

WHAT WAS PROVED.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate attempts an answer to Senator Smoot's article in the North American Review. The Advocate contends that the famous Senate investigation proved that the Church has broken sacred pledges given by it to the nation, regarding polygamy. In the language of the Advocate, "The investigation did no such thing." It proved that whatever pledge was made by the Church has been faithfully kept.

It proved to the satisfaction of a large majority of the Senate that the number of families living in plural marriage diminished, from the time of the Manifesto, with almost marvelous rapidity. No stronger proof could possibly be adduced as to the faithfulness with which the Church carried out the pledge relating to polygamy. The investigation further proved that "There was a common understanding both in Congress and Utah that there were not only to be no more plural marriages, but that prosecutions for polygamous cohabitation had become so difficult that there was a practical suspension of them, and that time was the only certain solution of the perplexing problem." (Proceedings Before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, Vol. IV, Page 503). The report continues: "This sentiment has not only ever since continued, but with the constant diminution of the number of polygamous families and the rapid approach of the time when all will have passed away, there has come a natural strengthening of the sentiment."

We beg the Advocate to notice especially that "the common understanding both in Congress and Utah was that prosecutions of polygamous cohabitation had become so difficult that there was a practical suspension of them." This worked neither harm nor hardship to anybody. To interfere with relations entered into years before the manifesto, would have been persecution and nothing else. And this all conservative citizens of Utah fully realized, and still realize.

The Advocate, writing from a distance, may not see things pertaining to this State as clearly as we here in Utah see them. Perhaps an illustration may be helpful. Some communities are suffering from the operations of blackmailers. New York has had a case not so very long ago. Writers of a certain periodical would try to extort sums of money from men of prominence, under the threat of publishing something derogatory to their moral character, or ruinous to their standing in society. This illustrates somewhat the origin and motive of the agitation against the leaders of the Church in Utah. To be sure, it was not money the agitators were trying to force from them. It was influence in favor of their political schemes and ambition. And when this was refused, the agitation started. An excuse was easily found. Blackmailers never are at a loss for a point of attack. Had the political support hoped for been given, there would have been no disturbance. It was the agitators who broke the pledge, or violated the common understanding.

One point in the article of the Advocate is especially noteworthy. The paper has very pronounced views as to the necessity of a Constitutional amendment against "polygamy and polygamous cohabitation." But what of the offenses that cannot be called "polygamous?"

FRENCH VITAL STATISTICS.

The official statistics relating to the population, marriages, births, etc., of France for the year 1906 were recently made the subject of a report by Consul General F. H. Mason, of Paris. From the records it appears that the total population of the country at the date of the census in March, 1906, was 39,252,245. Marriages numbered 306,487, which is an increase of 3,864 over those of 1905, and the largest total since 1873. But, if marriages increased, divorces did likewise. There were 10,573 divorces in 1906 as against 10,019 in 1905, 9,890 in 1904, and 8,913 in 1903.

The whole number of living births was 866,847, and the number of deaths, 780,196, giving an excess of births over deaths of only 26,651, which is quite below the figure of 1905, when the excess of births numbered 27,120.

The births of France in 1906 comprised 411,311 male and 395,536 female children, a proportion of 1,044 boys to 1,000 girls. The relation of the sexes in respect to death is about the same, viz, 466,274 males in 378,923 females in 1906, being a total increase of 10,255 over the deaths in 1905, but a decrease of 3,183 from the average annual death rate for the ten years from 1896 to 1905.

The excess of births over deaths is a discouraging feature of French vital statistics. In the period of 1821-25 this excess for each 10,000 of the population was 67; in 1841-45 it was 64, and in 1861-65 it fell to 53. Lately there has been an improvement in this respect. The average excess of births over deaths for each 10,000 inhabitants was only one during the period 1891-95. Then it rose. It was 13 for the period 1896-1900, and 18 for the following period, 1901-1905. This is a decided improvement over the lowest figures, but France is still far behind other European nations, which report for each 10,000 of their people the following surplus of births over deaths for the period 1901-1905:

Austria, 121; Hungary, 110; Great Britain, 121; Holland, 155; Italy, 106; Sweden, 108, and Germany, 149.

