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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 18, 1905.

NO CONTROVERSY HERE.

There appears to be an impression in some parts of the country, which is shared by many visitors to this city, that a terrible struggle is going on here between the "Mormons" and "Gentiles," and that there is a great "schism" even among the "Mormons" themselves. When tourists arrive in this city and find everything calm and peaceful, more so indeed than in almost any other city of its dimensions and population, they are greatly surprised. Their amazement is increased when they learn that by far the greater number of stores and other establishments doing business here are conducted by non-"Mormons." Also that in many instances "Mormons" and "Gentiles" are engaged in co-partnerships, and that there is no strife or agitation on what they imagine is "the burning question."

That there are desperate attempts on the part of a few half-crazy and intriguing individuals to get up a controversy, and that it is in their interest that appeals to the country are being made against a pretended "despotism" which has no existence except on paper, is undoubtedly correct, but it has no effect in those parts except among some newcomers who have not yet learned the true situation, and with a few of the street-corner loafers and bar-room habitués, who need some subject for general agitation, and either join in the hubbalooboo or laugh at the vain attempts to make a "fight" when there is no one to respond.

The purpose in view of all the abuse, misrepresentation, perversion of facts and intent, libel, personal attack and general vilification, is to unify if possible all the non-"Mormon" elements in this city, in order to carry the next municipal election for the benefit of ambitious and unscrupulous plotters who want to gain possession of the city's affairs and finances. They are making all the disturbance. There is not even a response on the part of the "Mormon" people to their clamors. Their distortions of the truth are so grotesque and ridiculous that they carry no weight with people of common sense acquainted at all with the situation. We notice them now simply to inform people at a distance who may have been deceived by the reports that are sent from this point to prejudice the public mind elsewhere.

The talk about a "pending controversy in Utah" is all wild and based upon intangibility. It is true that a very strong feeling has been aroused in eastern places, principally among religious people, concerning the "Mormons," but that is founded upon the notion that polygamy is the common practice here, and people are led to think that Utah, and particularly Salt Lake City, is very immoral and dominated by priestly influence, and that the truth is that there are but comparatively few families in this State that sustain the plural relationship, and the vast majority never entered into it. Also that the secret ballot is in the hands of the women as well as the men, that the citizens are organized into parties as elsewhere, and are perfectly free in their conventions and at the polls and vote as they please without let or hindrance from anybody.

The vilest kind of stories are circulated concerning leading members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and they are accused of all manner of offenses of which they are entirely innocent, but the appetite for sensation and the willingness to think and believe evil cause large numbers of otherwise reasonable people to accept those stories as true. It is a reflection upon some of the newspapers of the country that they give place in their columns to the rubbish sent forth from this point concerning Utah affairs, when they have heard so many times deceived and have learned of their falsity.

It is not so surprising that romantic and exaggerated articles, fabricated for syndicate purposes about the "Mormons" find their way into many of the public journals. But it is lamentable that those papers commit themselves editorially to views and comments that are absolutely erroneous and positively absurd, when they could learn the truth if they desired it from authentic sources, both "Mormon" and "Gentile." By lending themselves to the popular clamor they aid in deceiving their readers and cannot do themselves any real good.

The "Mormon" Church is composed of some hundreds of thousands of men and women who sincerely desire to serve God and extend the principles of righteousness and peace throughout the world. Putting aside a comparatively few among them whose family relations have been denounced and are really misunderstood, the great body of the Church is made up of members whose lives, measured even by the theoretical standards of modern Christianity, are

without reproach. They believe some doctrines which are contrary to the notions held by the various religious sects, but their conduct is in accord with civil and religious law. They are industrious, thrifty, home-builders, living in peace with all the world, minding their own business and most of them utterly oblivious of the base attacks that are being made upon their faith and their religious leaders. They have no warfare with anybody, and are not occupied in any "controversy" of any kind whatever.

