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ATTACKS ON "MORMONISM."

We frequently receive clippings from eastern papers, containing attacks on the Church and the Elders, with a request that we reply to them in the Deseret News. Most of them are mere repetitions of charges that have been made repeatedly, and have become "a drug" in the newspaper market.

The old Spaulding story, for instance, has been exposed so many times that it would be waste of time and space to continue to refer to it. We know that our sectarian friends (?) cling to their muddy rags, with a tenacious affection that is deplorable and ridiculous to behold. But while they will not tear themselves away from their "strong delusion," they must be let alone in their folly, at least for a time.

The same may be said about the Mountain Meadows monstrosity, with its gross exaggerations and shocking inventions. The facts have been published and are easily accessible, but romancers and retailers of lurid tales prefer the bogus to the real, and they will have their say in spite of all the explanations that may be given.

So with the misrepresentations of the "Mormon" doctrine of Deity. Instead of taking the written standards of the Church, which set forth our true conceptions of the Godhead, or rather that which has been revealed on the subject, preachers, lecturers and writers would sooner copy the perversions of our opponents, than repeat what we say ourselves concerning our belief.

The personal and political liberty enjoyed by the "Mormon" people is intentionally ignored by the same class of exponents, and the world is made to believe that we are not only ignorant, debased and immoral, but slaves to a hierarchy and in bondage to "church policies." It seems useless to show up the truth on this matter, for our defamers stick to their notions and hold to the reports that they help to circulate, and would rather repeat a salty story than be convinced by facts and figures and stern realities.

The earnest, unselfish and gratuitous work of our missionaries, who go forth to every nation simply to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, and labor for the salvation of mankind, their lives of self-sacrifice and honesty and purity, all count for nothing with their detractors, but they are pictured as "sneaking wolves," ready to devour the innocent and bent on leading away the tender sex to infamy. There never was a more abominable libel published about human beings, than the falsehoods about the Elders. But the religious scribes and pulpiteres continue to bear false witness concerning those zealous workers for the elevation of humanity, and close their eyes and ears against the proofs of their own errors.

The popular notion that "Mormonism" means polygamy, that the very terms are synonymous, is promoted and fostered by the same class of speakers and writers, notwithstanding the relinquishment of plural marriage, and the extension of the "Mormon" system since that event, and the well-known statistics showing how few, comparatively, of the Latter-day Saints ever entered into that relationship. The fiction is kept up, designedly, by the distorters of our faith and works, and no amount of evidence is of any avail in their eyes.

Occasionally, however, some honest preacher and fair journalist will present our side of the "Mormon" question, and we are ready to give credit and honor wherever it is due. A case in point is some correspondence in the Cumberland, Maryland, Alleghenian. A Methodist at Flintstone, signing himself "Shadrach," has written several scurrilous letters about the "Mormons," repeating most of the old stale stories that have done duty among his class for many years. A gentleman signing himself "Bee," has replied to them. He is evidently not a "Mormon" himself, but has manifested such a spirit of fairness that "Shadrach" secretly accuses him of having been "covertly dipped in 'Mormon' hole in Flintstone Creek." The Cumberland paper has shown a spirit of justice in publishing "the other side," and the Elders in that neighborhood should avail themselves of the opportunity to explain "Mormonism" through its columns, but need not descend to the level of "Shadrach's" scurrilities.

That perverter of the truth pretends to quote the language of a "Mormon bishop," and repeats a lot of nonsense alleged to have been uttered, years ago, by a person who never was a "Mormon bishop," and which was fabricated by a newspaper correspondent to create a sensation. But of such material are most of the "arguments" of anti-"Mormon" preachers composed. His attempts at narrating "Mormon" history are equally misleading. His dates are all wrong and his "facts" erroneous, and it is evident to anyone posted that he merely repeats what he has heard or read, with a very poor memory for details.

A few converts have been made in the neighborhood of this Maryland controversy. In opposition to "Shadrach's"

accusations as to their ignorance and illiteracy, "Bee" gives the following particulars concerning them, although he expresses his sorrow that any have been "led away" into Mormonism. He says: "Twenty-six (26) Mormon converts. 'Thirteen of them are here and hold regular services in a private house on Town Creek on the first and last Sunday of every month. Five (5) of them are at Davis, W. Va., five (5) are in Utah, and three (3) have died. It stands well to the praise of our people who have stood all these years of continual Mormon entreaty and appeal that only 26 have espoused and followed this false faith."