EXPENSES OF A CONVENTION.

It costs a city a great deal of money to have a national convention. Denver voted \$400,000 for the erection of a suitable auditorium in which to hold the gathering that is to nominate the Democratic candidate for the presidency, but it seems that as much more is needed before the building is completed. The structure has already cost \$575,000 without the interior decorations. And it is estimated that before it is put into shape it will cost fully \$750,000.

According to a Denver dispatch it is charged that the drawing plans were first made for a building too big to fit the lot on which it was to stand, by five or six inches in length and four to five feet in width. It has also been charged that an attempt was made to put a flat roof on this big open shell building instead of an arch roof. It is also declared that some glaring errors were made in computing the tensile and supporting strength of the various parts of this roof, and had the plans been carried out it is declared there would have been a catastrophe. Denver will pay for the honor of having the convention, but the occasion may be worth all it costs.

In reading of the alleged mistakes in the first drawings, one naturally is reminded of the wisdom of the early architects who constructed the Tabernacle in this City, an architectural monument that never fails to elicit the admiration of visitors. Say what you will of "Mormonism," you cannot truthfully say that the founders of the Church were dreamers and visionaries who did not understand the practical side of life. They were practical in every way, and their wisdom appears all the greater when compared to the folly of some who, no doubt, consider themselves very wise.

HOW IS THIS?

The Chief of Police in his report makes this most astounding proposition:

"Prostitution is certainly a question hard to dispose of, and being a necessary evil there is only one way in which it could be successfully handled, which is as follows:

"Let the city set aside a piece of ground of sufficient size to accommodate several hundred of these prostitutes. Enclose same carefully with high fences; build cottages or houses to accommodate these inmates; charge them rent; license them and place them under control of the police department as to their safety and confinement, and to the board of health as to their cleanliness and sanitary condition."

Nothing like it was ever before recommended by a chief of police in this city, and it is safe to say never will be again. The State laws are absolutely ignored in the recommendation. The more one considers the suggestion, the more drab and dismal one is.

IS SELF-CONDEMNED.

The Salt Lake Tribune is now self-condemned in the matter of its story about the letter read at Syracuse a few Sundays ago.

As we contended, at the time, there was no reference to polygamy, directly or indirectly, and no statement was made as to the membership of non-literate payers. That is proved by the letter published by the Tribune.

The reference to the tithing question is plain enough to every fair-minded reader. The letter says in a postscript that "non-literate payers may be consistently dealt with in the way indicated," referring to the counsel given that none must be recommended to the quorum of High Priests "excepting on the record of worthiness." That there should be no misunderstanding on this point, the postscript says: "... men who assign unbelief in the law of tithing as their reason for not paying tithing, as unbelief in this law clearly renders a man incompetent to bear the Priesthood." That is the way "indicated." Nothing is said of membership. The question is of worthiness to bear the Priesthood.

But the Tribune explains its defeat, and retreat from its original story, on the supposition that the letter as printed was different from that actually read in the meeting. Prof of this assertion is again lacking, and who is there that will take the word of the Tribune for a bare assertion, even if it is backed up by an informant who may, or may not, exist at all? Our morning contemporary should not charge forgery. It reminds the public of the alleged Bishop West "red hot address," which is admitted to have been forged for anti-Mormon purposes.

NOVEL POSTCARDS.

Something novel in the way of postcards has been issued by the Southern States Mission of the L. D. S. Church, the reverse side containing selections from the sayings of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor and other leading men of the Church. The type is clear and readable and the selections are such as might be taken by any one for mottoes in life. The names of the various authors are attached to the selections, and a set of them would make appropriate presents for those both at home and abroad, especially to missionaries in the field. We are indebted to Elder Ben E. Rich for a package of samples of these unique post cards.

