseret News to refute the falsehoods which they contain. If we were to notice them all, our editorial page would be made up of well-worn arguments, and statements of facts that have been many times presented to the public in reply to the inventions of the enemies of the Latter-day Saints.

We have now before us a synopsis from the Brooklyn Times of a "Sensational address on Mormonism" made by a person of very unsavory reputation in Utah, who is using a bureau of attacking the Church and refuting the oft-rebuted tales that have formed the substance of pamphlets and sermons directed against "Mormonism." We shall not take up the statements of that individual for, in the first place, they are scarcely worthy of the attention of intelligent persons, and in the next place the Rev. (7) scandal-monger is thirsting for notoriety, and would like the Deseret News to aid in his achievement of the object of his ambition. We advise our Elders in the missionary field to let such creatures alone, and pay no more attention to them than they would to the yelping of a yellow dog.

It is remarkable that any newspaper up to the times on general subjects, should not be aware that the Spaulding story, related as an account of the origin of the Book of Mormon, has been demonstrated beyond question to be utterly untrue and unworthy of consideration. The Spaulding manuscript, which preachers and lecturers of the stripe we have here alluded to still hold forth in their harangues, as the story from which the Book of Mormon was fabricated, is now in the library at Oberlin College in Ohio, and a letter to Prof. Fairchild or to the librarian of the college, will elicit genuine information about it which will settle the matter in the mind of any reasonable person. There is no similarity or connection or association in any way, shape or form, between that manuscript and the Book of Mormon. It would be just as reasonable to say that the Bible was founded upon the "Arabian Nights," as to avow that the Book of Mormon originated with the Spaulding "Manuscript Found."

The designing public speakers and writers who continue to deceive the public, by pretending to trace the Book of Mormon to the miserable romance written by an obscure preacher in the early years of the nineteenth century, know that they are uttering untruths when they make the despicable effort. Particularly is this the case with men who have lived in Utah, and are familiar with the particulars of the discovery of that manuscript by Prof. Fairchild. It is strange that so many editors of modern newspapers have not themselves become acquainted with the facts in this case.

Another thing that causes surprise to people acquainted with the present situation in the great State of Utah, is that there is still lack of truthful information concerning the attitude of the "Mormon" people on the marriage question. This confounding of the terms "Mormonism" and "polygamy" is astonishing to well posted people.

"Mormonism" is a system of religion that is eminently and essentially Christian, both in form and in spirit. Plural marriage was for some years practiced by a small portion of the "Mormon" people. They believed it to be consonant with the mind and will of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of Moses and Gideon, of David and Solomon, of the prophets and priests of Israel, of Jesus of Nazareth and His progenitors, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. But since the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the constitutionality of the laws forbidding that practice, it has ceased among the Latter-day Saints, who desire to be submissive to the laws of the country under the government of which they live and are protected in their rights and liberties.

Mormonism as a system of faith and worship, of philosophy and theology and morals is before the world, to be considered separate and apart from the subject with which it is popularly supposed to be inseparably connected. It is the religion of Jesus Christ, that was promulgated by Him and His Apostles at the opening of the Christian era, but which has been departed from since the Apostles "fell asleep." It has been restored in its fullness, with all its primitive doctrines and ordinances, and authority, and gifts and divine spirit. It is Christian, because it has been set up anew by Jesus Christ himself, under whose auspices and direction it is being preached and will be preached to all the world. "Mormonism" is but a nickname for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and has obtained that misnomer, because a record of the preaching of the Gospel by the Savior in person on this continent after His resurrection, was

compiled by a prophet whose name was Mormon.

As unscrupulous, scoffing and designing men ridiculed and misrepresented the mission, teachings and aims of Christ and His disciples two thousand years ago, so the same class of pharisaical and money-hunting preachers, make a business at the present time, of berating, abusing and bearing false witness against the Latter-day Saints, who are but carrying into practical effect the teachings of the Savior of mankind. They have their work to do as Judas had of old. They will come to their doom as surely as he did. Meanwhile, let the Elders pursue their labors, and perform their mission of proclaiming the truth, with the assurance that all the efforts against it by its opponents, will all in its progress and its ultimate triumph over sin and error, and the evil devices of its enemies.

CURE FOR A SOCIAL EVIL.

