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DESERET NEWS THOMAS

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department or the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

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A PRINCESS ON MARRIAGE.

A Paris dispatch is authority for the statement that a sensational book is being hurried through the press. The author of it is said to be no less a personage than the German emperor's eldest sister, the brilliant Princess Charlotte, who is married in the hereditary prince of Saxe-Meiningen, one of the little states of which the German Bund is composed. The sensational feature of the book is that it advocates the Paris dispatch says—a plurality of wives, in the interest of womankind, and morality. If this is true, it can be believed that the book has created a tremendous stir in German court circles. It can be believed that her august relatives are furious, and that efforts will be made to suppress the book. But why should there be any stir about it? Are not monogamous unions sometimes tolerated in European courts, and are not indiscretions frequently forgiven? And did not the great German, Luther, and his fellow-reformers in Wittenberg, after mature consideration, assure the Landgrave of Hesse, that he could take a second wife without violating the divine law? Is that not a matter of history?

The princess takes the view that it would be well to grant a husband the right to marry again, "under certain restrictions," because she argues, "such a law, besides eradicating (more or less) the divorce habit, is desirable for the protection of the wife that has become obsolete is intended to protect the rights of the children and would be an aid to morality." As a correction of the evils under which women and children are suffering nowadays, continues the author, "divorce is wholly inadequate. The Catholic cannot get a divorce under any circumstances, and there are hundreds and thousands of good-natured Protestants and Jews who cannot bring themselves to divorce the woman who proved a beloved companion while young and beautiful."

The princess has studied closely life as it is around her, and her conclusion is that men change taste and habits at the age of forty or fifty. They see every day, she thinks, women with whom they would like to begin life again, to their own profit, and that of the world. "But," she says, "it cannot be done without robbing the woman once loved of home, position and friends, sometimes, so they lead a double life. That means disgrace for the woman of the second choice, and her children likewise—days of anguish, sorrow and stress for the first wife. In cases of this kind," she concludes, "we advocate legalized plurality of wives, on the ground of morality, decency and common sense."

Permission to take a second wife, she says, would very largely reduce the surplus of unmarried but desirable women; at the same time it would help the working classes by removing competition from women who are now denied matrimony, because there are not enough men to go around.

With the views expressed by the princess, we do not coincide. The premises from which she argues may be true, as far as most of the men that have come under her observation are concerned. And from their status she draws her conclusions, very much as does Bishop Potter in favor of a "model saloon." It is on the principle that of two evils, the less is preferable. That kind of argument has not found general favor in questions where morality is involved. It is remarkable, though, that the world again and again is almost forced to give attention to a question so distasteful. It used to be considered an exclusive Utah "problem." But the fallacy of that view is clearly demonstrated. For the agitation goes on, no matter how scrupulously the people here conform to the current laws and legitimate customs of their fellowmen. If Princess Charlotte has really written the book credited to her, a controversy is likely to ensue that will attract the widest attention.

PEACE CONGRESS.

It sounds almost like mockery, to speak of peace while the thunder of cannon and the groans of wounded and dying are reverberating throughout the world. But a peace conference is to be held soon at the World's fair, by an organization formed for the purpose of educating mankind in the principles of peace. The American members of the organization are said to contemplate a proposition to the effect that a general

peace conference be held some time next year, to establish a system of arbitration which will bring about a reduction of the armaments of the powers.

Notwithstanding the lack of encouragement former propositions in this direction have met with, the time is ripe for such discussions. Statesmen, we are told, are commencing to view arbitration with less indifference and more confidence. Not because they are converted to the doctrine of peace and good will, but because they see in arbitration a means of prolonging negotiations between nations, and delay a rupture, if it cannot be entirely avoided.

Another peace conference is to be held at Boston, and at both of these conferences the proposed Anglo-American arbitration treaty is to be discussed. Great preparations are being made for these meetings. If nothing more is gained this year, than the formation of a treaty acceptable to the two greatest nations of the world, by which hostilities between them are made impossible for ages, a great victory is won, that deserves a monument in history.

WILL NOT BE "BUNKOED."

