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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 24, 1900.

DO USE COMMON SENSE.

Speaking in reference to the shutting out of so many thousands of children from the public schools because they were not vaccinated, Dr. J. C. E. King, City Health Commissioner, is reported as saying:

"The chances are that a great many children have been exposed, and smallpox is liable to make its appearance in the schools at any time."

Supposing that to be true, what protection is afforded from the spread of contagion from those who have been thus exposed, by putting into the bodies of the children an animal disease? Is their clothing vaccinated? Even if vaccination would render the children perfectly immune themselves, how would it prevent their carrying infection into the schools if they had been exposed to smallpox? Would not a vaccinated child who had been exposed to a contagious disease be more dangerous to a school than a healthy, unvaccinated child who had not been so exposed?

If a regulation had been imposed excluding from the schools all persons who were liable to carry contagion with them, there would have been good sense in the rule. The doctor is reported also as saying that the board of health "cannot recede from the position it has taken in this matter." Why not, if the board has discovered that it made a mistake? The public welfare should be far above the personal feelings and pride of any such body of men. If there is real danger of an epidemic, the very best means to prevent its spread should be adopted.

In all reason and fairness, now, would not the proper method be to close the schools, if keeping them open would be dangerous either to the vaccinated or the unvaccinated children? If there is reason to believe that a number of children have been exposed to contagion, all the vaccinating that may be resorted to will not take away the infection that the exposed persons may carry.

This is where the great blunder has been made by the Board of Health and the Board of Education. No precautions appear to have been instituted against the spread of contagion by school children, or indeed by adults who mingle together in close contact in dance halls, in theaters, in public assemblies of various kinds, and who are far more liable to increase the epidemic, if it should occur, than the children against whom the special and arbitrary provisions have been instituted.

If smallpox is liable to make its appearance in the schools at any time, what is the common sense method of meeting the emergency? It is folly, in the face of undeniable facts, to state that a vaccinated child cannot carry the germs of the disease into a crowded school. A cowpox sore on the arm of a child is no sign whatever that it has not been exposed to contagion, and does not carry in its hair or its clothing the germs of the disease that is said to be likely to break out in the schools at any time.

These considerations are separate and apart from the contest carried into the courts over the legal powers of the Board of Health. It is a question of the protection of school children from an alleged threatened danger. Even if vaccination is a prophylactic, as claimed, it simply acts as a preventive or palliative to the individual patient, but has no effect whatever on the liability of the vaccinated person to carry the germs of the disease to others. All individuals who have been exposed to the disease should be kept from close association with others, but vaccination will have no more effect on that danger than it would have on the motions of the planets. Do use a little common sense!

UTAH PEOPLE THINK.

A local contemporary, which is noted for changing its position on a number of public questions, and forgetting one day what it said on the same subject but a day or two before, has taken up the cudgels in behalf of the compulsion which some persons are endeavoring to exercise over the majority of the people. Today it announces that the smallpox epidemic is "spreading and growing more and more severe," and tries to frighten the public with the statement that "in all affluent cases 50 per cent die and in all hemorrhagic black smallpox 99 per cent die."

Passing by this exaggeration with the remark that it is doubtful whether during the present excitement there have been any deaths from smallpox in Utah, and that it is certain there have only been one or two, we here append what the same paper stated only a few days ago:

"But there is not a bit of sense in advertising under scare heads that there is an epidemic of smallpox here, for it is not only untrue, but it is also true that there is no probability that it ever will be true."

With that reassuring statement our contemporary, if it believes its own words, ought to rest in peace, particularly as there is no desire on the part of anybody to interfere with the rights

of those who believe in vaccination. They may enjoy all the benefits derived from it that are possible, but let them not try to impose it on the general public.

The "News" has purposely refrained from entering into the merits or demerits of vaccination, but when its advocates state with unscrupulous disregard of facts, that medical authority is practically unanimous in pronouncing the remedy an unfailing preventive of the disease, it is but due the other side to say that such statements, coupled with the dictatorial pronouncements of men with little or no personal experience in the malady, do more harm to the vaccination cause than the arguments of its opponents.

The citizens of Utah are not accustomed to being driven with a lash. They are intelligent and can judge for themselves as to the credibility of a statement and the logic of an argument. Also as to the reliability of alleged statistics.

They know that the American soldiers in the Philippines are vaccinated and re-vaccinated at regular intervals, sometimes of only seven weeks, and yet the reports of death among them from smallpox continue to come from Washington.