"Now these converts to the Mormon faith are told by 'Shadrach.' Of these 26 converts seven of them were men of wives and children and own and successfully operate farms. They are men blessed with a good degree of natural endowment and have enjoyed a very good common school education. Several of them, I do not know exactly how many, I think more than half of them, are seceders from the M. E. church. One of them has been a Sunday school superintendent in the M. E. church. These converts have had the Bible taught to them all their lives. The illiterate that 'Shadrach' holds up to you is not, therefore, a representative of the Mormon people, neither is his illiterate and ignorant condition caused by his being a Mormon."

One of the five in Utah is a gentleman residing in Brigham City, who writes us a very intelligent letter, in which he expresses, fervently, his "thankfulness to God that he has had the privilege to come to Zion." We hope "Shadrach" will continue his agitation of the "Mormon" question in Maryland, for we agree with the "Bee" that has touched him up gently for his perversity, that such opposition tends to aid instead of suppress the spread of "Mormonism."

PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

At the pan-American congress to be held in the City of Mexico next October, a number of most important subjects will come up for discussion. One of these relates to commercial affairs, and the belief is expressed that the coming gathering will open the way for some practical arrangements of commercial reciprocity between this country and other republics of this hemisphere.

Another topic to be considered is the international railroad project, which contemplates the linking together of North, Central and South America.

Still another subject likely to come up, is the establishment of international arbitration between all the republics on this side of the globe. It is claimed that this idea is very favorably considered by the representatives of the American republics in Washington.

This will give some idea of the scope and object of the pan-American congress. It does not contemplate territorial assimilation, but unification of interests. With greater commercial facilities, and lines of transportation established, and with the removal of every necessity for hostile actions between the republics, the Americas would be independent of the remainder of the world. A union established upon a commercial basis and guarded by permanent peace, would be stronger and more beneficial than any that can be accomplished by conquest.

The world needs an example of this kind, to learn what can be accomplished by free peoples, bending their energies toward peaceful pursuits. In the Old World, armies and navies, and forts and guns, and threats and ultimatums, play the prominent part in the dealings of nations one with another. An illustration is needed of the power of man to develop under the conditions that are expected finally to prevail on earth. Then they may realize the folly of spending the best part of their resources upon that which destroys, instead of that which builds up—upon strife and contention instead of harmonious efforts at steady progress.

A WOMAN PROBLEM.

The problem raised by the competition of women in the various fields of labor was discussed at a convention of the Metal Polishers' association in Milwaukee the other day. One of the delegates told of the plan adopted in the factory where he was working. He said the men had entered into a real conspiracy to keep the women out of that place, for the simple reason that metal polishing was the most health destructive trade in which a woman can engage. They, consequently, had agreed to find suitable husbands for the women working there. That was the cunningly conceived plot laid by the men. And by that means they had in one year rescued eight girls from the factory, and the speaker recommended the plan for endorsement by the union.

That, it seems to us, goes to the bottom of the entire problem. The decline in the marriage rate, as a consequence of the difficulty experienced by too many girls in finding suitable husbands to take care of them, is the real problem. With this difficulty removed, there would be but little competition between men and women in the various kinds of employment. Few women would not prefer a happy married life to life in a shop, or a factory.

It should not be impossible to solve the problem in this way. Statisticians tell us that at a rough estimate there are fifteen millions more males than females in all the world. The only continent where the females outnumber the men is Europe, and even there, in some countries this is not the case. In a few of the most thickly settled portions of the world, the women preponderate, but everywhere else the men are in the majority. That is, if it were possible to all at once pick out a mate for every woman living a single life, there would still be fifteen million bachelors left. If that is really true, the plan of the metal polisher, to rescue the factory girls by marriage appears feasible. It deserves consideration everywhere, where the subject of the employment of women is regarded as a social problem.

It is true that under present conditions some men are unable to earn enough wages to keep a family with extravagant demands on the pleasures and comforts of life, but there are very few women who would not be content with a reasonable amount of such things provided the husbands did their full duties to their families. If every unmarried man would take upon himself to "rescue" some girl from the

drudgery of the shop and the factory, there would be room for a considerable number of other young men to earn wages on which to support families. And so the good work might go on. It is the natural remedy of one of the defects of modern society.

RUSSIA'S FINE DIPLOMACY.

