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SALT LAKE CITY. - FEB. 16, 1900.

COME TO THE POINT

The question of veracity between the Ministerial Association and the Deseret News, rests upon the assertion of the ministers that the leaders of the Church, in their sworn testimony before the Master in Chancery, "plighted their sacred honor that polygamous relations already contracted should absolutely cease." The "News" replied that the gentlemen referred to made no pledge of that or any other kind on that occasion, but that the questions asked and the answers given were simply as to their understanding of the scope and meaning of the Manifesto of September 24th, 1890.

There need be no lengthy dispute over this. All that is necessary to settle it is a literal quotation from the official report of the proceedings, in which any sort of "sacred pledge" appears. Let it be brought forth and spread before the public if it exists. If not, let the frank acknowledgment be made that the statement was an error.

The vapors and abuse by the paper that tries to twist the ministers out of their muddle, are utterly in vain. They only serve to show how weak and defenseless is their position. Its sinuities are fairly described by its own headline: "The Same Old Serpent's Trail." Nothing that we could say would portray them better.

It is not to the point to bring in extraneous matter. All that can be attended to in its time and place. Its introduction is merely "begging the question." The ministers made several rash assertions that are grossly untrue. One of them is that which we have directly denied. Now, if they want to admit they made a mistake, let them do so. If not, they will stand branded as wilful deceivers, publishing deliberate falsehoods to defame the leaders of a religious body which they desire to destroy.

We have given the proof that their assertion was false, in which they declared that the "sacred pledge" alleged to have been made before the Master in Chancery, was "ratified by Mormon Conferences." That proof is that the Conference which ratified the Manifesto was held more than a year before the proceedings in the chancery court. And there has never been a presentation, to say nothing of a ratification of anything done in that court, but before a "Mormon" Conference at any time.

We will not apply the legal term "falsus in uno falsus in omnibus," to the ministerial address "for the benefit of Congress and the information of the country," although it is evident that the palpable falsehood we have pointed out would naturally damage the whole document in the minds of thoughtful people. But we direct the attention of our readers to the fact that instead of meeting this plain issue, the apologist and champion of the address and its authors, does not touch on the real question between them and the Deseret News, but glides off in its old track and ways, on to other and different ground, and then raises its hooded head, and darts out its forked tongue, and hisses its hackneyed abuse. Come to the point. Acknowledge the wrong. Or else quote the pretended "solemn pledge" before the Master in Chancery.

WHAT STARTED THE STORM?

There has been something of a tempest in this country. It has raged particularly in religious circles. It has somewhat subsided. A few rumbles of distant thunder are heard, but the fierceness of the disturbance is not now manifest. Yet there is an attempt at its revival. That may to some extent succeed. But it will probably result in some further noise and little more.

A contemporary which is chiefly responsible, with its clerical assistants, for stirring up the elements, very unwisely attempts to explain what "started the storm." Here is its explanation: "And now the reason of all this disturbance is because the 'revelation' regarding polygamy stands unrepented, and because it was a clear case two years ago that many of the higher officers of the dominant creed were proceeding to carry out the 'revelation' and to defy the laws of the Republic. That started the storm," etc.

It is well enough when a contest is over to "let bygones be bygones." But some folks and some papers cannot even "let well alone." And since allusions to the "storm" and its origin are so often made, it may be proper to briefly relate the facts in the case.

When the campaign of 1898 was in progress, the people of Utah were warned of the consequences that would attend their refusal to be dictated to as to their choice of a Representative in Congress, by a paper that proceeded to threaten and malign the majority of the citizens and the Church to which they belonged. The course pursued by that paper helped materially to defeat its own design. It became rampant beyond its usual measure. In concert with a coterie of ministers who saw profit in an anti-"Mormon" crusade, it entered upon a systematic plan to arouse the

dark forebodings have appeared as to what the terrible results would be should the warlike Africans go on a rampage. It is supposed they would kill indiscriminately all white settlers, including women and children as well as old men unable to defend themselves. Those who took part in the previous Zulu war simply shudder at the thought of the sights they saw.