Statistics prove beyond doubt that the number of divorces is growing more rapidly than can be accounted for by the growth of the population. And court reports all over the country show that the pretenses on which separation is asked for, often are of the most flimsy nature. Divorces are granted in one state for causes not recognized as valid in another, and thereby the matrimonial status of a great many is quite complicated.

A remedy against this evil is sought in uniform legislation respecting what shall constitute a marriage, and how the marriage relation may be dissolved. How such uniformity best can be attained is quite a question. Federal interference is objected to by a great number of people in every state, and how uniformity can be secured without it, is not clear.

Another method of solving the problem is suggested by a clergyman, Rev. William L. Meese, of Waterloo, Ind. It is claimed that during his long ministry he has united in matrimony about 3,000 people, and that not one couple of all these have applied for divorce. It is further explained that this wonderful result has been obtained by the minister keeping always in close touch with the people for whom he has officiated. Whenever there was any trouble brewing he was ready to give advice, or admonition. He has acted as a mediator in the strifes of his clients, who are scattered all over the United States and Canada, with the result that none of the parties have found it necessary to appeal from him to the courts of law. He has acted on the old maxim that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. In other words, he has done his duty to the people who have availed themselves of his services, and with signal success.

In the "good old days" every minister used to consider himself the "pastor" of the flock. The personal affairs of the parishioners were known to him, and he took an interest in them. If he was a good man, his opportunities for doing good, by acting as an angel of peace, were almost unlimited. Now, however, things are different. "Flocks" are more or less independent of "pastors." Their ideas of personal liberty are changed. The Rev. Meese has simply returned to old methods, and it appears that men and women are not, as a rule, as bad as divorce statistics seem to indicate. They are yet open to reason. They can be labored with. Many a little cloud on the matrimonial horizon can be dissolved by the bright sunshine of a loving heart, if let in before the dark mists have gathered and the storm broken out.

But the Rev. gentleman has seen his efforts bearing fruit in more than one direction. It is said that some years ago, people married by him formed an association for the purpose of promoting happy marriages, and happiness among those that married. Its constitution provides:

"It shall be unlawful for members of this association to in any way disparage or prohibit the marriage of worthy persons. Should a member of this association be found guilty of such action through pure spite or personal feeling, such a member will be promptly expelled. The society holds that the true condition of happiness is to be found in the wedded state, and declares this to be its sole object of organization."

Ill treatment of either wife or husband by the other party, is cause for prompt expulsion from the association.

All of this is very interesting, and the success achieved by the minister, as reported, ought to be taken as an indication of what is so much needed in our age. People need kind, wise and impartial friends, who can sympathize with them, understand them, and influence them by sound advice. Many reject such advice, even if it were offered by a being from heaven; because they are so self-sufficient that they do not even feel their dependence upon the Creator of all things. But all are not in that state of mind. To many the guiding hand of a friend is just what is needed at times, to keep them from stumbling and falling, and there can be no doubt, that there were more conscientious spiritual advisers, there would be less failures in life. Those who are interested in social reforms, should not fail to note the suggestions contained in the formation of the Meese association. New societies are not needed, if the churches will do their duty. Laws are good enough as far as they go, but without private efforts for individual purity, the laws will remain dead letters.

CHINESE IN AMERICA.

A chair of Chinese is to be established at the Columbia University, New York. An anonymous friend of the university has donated \$100,000 for the purpose, and he has done so, it seems, with the remarkable provision that no condition is attached to the gift except this, that the donor reserves the right of increasing it, if he deems proper to do so.

Columbia is to be congratulated on account of this additional feature. At present there are perhaps not many young Americans who would care a great deal for the intricacies of the Chinese language, but the time seems to be rapidly approaching when some knowledge of that tongue will be of much value from a business point of view. The Pacific ocean is destined to become

an American-Chinese sea, carrying on its waves the commerce of the two most populous countries of the world, the largest continents. Knowledge of Chinese will therefore in time be as valuable as, or more so than, that of French.

Besides, in all probability China hides literary treasures of high value and antiquity. These can never be brought to light until scholars shall have set out to search for them. Chinese tradition counts the dynasties of the country far beyond the limits of western history, and that tradition there must be much of great scientific worth. The establishment of chairs for Chinese learning in western universities is a sign of a coming closer relationship between the east and west. It is another evidence of the spirit of union now influencing mankind, in spite of the contention and strife that still seem to operate in the opposite direction.

A FARMERS' TRUST.