From Paris comes the report that the committee on indemnities has fixed the amount to be demanded of China by the powers, at \$273,000,000, but that there is a difference of opinion as to the mode of collecting the sum. France, Germany, Russia and Japan favor the raising of the customs duties, while the United States and Great Britain decline to give their assent to this. And so the prospect is of further delay in the negotiations.

Over \$270,000,000 is an enormous sum to squeeze out of the Chinese people, many of whom probably do not earn any more than five cents a day. With the wages prevailing there, food, clothing and other necessities of life cannot bear any large increase in cost, such as additional duties would mean, without causing disaster among the struggling masses of the people. The cost of the military operations ought to be borne principally by the officials that have gathered large fortunes by more or less dishonest methods, and that are largely responsible for the outbreak and its consequences. Increased customs duties would fall a great deal heavier upon the poor people than upon the wealthy classes.

While the powers are talking, Russia is acting. There are now reports of a sanguinary conflict between Russians and Chinese in the neighborhood of the capital of Manchuria, and that evidently means that the Czar's troops are completing the conquest of that province, and establishing Russian sovereignty there so firmly that no power will dream of disputing it. Russia is acting as well as talking.

The policy Russia is pursuing is almost a puzzle to the ordinary observer of events. A contributor to the Boston Herald, who is said to rank as one of the eminent statesmen of this country, but whose name is not given, has formed his own conclusions on this subject. He thinks that China and Russia are in perfect accord, and that the integrity of the Mongolian empire has been guaranteed by the latter, against all countries except Russia. He believes that the Manchurian treaty, that created a momentary ripple on the sea of diplomacy, was only a clever ruse, for the express purpose of securing a protest by other powers. The protest came, and China played her part very cleverly, refusing to sign the treaty, on account of the attitude of the protestants. And now, it is presumed that these same powers, after having protested against Russian aggression, cannot consistently engage in the annexation of territory on their own account. This much accomplished, Russia continues to "protect her interests" in Manchuria, regardless of other promises and consequences.

But the Herald correspondent does not believe that all danger is past in eastern Asia. He thinks the time may not be far distant, when Europe and America will realize that a combination has been formed in Asia, which will seriously threaten the western world, particularly through the social and industrial branches. Russia and China would form a dual alliance capable of influencing the affairs of the rest of mankind.

These suggestions seem to deserve consideration. What the public are permitted to see of the diplomatic game, does not give an idea of the motives, and not often of the far-reaching consequences of each new move. It is known that Russian diplomacy is exceedingly subtle; that its constant aim is the enlargement of the empire, and that it generally gains its object, at some time or another. That there is any immediate prospect of the absorption of China, or even the largest portion of it, is hardly probable. The assimilation will be gradual, and in the meantime the other powers will find ways and means of meeting the emergency. That Manchuria, however, is to remain under Russian control seems clear. That appears to be the price China pays for Russian guarantee of her integrity. In addition to the enormous sum she will be asked to pay for the Boxer outrages.

Buying steamship lines is right in J. P. Morgan's line.

To whomsoever it may concern—Many thanks for the gentle rain.

Emperor William has defied the diet. Another proof that he is dyspeptic.

In going to Europe American gold but follows the example of American tourists.

There is one thing that cannot be had at the Buffalo fair and that is a buffalo steak.

It should not be difficult to pave the way for a settlement of the Venezuelan asphalt controversy.

One great objection to a national divorce law is that it would kill a leading industry in several states.

In these days of boom and speculation railroads change hands about as often as passenger change cars.

President McKinley fairly captured New Orleans. While this is so Jackson is still the hero of the city.

Admiral Dewey wants the Isthmian canal made neutral. It would be well to have the canal made first.

It is reported that King Edward will buy Madame Patti's Welsh castle. She will likely let it go for a mere song.

"Should the poet read his own works in public?" asks the Literary Digest. Certainly if he reads them to himself.

The sultan is very friendly just now. Preparing to persuade Uncle Sam to call again when he presents that little bill.

The man who is immune from the speculation fever that has become epidemic throughout the land, will yet be called wise and he shall have his money where others have their experiences.

A Chicago man has just perfected a

most wonderful clock on which he has been working for twenty years. It is not a perfect clock because it will not get the hired girl up in time to cook an early breakfast.

The American legation guard at Pekin is not to be subjected to the orders of any foreign commander. That is right and proper. To have it otherwise would be to have the legation, practically, under a foreign general.

The ministers of the powers at Pekin have agreed upon the amount of indemnity China is to pay. It is about two hundred and fifty million dollars. How this sum is to be apportioned among the various nations is yet to be determined. It may cause more discussion than anything yet. At all events another stage has been reached, and this is something.