Some time ago we called attention to the obnoxious cartoon cards that very often are sent through the mails, and which become really annoying when addressed to Elders in the mission field, as if they were pleased with such frivolities. The President of the Southern States Mission has provided cards that no one need be ashamed of sending to friends anywhere, and the mottoes are selected with good taste. They impress themselves upon the minds of anyone that reads them.

A cabinet crisis in Japan. And they make such beautiful cabinets in Japan!

Swollen fortunes are scarcely more dangerous than swollen heads.

"It is better to be born in January."

says a scientist. Yes; it gives one a good early start for life's spring races.

The second Thaw trial seems to be singularly free from brainstorms.

Chill will give Admiral Evans' fleet a warm reception.

All who see the "yellow peril" do not suffer from jaundice.

A Nebraska man swallowed a live frog. It must keep him on the jump.

Ruef does not get immunity. But just see what a lot of it he has had in the past.

Just now the legal profession is more interested in Jerome on Littleton than in Coke on Littleton.

"Superintendents may come and superintendents may go, but I go on forever," says the waterworks.

The organ of the "American" party has discovered that there is gambling in this city. This is so sudden!

The Pennsylvania two-cent railroad fare law has been declared unconstitutional. It fares but ill with these railroad fare laws these days.

Just why any one should be held responsible for the "American" police force but the "American" party, is pretty hard to say.

While the story of an anarchist plot to destroy some of the battleships of the Atlantic fleet while at Rio Janiero is probably a sensational canard, still it is just as well to "remember the Maine."

Patrick Horrigan enlisted in the army fifteen times and deserted thirteen, thus making him the champion deserter. Let a Carnegie medal be bestowed upon him for in his line he certainly is a hero.

Speaker Skaggs of the Nevada assembly berates the Nevada press and charges it with being subsidized by the mine owners. Speaker Skaggs has thrust his head into a hive of live and busy bees, as he will yet find out.

Judge McPherson at Kansas City has held Missouri's foreign corporation law invalid and unconstitutional. That the higher courts, if an appeal is taken, will sustain his decision, there is little doubt. That a railroad should have its license suspended for five years because it takes an appeal to a United States court, is preposterous, outrageous and an infamous tyranny. It is to inflict punishment for daring to have an opinion as to a corporation's rights and the temerity to defend them. Such legislation is based on the assumption, a very false one, that state courts are, at first, against the railroads, and the federal courts for them. The courts of the land generally are for the law and the Constitution, irrespective of litigants. Such legislation as this of Missouri but defeats its own end.

CROSSING THE EQUATOR.

New York Press.

Imagine 14,000 men crossing the line (the equator)? Oh, the fun. I do not know how many old salts are with the fleet, but there must be a vast majority of young, green salts; and won't they get it? Maybe they have already had it. The equator is about 800 miles from Trinidad, and the battleship "thar or tharabouts." Neptune rises as the "line" is approached, and the crew crane their eyes and stretch their necks to see if the line is the real thing. Probably 10,000 men will be shaved with a wooden razor and be shampooed with swabbing brushes. Bob Evans is a man of the world. He believes in having a good time, and his officers and crews will get all that's coming to them when they cross "over Jordan." It was believed that a century ago that crossing the equator meant "hell or hell's delivery," as an old salt expressed it. Men were keel-hauled. Even the captain was required to take off his shirt, and the lesser officers had to do stunts. It was like catching a judge off the bench and making him look like 30 cents. Discipline was forgotten. The boat's sun allowed to have the run of the ship. He was it. There was grog-grog-grog! But as soon as the "line" vanished discipline was renewed, and every man had to report duty.

THE FOLLY OF VIOLENCE.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The tobacco growers of Kentucky have suffered great losses from economic conditions which they could not control. Naturally they have been full of wrath and of a mood to strike desperately against what they consider a great injustice to them. That they have in many cases been carried away by a spirit of violence, and that their night-riding parties have been formed to destroy property and inflict injuries on individuals, need surprise no one, human nature being what it is. Governor Wilson of Kentucky, in his inaugural message to the legislature, takes as is proper, a strong stand against any continuation of such violence. He points out for the benefit of the raiders themselves that their course has not only not helped them but that it has done great injury to the state and to their own industry. "Not a benefit has resulted from the oppressed farmers," he writes, "from those acts of violence and intimidation." Then he specifies many ways in which injury has been occasioned, and he concludes: "Every one can see by the results up to this time that our markets not only for tobacco but for other products are paralyzed and in many cases ruined."