English soldiers in that war never fired their last shot at the enemy; they always saved one for themselves, in case they should be taken prisoners. That fact tells the story better than many words can do. Is it really necessary for Great Britain at this time to open the gates of Inferno and summon its inhabitants to her aid?

The occasion seems to be what Mr. Chamberlain calls Boer "invasion" of Zululand. Undoubtedly the Boers are making raids on British territory in all directions for the purpose of supplying their army with the necessary provisions, but if that is all there is to the invasion, a barbarous method of retaliation is hardly justified. The sentiment expressed by the London Daily Chronicle will be generally endorsed: "We trust the government will pause before taking the exceedingly dangerous step of putting arms into the hands of the blackmen. If we arm one tribe the Boers will arm another, and we shall have the horrors of savage warfare, making South Africa a hell upon earth."

It is true enough that with lines of communication controlled by censors, and with the probability that only one side of the story would be told at present, the outside world would be kept in darkness very much as to the terrible savagery that would take place in Africa, but that would not lessen the actual horrors. And some time the story would be told. Turkey, too, has strict censorship, but the Armenian atrocities became known in due time.

The war costs Great Britain a great deal. In a period of twenty-four weeks the outlay for the army is estimated at \$120,000,000, or an average of \$5,000,000 a week, and this does not cover the heavy naval expenditure on account of the possibility of foreign embolism. An English newspaper calculates the total expense at \$40,000,000 a month, and perhaps that comes nearer the truth. Then there is the loss of men. The total losses now exceed 10,000, and how many more before the end of the war is impossible to estimate. It is natural that the British government should be anxious to end speedily an affair that threatens to become serious enough to "stagger humanity," as Mr. Kruger said it would do, but England as a power foremost in "Christian" civilization cannot afford to conduct her war in any but the most civilized manner possible.

The Boers are damming the river Klip. They are determined to have water-power somewhere. Kimberley is relieved. This exploit of British arms raises a hope that Lady-smith yet has a fair chance. The London military experts and Gen. Cronje seem to be on the same plane. In studying what the Boers will do now, Cronje will be the first to find out.

The manning of the British fleet, announced from Portsmouth today, is a warning to European powers that a hunt for a fight is not altogether a safe business. It is announced officially that the Colombian revolution is going to be crushed. There would be a safer assurance in the fact of its having been crushed. Ex-President Harrison has been victimized by a French swindler. "Uncle Ben" is shrewd enough not to make much noise over getting "left," but he feels the pinch just the same.

OUR EXPANSION.

Those who tremble for the consequences of the American victories in the former Spanish possessions, cannot realize how gigantic strides this country has made practically in the brief time of one generation. Only the other day the death was recorded of one citizen, who claimed to have seen all the Presidents of this country except Washington. And yet, in that brief time the country has expanded and grown more than any other country, and no calamity has befallen its inhabitants or institutions.

A writer in Harper's Magazine presents this matter in the form of an interesting historical sketch. He thinks that in 1782 it was the evident purpose of the European powers to make the Appalachian range the western boundary of this country. But through the efforts of statesmen like Franklin, Jay and Adams, England consented to draw the line at the Mississippi river. The general opinion at that time seemed to be that this was an exceedingly wild flight of the fancy, but the envoys saw beyond the horizon of the multitude. They simply "broke their instructions, accepted the amity of England, and secured a clause in the treaty by which the coveted boundary was obtained for the American people of that time, and their posterity."

But the genius of Jefferson carried the American flag across the Mississippi, and over the Rocky Mountains, down to the Pacific. He, too, had a struggle for his policy. The objections to the treaty entered into nearly a hundred years ago are summed up as follows:

"France had no right to cede; the United States had no right to receive under the conditions of the treaty; the territory was not worth having on any terms; it was vast; it would disturb the balance of the Union; it would draw valuable inhabitants from other parts of the United States; it would poison the settlers; the treaty was an extra-constitutional proceeding; the President and the Senate did not represent the opinion of the country; and patriotic men ought to oppose such a pernicious measure as the admission of Louisiana, of a world, and such a world, into our Union."