The anti-"Mormon" sheet in this city attempts again to squirm out of the position it has once more assumed, as a wilful maligner and deliberate falsifier. But that will not change the fact, that it has preferred a charge against a gentleman which it not only fails to sustain, but which is proven untrue by its own report, and when its error is made plain beyond dispute, instead of apologizing it repeats the lie. Thus it places itself outside the pale of honest journalism, and holds itself up to the contempt of every decent citizen.

COMMON LAW MARRIAGE.

Boston Herald.

The New York legislature has passed, and, doubtless, the governor will sign, a highly important bill affecting the legality of the marriage contract. It is intended to do away with the legal force of what is known in that state as a "common law marriage," consisting of a verbal agreement only, of which it has been regarded as sufficient evidence that the couple lived together as man and wife, and acknowledged to third parties that they were so related. The reason for the new statute is said to be mainly one that concerns the disposition of property. It has happened frequently that, when a rich man dies, even though he may have a family, some woman (and sometimes more than one) comes forward claiming to be his common law wife by contract antedating the public wedding to another. Wills are contested on this ground, no end of scandal caused, and the title to great estates clouded, to say nothing of the taint of illegitimacy upon children. To clear the title these women are often bought off, even when it is believed that they have no reasonable claim. The common law marriage has been a great provocation of blackmail.

New York World.

This is as it should be. The old "common law" practice of a secret agreement may once in a hundred times protect an honest girl, but in the great majority of cases it has led to deception on one side or blackmail on the other. If marriage is a sacrament, it should be celebrated as such. If it is a civil contract merely—as it is in the eyes of the state—that agreement should at least have the formality, publicity, and binding force of a chattel mortgage on a cow or a horse.

New York Tribune.

The intention of the bill is to prevent designing and disreputable women from beginning suits of dower rights and making claims against estates on the ground of alleged common law marriages. The bill of Mr. Woodcock, some of the lawyers believe, might possibly prevent such suits, but it might also make difficult or even impossible the proof of legality of real marriages in cases where records were missing and witnesses of the marriages were dead.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

The value of the reform to be effected by this legislature is incontestable. It is not good public policy to make marriage difficult, but to make it certain it is expedient that certain formalities be prescribed and enforced. No hardship will be involved in obeying these regulations.

BRITISH FEELING TOWARD BOERS.

London Morning Post.

They (the peace delegates) are not lacking in effort, for their political careers have been spent in the efforts to make British government impossible in South Africa; their crowning success would have been the victory of the Boers in the present war; yet they have come to this country to try to deprive Great Britain of the fruits of her victory and to render as difficult as possible the future peace of South Africa. In their efforts to this end they rely on the help of that group of British politicians which in every international crisis of our time has found right and justice on the enemy's side. Messrs. Meriman and Sauer have their uses, of which just now the most valuable is that their presence may help British voters to distinguish between two different classes of politicians at home.

Paris Temps.

It would be dangerous, unworthy of the British metropolis, according to this Chamberlain's imperialism, to hear the views of the race which is the majority in South Africa. Messrs. Meriman and Sauer, but yesterday ministers of the crown in the Schreiner cabinet, are looked upon with suspicion, since just now the most valuable is that their presence may help British voters to distinguish between two different classes of politicians at home.

London Daily News.

On the 14th of March, 1774, a petition was read to the House of Commons from William Bollen, agent for the council of Massachusetts. But the house rejected it with contempt. Benjamin Franklin was heard in the same cause, not before the House of Commons, but before the privy council. He was attacked with extreme violence by the solicitor-general, Sir Alexander Wedderburn, afterwards Lord Loughborough, of whom Junius said that there was something about him which even treachery would not trust. The privy councilors present, except Lord North, roared with laughter. Franklin wore a suit of spotted velvet. He was a careful man, and he kept that suit. But he did not wear it again until he signed in 1773 the treaty with France which recognized the independence of the United States.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The May number of the Black Cat has a \$125 prize story by Annie Fellows Johnston, entitled "The Skeleton's Wedding Journey." The other stories are "A Million Dollar Cinderella" by Will N. Harben; "The Luck of William the Angel" by Paul Shoup; "The Warden's Overcoat" by Grace Gorrill; and, "The Trade Rat Mine" by Eustace V. Bray. They are all of the fascinating kind familiar to the reader of this popular little story teller.—Short story Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

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