They know that in England and Switzerland the people who watched the effects of vaccination finally rose in indignation and demanded that the compulsory clause of the legislation pertaining to that matter be abolished. And so forcible were the protests, that the parliaments had to yield.

They may have heard that in Great Britain so high an authority as Dr. Joseph Hermann, head physician of the department of skin diseases of the Imperial Hospital; and in Switzerland, Dr. Vogt, professor of hygiene at the university of Berne, fought valiantly against compulsion.

They know that a large per cent of the inhabitants of Utah, who come from Great Britain and other countries of Europe are against compulsion, because they have seen the effects of it on the other side of the Atlantic.

Dr. Hermann's testimony, quoted in The Westminster Review, is this:

"All the collateral circumstances duly weighed and considered, there is certainly no distinction between the mortality of the vaccinated and that of the unvaccinated; and when periodicity in many epidemics, a greater mortality in statistically announced among unvaccinated children, we must remember that people do not venture to vaccinate weak and sickly children, fearing to make their condition worse. The unvaccinated class of children is not allowed to sickly children, who are most endangered by an outbreak of smallpox, and therefore stand most in need of protection. More bitter irony can scarcely be imagined."

Is it any wonder that in view of such testimony the enlightened and progressive portion of a community protest against going backward to wage Great Britain and Switzerland were several years ago?

AN HONEST MINISTER.

In a letter to the San Francisco Call, dated Oakland, Jan. 20, Rev. James C. MacInnis is described as one of the best known young divines in Alameda county. Attention is drawn to him, because he has resigned the ministry, on account of the hypocrisy and fraud he has found in the ranks of the sectarian churches. He is quoted to have said to the trustees: "The ministry is no place for a young man who wants his personal liberty. He must use too much hypocrisy and overlook too much hypocrisy in others."

MacInnis was a successful Congregational pastor, and it was therefore a surprise to his friends when he tendered his resignation and declared that he would leave the ministry for ever. In explanation of the step he took, he says in part:

"The church is burdened with false ideas. The members of the congregation want their pastor to be solemn visaged and dignified always. This compels a minister to oftentimes assume a false dignity. Clergymen are human and have the same feelings as other people. Their tastes are the same, but they are prevented from indulging them because if they did so it would cause their dearly beloved parishioners to hold up their hands in horror. A short time ago I went to a dance given for young Fred Reuger, a friend of mine, who was going away, and the matter kicked up a terrible row. For a long time before that I had been thinking seriously of leaving the ministry, and that event brought me to a decision."

Concerning his future plans, he said:

"I shall now enter upon a business career and a life of personal liberty. My endeavors shall be to be a Christian business man. By embarking in a mercantile life and doing unto others as I would have them do unto me, I think I can do more good than by remaining in the pulpit."

His last farewell to the ministry is as follows:

"Vale, hypocrisy! I can now walk down the street with my hat on the back of my head, my hands in my pockets, and when I meet a genial friend I can say: 'Hello, there, old man, how goes it?' without having people stare at me in astonishment. I have been rebuked by the looks of churchgoers, who think a minister should not act like other men, too long. Now that I am free I feel as happy as a boy going fishing."

Mr. MacInnis is to be congratulated on the step he has taken. It has, we venture to say, cost him a hard struggle in which he has come out a conqueror on the side of truth and honesty. From now on he will be able to respect himself, and he will be an object of envy to his brethren, who would take the same step, were they not kept from doing so by cowardice. Ministers know full well the truth of the indictment for hypocrisy, made public by this exponent of the fraternity. It was said of the ancient Roman custodians of certain sacred precincts that they could hardly look at one another without smiling. That modern ministers are not tempted in a similar way is a proof of hard training.

We hope Mr. MacInnis will keep his resolution of leading a Christian business life. If so, he cannot fail to go from light to light and obtain more knowledge than he has. Truth comes gradually as the orb in heaven, when the evening shadows fall, shine forth one by one, until the entire firmament is studded with the gleaming brilliants of the Creator. To abandon the sectarian ministry is a good introduction to the study of true theology.

AS TO PUERTO RICO.

If reports are true, the condition of Puerto Rico is not the most flourishing. It is said that out of a total population of 1,000,000, there are 200,000 beggars, and about as many living in great poverty. The trouble is that the foreign commerce has shrunk to almost nothing, and on that account the population is worse off under our flag than it was while Spanish rule lasted.