In these times of trusts and combinations, it is not surprising to hear of propositions for a gigantic union of farmers for the purpose of controlling the prices of farm products. The suggestion was made a few days ago by Mr. George H. Phillips, at a banquet given at the West Hotel, Chicago, by the National Grain Growers' association.

The speaker thought that the 2,000,000 farmers of the country might combine for that purpose. He suggested that the government tax the farmer one cent a bushel on his corn crop, and with the money thus raised build elevators in which to store a hundred million bushels of corn and pay forty cents for it. With the government ready to pay that price, the farmer could borrow 30 cents from any bank, if he needed money, and thus be in a position to carry the surplus for seven years, if need be.

In addition to this, he thought the farmers ought to have a bank with a capital of from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000. This bank would loan money to any stockholders within a few cents of the market price of the corn he would, under present conditions, have to sell at any price offered in order to meet his yearly obligations. This would enable him to carry his corn one or two or even three years, if the price did not suit or the conditions were not such as to warrant the managers of the bank advising sale. The speaker said he had given the subject considerable thought, and he believed the project to be entirely feasible.

The suggestions are interesting, as showing the possibilities of combined effort. But the practical execution of such plans is widely different from the outlining of them in speech or writing. Still, the tendency of our time is toward combinations for united action. The old competitive system, in which individual merit individual is rapidly giving way for one in which union opposes union, and the individual is in danger of being crushed between them. Upon the prosperity of the farmers depends to a large extent the prosperity of the country, and anything of a practical nature that can be devised for the purpose of rendering prices of farm products less subject to fluctuation, should be for the advantage of every branch of business and industry.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD.

The following figures are from the North American Review:

"Besides a number of minor sects, such as the Abyssinians, the Copts, the Armenians, the Nestorians and the Jacobites, numbering in all four or five millions, we have three great divisions of Christendom: the Greek Catholic Church, with 25,000,000 of adherents; the Protestant churches, with an aggregate of 142,000,000, and the Roman Catholic church, with 250,000,000. No statistics are at hand showing the relative growth of the number of adherents of these three great divisions. But the growth of the populations under their rule is thus set forth by comparison: The Roman Catholics, in the year 1500, were ruling over 50,000,000 of people; in 1700, over 90,000,000, and in 1891, over 242,000,000. The Greek Catholics, in 1500, were governing 2,000,000; in 1700, 33,000,000, and in 1891, 128,000,000. The Protestants, in 1500, had not begun to be; in 1700, they held sway over 22,000,000, and in 1891, over 220,000,000. In the four centuries, the political power of the Roman Catholics has more than tripled; that of the Greeks has been multiplied six and that of the Protestants has sprung from nothing to a control of one-third of the world's population. It is easy to see which of these great divisions is expanding most rapidly. More important and more difficult is the question concerning the intellectual and moral progress of these three great sections of Christendom."

It should be remembered, however, that while the Protestant division presents a large total, it is so broken up into fractions that no single subdivision has any numerical strength at all comparable to its competitors. The numbers would also be considerably reduced, should all who are at heart atheists and agnostics be eliminated from the tables of statistics. And in all probability that class is more numerous among the Protestants than among the other churches.

High Council, at 7:30 this evening. In the game of tariff retaliation Russia holds a full hand and plays promptly.

Boston has a school of housekeeping in domestic economies it is expected to make a clean sweep.

Chicago papers speak of their local footpads as lawless. Why not call them ladrones and be up to date?

The czarina has just given birth to another daughter, the fourth. Fortunately it is for Russia that the Salla law does not obtain there.

A third party movement has been started in Kansas City. Of the making of parties as of the making of books, there seems to be no end.

Chicago public sentiment is against free text books for her schools. And yet Chicago claims to be a modern, intellectual and progressive city.

The Pan American exposition is a great success. The Buffalo hotels have raised their prices enormously and visitors are kicking like government mules.

Many and terrible as have been the

railroad accidents in this country, the most famous of all is the turned-up-side-down railroad train on some of the Pan-American exposition two-cent stamps. Their designer must have been a graduate of the John Phoenix school of illustration.

There has been much ado about the bestowal by Harvard university of the degree of LL. D. upon President McKinley. The President will not be able to attend the commencement and in his absence the degree will not be bestowed. Thus will a great vexing question be so settled as to suit little souls.

The story is going round that out of regard for his old friend and co-worker, Mr. Carnegie gave Mr. Schwab nearly five million dollars. If so, it is but another case going to prove that some men are born rich, some attain riches, and others have riches thrust upon them.