If the Deseret News was engaged in retaliation and willing to use the kind of weapons and ammunition that are congenial to disturbers and assailants of the Church, the material for recrimination is plentiful, at hand, and of a character that would cover with obloquy the conspirators who revel in diurnal slander. But that is not our business. We have better work to do. Our unscrupulous detractors may go on with their infamous, but congenial mud-slinging and their plots against the well being of this city, and we can afford to stand by and witness their gyrations and antics and wait for their final defeat, which is as sure to come as darkness is to rise before the coming of the dawn.

There is no collision of forces in Utah, and people from all points of the compass may come here, either to visit or to dwell, without the slightest danger, and will find here as peaceful and peaceable and moral and progressive a community as can be found in any part of these United States. The "controversy" in Utah is all on one side and a mighty poor little naked side at that.

THE NEW PEACE COMMISSION

The appointment by the Czar of M. Witte as the chief Russian plenipotentiary at the coming peace conference, at Portsmouth, is a guaranty that peace will really be concluded, since Witte has opposed the war from the beginning, and advocated a peaceful settlement of the trouble. It is claimed that some of the grand dukes and other courtiers are furious over his appointment, because they have endeavored to undermine his influence, his somewhat liberal ideas not being to their taste.

To the Russians who are capable of reflecting on passing events, the appointment should be a significant comment on the power that has the country in its clutches. The grand dukes succeeded in forcing the war with all the disasters that followed it. They were triumphant over the peace party, and almost succeeded in relegating the most prominent leader to the rear. But when the question is of healing the wounds of the war, and establishing peace, there is not a grand duke, not a war lord in the entire realm, to whom the Emperor can entrust the mission. He had to recall the champion of peace, who had rudely been thrust aside.

M. Witte is not even a Slav by birth. He has worked himself up from the humble position of a railroad clerk to that of one of the most influential statesmen of the present time. In Russian government circles he is considered a radical, but in most countries his views would be classed as very conservative. His work on the commission will be for peace on the best obtainable conditions, and when outside peace is established, his attention will undoubtedly be given to the internal affairs of the empire.

QUESTION ABOUT THE BODY.

The question whether the remains sent to this country as those of Paul Jones are genuine has, unfortunately, been raised. It was but natural that many questions should be asked, but they should all have been formulated and answered before the solemn transfer of the remains to the representatives of this country. At this time, skepticism seems entirely out of place.

Mr. Tom Watson is among the doubters. He argues that as the cemetery in which the commodore was buried was closed by law in 1783, and that afterward a canal was dug through it, the chances are that the body was at that time exhumed and disposed of. He, further, claims that the sea-fighter was buried in the American uniform, and that a sword and other articles were placed in the coffin. The body found by General Porter, he says, was not clad in uniform, nor was anything found in the coffin.

According to a writer in the New York Sun, the evidence on the other side is so complete that doubt is not justified. General Porter devoted years to the task of finding the body, finally identifying the graveyard in which it was interred. After extensive excavations a leaden coffin filling the description of that in which Jones was buried was found. In it was the body of a man which corresponded accurately to the authentic descriptions, portraits and measurements of the hero. A medical examination proved that the man whose body had been exhumed died of the disease which caused the death of Jones. Many corroborating circumstances convinced General Porter and the experts assisting him that the body was that of John Paul Jones.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The London Times recently contained extracts of a petition to the Russian government, signed by several thousands of Jews in that country. The document shows clearly how the people of that race are persecuted and harassed in Russia, with the evident purpose of reducing them to beggars.

The petitions show, among other things, that the mob in the year 1881 organized massacres, and that this fact was, by the authorities, made an excuse for depriving the Jews of the right to live in the villages. They were driven out and herded together in cities and towns, and the consequence was that, in spite of active emigration to European and other countries, not less than 4,200,000 Jews lived in the few cities and towns of the so-called Pale of Settlement, closely crowded together and competing bitterly against each other. In order that their entrance to the schools might be hindered, it was enacted that the number of Jewish scholars in attendance at

secondary schools should not exceed 10 per cent.