The Puerto Ricans met the invading Americans in a friendly spirit and made their march through the islands a veritable triumph. They were content to change government. But when the Spanish flag was hauled down to give room for the Stars and Stripes, Puerto Rican products were excluded from the Spanish market, and the bars placed by this country on foreign products have not been let down, to foster the industry of the new acquisition to United States territory, and so it happens that Puerto Rico at present has no markets whatever for its products. This child that confidently lifted its arms toward Uncle Sam, was picked up, only to be made a Cinderella in the household of States. Says one of the representatives in Washington: "We are worse off now than when under Spanish rule, rascally and oppressive as it was, and unless something is speedily done to relieve our suffering island will sink to a state of wretchedness and pauperism impossible to describe."

The United States cannot afford not to listen to the voice of the people in the new possession. We went to war to bring freedom and happiness to the oppressed subjects of Spain. We are responsible for their temporal well-being to some extent, and unless both the Puerto Ricans and the Filipinos in years to come shall be able to rejoice in the day that brought to them the American civilization, history must pronounce our mission a failure. Puerto Rico under Great Britain would soon have enjoyed great prosperity. The island should lose nothing by having her lot cast with the United States. Will Congress find time to look into the matter without too much delay?

STRAIGHT TALK.

There are a few ministers among the churches who have kept their heads cool and their brains clear, during the heat of the anti-"Mormon" agitation, and who see the evil of doing one positive wrong in order to crush what is believed to be another wrong. Among them are two clergymen in Baltimore, who recently spoke plainly on this subject. Following is a report of their remarks as it appears in a Baltimore, Md., paper:

The spread of Mormonism and the case of Congress. B. H. Roberts, furnished the themes for two sermons by Baltimore divines yesterday. The Rev. W. A. Cramford-Frost of the Protestant Episcopal church of the Holy Comforter, Pratt and Chester streets, preached on the "Distress of Nations." He said of the Roberts case that there was "graver danger for mistaken zeal and lack of discrimination on the part of the Christian people." He made a strong plea for Roberts, saying that "he is being treated according to the French method—he is regarded as guilty until proven innocent." The spectacle in Congress, the minister said, of Roberts standing alone, deserted by his friends, reminded him of a quotation from the Bible: "Let him who is without sin first cast a stone."

The Rev. Wm. E. Starr, pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic church, Lafayette and Mount Royal avenues, took for his subject: "The Roberts case in Congress." He said, in reference to the petitions presented to Congress to eject Roberts, that "it has struck me in the light of being a monstrous impertinence, based upon the assumption that the high Legislature of the land cannot be safely trusted to judge of its own decency and purge itself of whatever would bring it to discredit." He continued, saying that the petitions had to him the appearance of a threat that he would be ejected from his pulpit, for not only has Congress given heed to the warning, but it has done so in an altogether novel way. It has created a precedent which may return some day as a Nemesis to plague its inventors. It has stamped a man at the threshold of the Capitol, who comes armed with what has been heretofore considered prima facie proof of his right to a seat. And that is not the worst of it. Had this the desire of the Puerto Ricans may be comprehended in three suggestions: free trade with the United States, the authorizing of a loan for internal improvements, and territorial government. Really the third provision would carry with it the first, for it is incomprehensible that the United States should maintain a system of duties against one of its territories, or that it should deny the provisions of the general tariff law to any part of its people comprehended within its general scheme of home government.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Representatives of the leading interests in Puerto Rico are in Washington urging immediate action to determine the fiscal and commercial relations of the island to the United States and the rest of the world. Business conditions in the island render prompt decision necessary if general ruin and distress are to be averted. The administration is disposed to do all it can, but the matter is now in the hands of Congress and that body is apparently uncertain what course to take.

Kansas City Star.

By right the jurisdiction, laws and institutions of the United States should be extended to all parts of the Nation. That course has been usual and, indeed, is the only practical and sensible mode of procedure. The military may be retained to support the civil power, while there is need of it on account of riotous or disturbing influences, but there is no occasion for delay in giving people who live under the flag of the United States what may be called American government.

New York Tribune.

Laws for Puerto Rico will be made expressly for Puerto Rico, in the manner to be ascertained. The administration is to be assumed in making those laws all possible regard will be paid to the wishes and to the desires of the Puerto Ricans. Yet it is entirely conceivable that those desires will not in all cases be granted. The interests of the greater nation, whose property the island of Puerto Rico now is, must also be considered. And in case of difference, the greater is not likely to be sacrificed for the less.

Springfield Republican.