The plot to organize an anti-Mormon party in Idaho, to further the personal ambitions of a wily politician and the clique that hopes to profit by his success, has attracted attention at a distance from that State. We have copied a number of articles from Idaho papers on the subject, showing how the scheme is seen through and defeated at home. We will clip the following paragraphs from an editorial in the St. Louis Globe-Dispatch, as evidence that it is also duly appreciated abroad.

The collapse of Senator Dubois' anti-Mormon campaign in the Rocky mountain states is written in the withdrawal of half a dozen candidates of the Democratic party in Idaho, where Senator Dubois succeeded in having an anti-Mormon plank put in the state platform. The men who have, up to date, withdrawn from the ticket are some of them candidates for state offices, others candidates for the legislature, and one of them is the candidate for Congress. The Mormon issue is completely repudiated by the people of Idaho, and Senator Dubois is not even mentioned in the paper.

From the judicial recognition of "sorcery" as a mitigating element in cold-blooded murder, there is only a very short step back to medieval prosecution of "sorcerers" and "witches," and the revival of the horrors of those dark days. So true is it that superstition, not scientific clearness of vision, follows doubt and infidelity. Emancipation from faith means the loss of bearings in a world where mysteries obscure the view in every direction. But, there is less delusion from religious truth than many suppose. A great many have never seen the truth. They are, therefore, swayed from one false position to another. Genuine infidelity is less common now than it was half a century ago. And where it does obtain, it is not on account of scientific discoveries, but on account of a preference for darkness to light.

Many a spindbinder is also a rake.

An Olympic game outside of Greece lacks Attic salt.

Even a war correspondent can't lie like a war picture.

Donnelly acts as though he were monarch of all he surveys.

A trouble with spindbinders is that most of them are selfwinding.

Unbiased opinions in politics are quite as scarce as hen's teeth.

International law is largely the doctrine that might makes right.

To date the New York police have failed to pocket the Black Hand.

Tom Watson's hand seems to be pretty nearly against every man.

It would be well to establish emergency hospitals during hot campaigns.

All people have their trials but fortunately they are not all public trials.

He who fights and retires may live to fight and retire another day—Kuropatkin.

It looks as though Kuroki was getting Kuropatkin into a fix whence he cannot retire.

In Tokio they expect Port Arthur to fall the latter part of September. Great expectations these.

Men who are out of joint with the times are very apt to think they are ahead of the times.

If President Roosevelt suited his action to his words these days, there wouldn't be any action.

This year's platforms are chiefly notable for an absence of "pointing with pride" and "viewing with alarm."

Has Judge Parker ceased to take his daily "plunge"? The dispatches are very silent on the subject of late.

It is perhaps owing to the influence of the scholar in politics that the hayseed vote has become the farmer vote.

The tide of battle seems to have turned in favor of the Japanese. They may be relied upon to take it at the flood.

We do not believe that the situation is as represented by those who would gladly attend the funeral of the Christian faith. It is not true that scientific discoveries have forced the masses away from the standards of truth. Those who have abandoned the old churches have done so, because of the hypocrisy, the inconsistency, the contradictions of those who teach and profess one thing, while practising something different. The condition of Christendom, in which crimes flourish, the poor are oppressed, and the arts of war consume the strength of youth, drives pagans away from Christian missionaries and their churches, and spreads paganism, under its thousand forms, in the very centers of so-called

BACK TO SUPERSTITION.

In some quarters it is thought that Christianity is dying; that the discoveries in natural sciences have driven the thinking portion of civilized humanity away from the standards of a religion that at one time was a conqueror of the world.

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Christian populations. Science is not to blame. Hypocrisy is.

That science has nothing to do with the prevalence of indifference and doubt that are so noticeable, is clear from the fact that enlightenment does not advance with the retreat of faith. On the contrary, superstition is filling the vacant place almost everywhere. The minds of men are becoming darkened, as they turn away from faith, and science does not fill them with light. This is well illustrated in disputes from Paris, relating certain court proceedings, in which "sorcery" and the "evil eye" play a prominent part.

For instance, one man, living near Paris, was charged with murder. His defense was that the murdered man, his neighbor, possessed the "evil eye," and had cast a spell over him. This man, however, was a sorcerer himself, and had cast a spell over him. The dead man, he said, was a sorcerer and the cause of his death.

The jury found him guilty and sentenced him to death.

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