THE VINDICATION OF SCHMITZ.

Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

If Eugene Schmitz, one time mayor of San Francisco, and his friends are able to find any comfort in the decision of the court of appeals of California that he was wrongfully convicted of extortion nobody will envy him. At the best the court has simply decided that Schmitz's offense did not constitute an illegal transaction. That it was blackmail and bribe-taking still remains a fact which no court decision can wipe out. In the next place, the decision is not final, and there is a possibility that the supreme court may take a more serious view of the transactions of Schmitz and Abe Ruef, his boss and pal. Then, even though Schmitz eventually may dodge paying the penalty for taking "fees" for the protection of French restaurant keepers—what Justice Connors holds was not a crime under the code because a license is not property, and therefore property was not threatened in order to extort money—there are other and graver charges against Schmitz yet to be tried. These will keep him too busy for years to come to devote much time to rejoicing over his hair-breadth and hair-splitting escape from responsibility in the original cases.

A SERMONET FOR WORKERS

[For the "News" by H. J. Hapgood.]

It is not so much what a man does as how he does it. The same thought may be more concretely expressed by saying that it is better to be a good stable boy, than a poor executive. Whatever you find to do, do it, for all you're worth. The man who says, "I'll be more thorough in my work when I shall have obtained a responsible place" will be an underling all his life. If you can't obey commands as a subordinate, you will never be in a position to have your orders executed. "That's the best man I have in the establishment," said an employer as he pointed to a young man in his office. "Why he's only a clerk isn't he?" asked the friend. "How is it you call him the best man in the place? Where are all your ten-thousand-dollar-a-year men?"

"On those ten-thousand dollar boys are around some place, smoking big cigars and doing a lot of talking. None of them are earning their salary. They were high-grade when they came, but they've been going down-grade ever since. I'll now they're almost on a level with the \$15 a week man—except in the matter of salary, of course. That's the reason I say the young chap here is the best man in the place."

It seems that the man in question had come to work for the concern as an errand boy—the kind that has to make himself generally useful, and he made himself more useful than any boy before or since. After a series of promotions he found himself holding down an assistant bookkeeper's job, and did the work to perfection. He's at his desk before the whistle blows in the morning, and after it blows at night, willing to do and learn all the time, ambitious to push ahead.

Now it's lots better to be a man like that, than to hold a position with a high-sounding title and not be so good. If it pays to be a big frog in a little pond, it is surely beneficial to the employee to be at all times the best man in his class.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Careful Scot in the Strand.

He was a Scotsman, and he held up the tail of his coat in the Strand till a policeman came along to move him on. "Look here, my man, you must not stay there. You are blocking the traffic."

"That's a' richt," said the Scotsman, "but I've lost threepence."

"Move on, I say. You cannot hold up the traffic."

"But what am I to do for my threepence?" queried the son of Calydonia.

"I'll look for the threepence, and return it to you if you call again," said the policeman; and the Scotsman departed reassured.—Westminster Gazette.

The Ideal Wife.

"What is your idea of an ideal wife?"

"One who will cook the meals, do the washing, look after the furnace, make her own clothes and—"

"And what?"

"Keep herself looking as young and as beautiful as an actress who pulls down \$400 a week in vaudeville."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Question for Question.

"Do you know how to cure a cold?"