It sounds familiar. The same timidity that found its expression in the sentences quoted still agitates some minds. But without sufficient reason. The country's institutions are safe, as long as its citizens will maintain them in the spirit in which they were founded. And as long as they do this, they should realize that the more of the inhabitants of the earth are brought under the educating influences of these institutions, the sooner the human family will be brought up to that manhood without which there is no successful self-government, no true liberty.

ARMING THE BLACKS.

The announcement in the House of Commons by Chamberlain, that Great Britain under certain circumstances would arm the Zulus and turn them loose will be received with a feeling of deep regret throughout the civilized world. From the beginning of the war

dark forebodings have appeared as to what the terrible results would be should the warlike Africans go on a rampage. It is supposed they would kill indiscriminately all white settlers, including women and children as well as old men unable to defend themselves. Those who took part in the previous Zulu war simply shudder at the thought of the sights they saw.

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People who think Russian civilization is not making rapid strides should read up on the vast amount of the latest improved machinery that is being shipped to and used in that great empire. Notwithstanding the fact that Oom Paul was able to dig graves for the reputations of several British generals, he does not appear to have excavated a receptacle large enough for Lord Roberts.

Thirteen thousand Japanese immigrants to Hawaii in the last eight months of 1899 is a condition that cannot be overlooked in the urgent demand for congressional legislation for Hawaii.

The latest dispatches indicate that Gen. Cronje found Lord Roberts' army too big to oppose, and has gone somewhere else. At any rate, there was no large body of Boers to dispute the British advance.

It is observed that since Admiral Dewey demonstrated that Aguinaldo had no little hatchet story to fall back on, there have been fewer instances of comparing the fugitive rebel chief to George Washington.

The Hernandez revolution in Venezuela seems on the verge of overthrowing the Castro government, recently established by revolution there. The wheel of events spins rapidly in that country of uncertain governmental tenure.

When any one undertakes to say a good word for the "Mormon" people he at once becomes a target for Tribune venomated darts. Ben Rich and Charles Ellis are the latest recipients of those missiles and both are fully able to take care of their own cases.

So far as reports yet received are concerned, a highly gratifying accompaniment of the relief of Kimberley is that it was accomplished without great loss of life. An attainment of that character by strategic ability and without the brutal butchery feature of war is an achievement that is a relief.

The Chinese government has offered a big reward for the Chinese reformer Kang Yu Wei, and has ordered the tombs of his ancestors destroyed. Whether or not Kang's feelings are hurt, his ancestors have no occasion to worry; they have the start of the empress dowager.

The American ship Nero has made deep-sea soundings to a distance of

nearly six miles below the surface of the Pacific ocean, showing a deeper cavity than any mountain on earth could fill, and a greater depth than has been measured at any other place. This is about as near the "bottomless pit" as there seems to be any necessity of measuring for utilitarian purposes.

The Yaqui Indians are but a remnant of what the tribe once was; but there appears to be enough of them to sorely vex the force sent to accomplish their subjugation. Of course Mexico will triumph, but she is finding, as did the United States, that an Indian war is no picnic for any government.

It is really amazing that just at the time when the turn in the tide in South Africa indicates that the British forces there will sweep on to undisputed victory, the government announces its intention to arm the blacks against the Boers. If such a policy should be persisted in, it would afford a humanitarian excuse for European intervention. Turning hordes of armed savages loose on civilized people is more than an act of the gravest folly; it is a crime against human civilization, that Britain cannot afford to commit.

Uncle Sam may be an Asiatic power all right, so far as the Philippines is concerned, but he has no disposition to join the European concert, hence declined Great Britain's request for assistance, made in the form of a request for an alliance. If such a compact had been formed, Britain would have been in a position of defense against Russia, or even against any combination of European powers that is likely to be made. In the present situation such defense will be apart from the use of actual force by this government.

While it may be said that so far as nominal ownership of human beings as chattels is concerned, slavery does not exist in South Africa; yet the fact remains that there is a dominant and a subject race, and that practically the relations of master and slave describe the general situation of the white and the black races there. In this actual condition it can be clearly seen that the arming of the blacks to engage in war against the white people will virtually amount to a rising of slaves "against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war." As the savage black knows no distinction of civilized warfare which relieves non-combatants and helpless persons from his fury, the result of a race war once started, would be fearful to contemplate.