It cannot be said too often these days that few people under the sovereignty of the United States are in a worse plight than the Puerto Ricans. The governor of the island, Gen. Davis, is in Washington saying that its condition is worse than in the days of Spanish rule, because it has no markets. Any one would suppose that Congress would immediately establish free trade between the inhabitants and the United States simply because "expansion" is a civilized and philanthropic enterprise. But a substantial Republican opposition among the fiercest expansionists, such as Orville H. Platt of Connecticut, is arising against a simple act of mercy to starve-swept Puerto Rico.

San Francisco Call.

If anything is abhorred of our people it is Cobden free trade. American wages and conditions are not compatible with the pauper labor of the tropics. It makes no difference whether that

information. His speech bears the earmarks and brands of the Salt Lake breed of anti-"Mormonism," and it is not difficult to name the stock from which it sprang.

The Filipino insurgents are now asking for what they will probably get, if Aguinaldo's representative presents the situation fairly in his appeal to Congress. It is the best sign yet of complete acquiescence to the American requirement, and is a hopeful indication of early and lasting peace.

A Belfast dispatch says the British government has loaned a general to the South African millionaires. There have been some strong assertions that a British cabinet minister some time ago loaned himself to the same combination, and thus brought about the present war.

We acknowledge the receipt of a fine specimen of pocket knife, with several useful attachments, beautifully ornamented and cased, with the compliments of the celebrated Anheuser-Busch company of St. Louis. It will be found very useful, if not exactly in the manner intended by the generous company which is distributing these elegant souvenirs.

We are requested by Apostle Heber J. Grant to inform numerous inquirers, that his mother's hearing has wonderfully improved since last Fast day, when she was specially mentioned in the prayers of the Saints, that he returns heartfelt thanks to the Bishops and all who have taken an interest in her behalf, and that he earnestly requests them to continue to exercise faith and offer their supplications for her complete restoration. The benefit she has already received is remarkable and is truly gratifying and encouraging.

In our correspondence from Ephraim, Sanpete county, it is stated that a lady who had been afflicted with the disease which is said to be smallpox, recently gave birth to a child and has been compelled to do without a nurse or medical aid, as both the doctor and nurses dared not expose themselves to it. This is a sad condition of affairs, and a strong comment on the faith of professional people in their own nostrum. If vaccination is such a sure protection against smallpox, why should not doctors and nurses be thoroughly vaccinated and render themselves immune? It would be interesting to know how many of the advocates of compulsion have rendered themselves secure against smallpox by being thoroughly cowpoxed beyond question.

The dispatches from the great battlefield on the Tugela tell of the preference there of Gen. Cronje. When it is remembered that this officer was in command of the Transvaal troops at Magerfontein when Gen. Methuen was defeated, there comes another illustration of the remarkable mobility and strategical skill of the Boer forces. If Gen. Cronje came 50 miles within the past two weeks, to take part in contesting the British advance on Ladysmith, it is certain that he brought a considerable number of troops to reinforce Gen. Joubert, and it appears that the transfer was made without British knowledge thereof till the actual report of fighting revealed Cronje's presence. Possibly, now that the Boer general is away from Magerfontein, there may be another attempt at British advance toward Kimberley.

PUERTO RICO.

Boston Transcript.

A delegation of Porto Rican planters and merchants has come to Washington to urge upon the President and Congress the need of establishing closer relations at once between that island and the United States. In their finality the desires of the Puerto Ricans may be comprehended in three suggestions: free trade with the United States, the authorizing of a loan for internal improvements, and territorial government. Really the third provision would carry with it the first, for it is incomprehensible that the United States should maintain a system of duties against one of its territories, or that it should deny the provisions of the general tariff law to any part of its people comprehended within its general scheme of home government.

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JOHN RUSKIN.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Many believe that he took a long step downward when he went from art to sociology, but there was certainly more of common human interest in the new study than the old, and he pursued it with a splendid nobility of purpose. Though his superior refinement and taste and his autocratic views hardly commended him as a leader to the democracy, his heart was right, his aims were high, his sincerity perfect. His work, long since completed, will live after him, and some of his books will probably hold a permanent place among the English classics.

Omaha World-Herald.

Neither those who love art nor those who love letters can hear without a deep sense of regret the news of the death of John Ruskin. He was an interpreter of all the nobler forms of human expression. All sculptors, all painters, all cunning workers in brass, iron, wood and stone, all poets, all preachers owe him a debt. There is not in Europe or America a statue in which he has not revealed a new and impressive attraction. There is not a fine painting which he has not made finer. There is not a dome or a spire which he has not made more imposing. There is not an arch or a monument which he has not made grander.

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