"If I did," inquired the sarcastic citizen, "would I be offering free advice on the street, or would I be occupying a fine suite of offices and catering to a waiting list a mile long?"—Chicago Tribune.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The January Forum opens its customary survey of the world's progress with a searching analysis, by Alexander D. Noyes, of "The Financial Panic in the United States," tracing the causes and prophesying the probable consequences. The Editor, Litchfield, follows with his usual article on "American Politics," in which he gives special attention to "The New Congress," and the "Presidential Campaign." Mr. A. Maurice Low discusses in his usual incisive and entertaining manner the present trend of foreign affairs, emphasizing the dawn of better relations of England and Germany on the one hand and with Russia on the other. Arthur Hoeber, the well known art critic, has some caustic and well founded observations to make "Concerning our ignorance of American Art," and Clayton Hamilton analyzes no less than nine new plays by "Dramatists of the Current Season." The Survey of Current Literature includes reviews by Prof. William Lyon Phelps, Edward Clark Marsh, Prof. Christian Gauss, Prof. Ernest L. Bogart, Arthur Buttlett Maurice and Frank Moore Colby. There are three special articles: "Why Five Acts?" by Frederick Urban Matthews, who discusses the origin and emphasizes the illogic of the conventional five-act division of the drama; "Songs and Song Writing," by Brian Hooker, who has recently come into public notice as author of the new prize song at Yale University; and "The Art of Drinking," by Louis Windmuller, which deals in a common-sense manner with the proper use of tea, coffee and wine.—45 East 42nd St., New York.

The World Almanac and Encyclopedia for 1918, the twenty-fifth anniversary number of that well known reference book, has just been issued. This year it is much larger, more complete and comprehensive than ever before, comprising 1,000 pages and giving about 15,000 facts and figures which may be depended upon as being absolutely accurate and right up to the last minute of 1917. It is a veritable library of universal knowledge between two covers. The World Almanac is in use in the public schools of Greater New York, has been adopted by most of the normal schools and hundreds of public high and grammar schools throughout the country. It is certainly a book that should be in every library and in every home.

Success Magazine for January contains a number of important articles. Through Robert D. Heintz, Thomas A. Adams describes his newest invention, the concrete house. Frederick Urban Matthews begins his series, "The Romance of Tammany Hall." Samuel Merwin describes the efforts of the Chinese to throw off the opium curse, and Frank Fayant lays bare Thomas W. Lawson's record as a prophet. "Preventing the Next Panic," by David Graham Evans, advocates government guarantee of national bank deposits. In the line of fiction are "To Kill the President," by E. Spence De Pue; "Paulin's Little Brother," by Aldia Dunbar, and "Lentils," by W. C. Morrow. A new department is "Edwin Markham's Erie," editorials by the well known poet upon current topics. The editor announces that Mr. Markham may write as he pleases and on any topic regardless of the editorial policy of the magazine. This is certainly a novel arrangement. The cover design is by J. C. Leyendecker.—Washington Square, New York.

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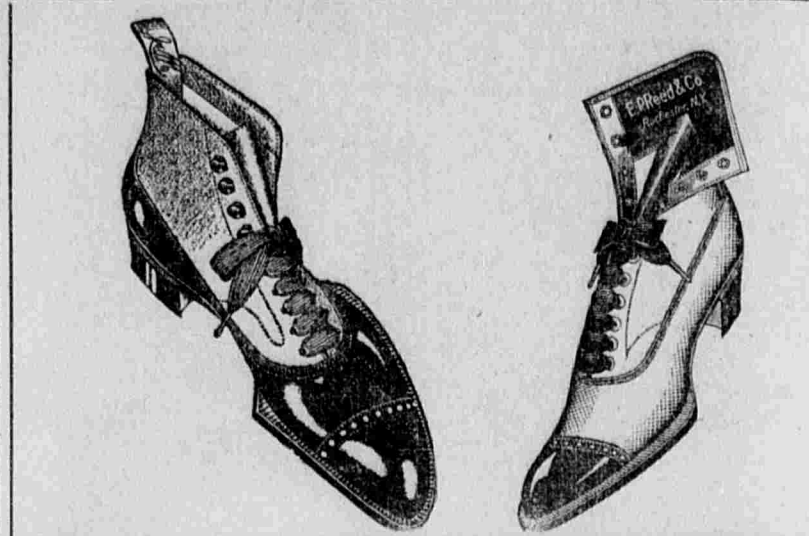
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