THE CANAL PROJECT.

New York Journal.
We do not believe that England would object to American fortifications on the canal if the matter were presented in the right light. Only a week before Mr. Hay made his gratuitous surrender of the London Spectator, which represents the element very powerful in the British government, published a forcible editorial urging the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty in the interest of the British empire. It showed how beneficial a canal under American control would be to England's commerce in time of peace, and to her navy when she was at war with any country except the United States.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
The idea that the neutrality of the canal nullifies the power of control to any great extent is ill-founded. The United States will control the canal not only by its right as the builder, but also by its power upon the seas. In the event of war the eastern approach of the canal would be a very uncomfortable water for an enemy's ship, and a hostile fleet would be unlikely to take the risk of battle with American warships in the circumnavigated waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Moreover, the United States could land troops at both ends of the canal more quickly than could any attacking foreign power.

Chicago Times-Herald.
The French minister affects to be amazed at our contentions. In his opinion the very notion of American fortifications is so preposterous that it is incredible that it should be entertained by anybody. Even if England agreed to the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty he says that the continental states would not "tolerate" any but a neutral canal. * * * With regard to the general principle Great Britain stands in the same position as the others. Such claims as she had were special and rested on the treaty alone. These, however, she has lost by the non-fulfillment of her contract, and with them has gone the only hope of the entire European continent.

Springfield Republican.
Nor is the Nicaragua route necessarily the only one available. What does it matter whether the canal is located at Panama or Nicaragua? Nothing, except a little distance between New York and San Francisco. The canal is to be the world's. Let it, then, be located where the expense of building it is cheapest. If the Panama company has in hand a practicable engineering operation, what reasonable objection is there to the finishing of it? Wherever built, of course, the United States must have its peculiar interest in the waterway. The United States must always be the predominant partner in the control of it. But if this be a simple business proposition looking to the benefit of the world instead of any one nation, let the proposition be considered on business principles alone.

Chicago Democrat.
The canal should be constructed. It should be free to the ships of other nations of all commercial purposes, but it should be fortified and held inviolate for the use of our own navy in times of war.

San Francisco Chronicle.
Either we were fools in enforcing the Monroe doctrine in the case of Venezuela or we should be fools to ratify the pending treaty or to be bound any longer by the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. A silly promise made without consideration is always violable, and this particular promise should be canceled at once, and no further such promises made.

Chicago Record.
In his correspondence with Lord Salisbury over the Venezuela affair, Richard Olney, the secretary of state, used this language, which has since become famous: "The United States is practically sovereign on this continent, and its fiat is law upon the subjects to which it confines its interposition." His assertion has been revived by the jingoes of the present time and made to do service as a battle cry against the neutralization of the Nicaragua canal in a manner that no doubt would strike its author as very absurd. For Olney belongs to the school of statesmen who believe in the strict observance of all treaty obligations.

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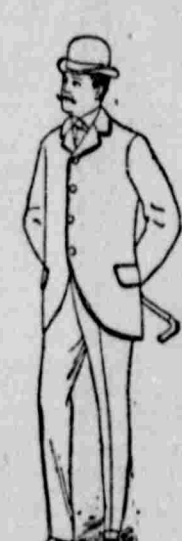
As a compliment to Melbourne McDowell, who is a Shriner, the local members of his order have engaged a block of seats in center of parquet and dress circle for Monday night and the section so engaged will be reserved in advance of box sale. "Cleopatra" will also be played Tuesday night and Wednesday matinee, and I give this notice so that there might be no dissatisfaction concerning tickets for Monday.

GEO. D. PYPER, Manager.

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of the season again—the way these overcoats and suits are going out of the house. Of course we're glad of it, for the season is pretty near run out with us, and new goods are beginning to make their appearance. These suits you can wear right up to the hottest weather time. These overcoats you'll have use for, at least two months yet. The suits that formerly sold from \$7.50 to \$25.00 are now selling for \$5.75 to \$19.00. The overcoats that formerly sold from \$12.00 to \$30.00, are now selling for \$9.00 to \$22.50.

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