In the death of ex-Gov. Pingree of Michigan the country loses a unique and strong character. He was most famous for his potato patch solution of the city poor question, and while it did not solve it completely (it probably cannot be while human nature is what it is) it pointed a way. As governor he undertook to institute many reforms and accomplished much. But at last many of his schemes came to be looked upon as "crankiness," whether justly or unjustly, and when a man gains the reputation of being a crank, no matter in what walk of life, his usefulness to his fellow men is generally gone. Hazen S. Pingree was not a great man, but he was a remarkable one. If there were more such as he the world would soon be made a better place.

Perhaps there is no building in the world that is more famous than the Parthenon at Athens. It stands on the Acropolis, a grand ruin that men have admired for centuries. It has served as a great store house of treasures to be filled by all the nations. And now the International Archeological Congress that will soon assemble in Athens will suggest that it be restored, and Greece will ask the return to her of architectural fragments that now rest in the various museums of Europe. Perhaps the most extensive and precious collection of these is that now in the British museum and known as the Elgin marbles. Lord Elgin collected them while British ambassador to Constantinople. They cost him £20,000 and the British government finally purchased them from him for £36,600. His action in removing them from Athens has been severely condemned, and some have questioned their artistic value. Be this as it may, they are among the great treasures of the British museum, and it is very doubtful if they would be surrendered at the request of Greece, even when the question of the restoration of the Parthenon is involved. Most antiquarians and artists are very much averse to the restoration of statuary or great architectural monuments. They will be horrified at the thought of restoring the Parthenon. And yet it may be done.

TALKING ABOUT LYNCHING.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It appears that the number engaged in the Modoc lynchings did not exceed fifteen, all of whom are now known, and yet it is freely predicted that as the result of perjured witnesses and timid or sympathizing jurors not one will ever be convicted. We trust that this prediction will prove false. Already this state is suffering in reputation as the result of what is correctly described as the most brutal and senseless butchery ever perpetrated in America. One eastern exchange points out that not even in the South or in Kansas did a mob ever murder any one who was not even charged with crime, much less above the grade of a misdemeanor. We know, but it is hard to make eastern people understand, that this crime was committed in one of the most lawless and sparsely settled regions of America, whose few inhabitants have only a nominal connection with California, or any other civilized state. They were originally of bad stock, and seem ever ready to savor, but they are within the legal boundaries of this state, which must bear the odium of their bloodthirstiness unless the law-abiding people will organize the great majority of the population of Modoc county see to it that justice does not miscarry.

Sacramento Record Union.

Suppose now that Modoc county is sued to recover damages because of the lynching recently disgracing that county. There is scarcely any doubt about recovery being had. The local government is bound to protect the citizens. It failed to do so. It is responsible for the neglect or inability to the relatives of the murdered men. The lawyers of Modoc will then be "up against it" effectually, and will discover how excessively costly indulgence in lawlessness is.

Bakersfield Californian.

There should be some way of reaching the members of the Modoc mob who took four defenseless prisoners from the authorities and hung them. The lynched men were not accused of any crime that justified such punishment, and the machinery of the law had been set in motion to convict them of no crime. There is nothing in evidence to show that the officials could not and would not have done their full duty in the premises, and there appears not to be a shadow of excuse for the lawless act.

St. Paul Globe.

If the damages were certain to be assessed immediately on the community in which lynchings took place, the cost would have to be borne immediately by those who took part in the transaction or abetted or suffered its commission by others. It may well be doubted whether the common law does not give the remedy so successfully invoked in Ohio without the existence of any statute law authorizing it. The community is made under the common law for injury done to property through mob violence. There is not, and there ought not to be, any substantial distinction in such cases between personal and property rights.

Kansas City Star.

The reputation of this country has been shocked and shocked by many lynchings in recent years, some of which have been accompanied by the most barbaric tortures. Most of these atrocities have been perpetrated in the South, but the names of a number of Northern states have been blackened by these mob outrages. In nearly every case violence could have been prevented by courageous conduct on the part of the sworn officers of the law. In many instances it has been apparent that the officers made only a show of resistance, but were really in league with the lynchers. For these reasons the heroic stand taken by Sheriff Joseph Merrill of Carson, in Carson, in protecting a negro against a band of would-be lynchers deserves the highest commendation.

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