Another feature to which the petitioners call attention is this, that in many towns in the "Pale" the Jewish population comprises no less than 60 per cent, and furnishes about 90 per cent of the municipal taxes. But, notwithstanding this, the Jews are without representation in the municipal councils. They furnish the funds, and their enemies control the expenditure.

The oppression has resulted in great destitution among the Jews. In communities like Vilna, Berdicheff and Odessa the number of the Jewish poor amounts to as much as 25 to 33 per cent. Coextensive with this widespread poverty there is in all the Jewish communities an enormous laboring and artisan proletariat that knows not today where it may exist on the morrow. The simple weapon which the laborer and artisan possesses in his relations with his employer—the power of leaving his work and seeking better conditions of employment elsewhere—has become impossible of use on account of the limitation of freedom of movement and the prohibition of residence elsewhere than in the few towns of the Pale of Settlement. If they do not wish to die of hunger or go begging, Jewish workmen must submit unreservedly to the conditions prescribed by the manufacturers.

These are some of the conditions depicted in the petition, and the signers ask for relief. They ask for religious freedom, and for representation in the Zemstvos. They ask for liberty to go and come as other citizens, to choose their vocation, to acquire property and education.

We hope the Russian government will see the justice of these demands and consider them, when the time comes for reforming the now existing institutions. We are aware that Russian officials of the highest rank deny that the Jews are persecuted. They allege perfect freedom in Russia. They claim that they are but protecting the Russians from Jewish aggression, and, in some instances, setting out to them just punishment. But this plea is purely a pretense. Persecutors never admit that they are persecutors. They always give to their acts of bigotry some pretty name, and find some excuse for the perpetration of their crimes against civilization. Russia must cease her persecutions, if she would remove the curse from her soil. For the Lord Almighty deals in justice with every nation, and every individual who makes war upon His chosen people. "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curset thee," is a divine decree, as unalterable as a law of nature.

Is this to be a Walled town or a free city?

The town was full of Eagles yesterday, and not a bald headed one among them.

Poets' week at the Portland fair has closed. Did they quit because of the poetic or of that tired feeling?

While the treaty of Washington will not be made in Washington, it will not be "made in Germany."

Much fun is being made of Cowboy Walter Scott. But it cannot be denied that he had a record run for his money.

Queer people those Japs! Now they are setting elephant traps to catch Russian bears.

Keeping the lid on is all right, but what is wanted is a genuine old-fashioned snuffer.

An old lady lost her teeth in the County Infirmary. Saved her life by the skin of her teeth, as it were.

That fierce South American jaguar that held up four passenger trains and two thousand people on the Colorado Midland, must have had a great jag on.

Explorer Peary expects to live on baked beans while hunting for the north pole. If he finds it will make a beanpole of it?

Bishop Wilson of Chattanooga says Hell laughed when Bishop Potter opened that subway saloon. It was no laughing matter, either.

The Chicago man who advertised for a lady stenographer and required that she state her age, did not lay much stress on the virtue of veracity.

And now the Korean loan has been subscribed four times over, official finance is taking high rank in the financial world.

While large leaks have been discovered in the cotton reports, it is much to be hoped that there will be no loopholes through which the leakers can escape.

"At this moment," says an English writer in the New Age, "the United States has a population of 74,000,000 and hardly one living man of genius and world-wide reputation." What's the matter with Hyde, Alexander et id genus?

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Paul Morgan predicts that it will not be very long before New York City has a population of ten million souls. He is counting his chickens before they are hatched.

Mayor Dunne has received Expert Dalrymple's report on municipal ownership of Chicago street railways. But he is guarding it more closely than a telegraph editor guards an advance copy of the President's message. Perhaps he is waiting for the release.

unfortunate quarrel has already commenced to weaken the two nations, by driving abroad many of the young men who, at home, would contribute to the national wealth and strength.

UNCLE SAM'S FARM.

Hartford Courant.
Uncle Sam is still a large landowner. It appears. Nine days ago he had this side of Alaska 473,800 acres. There was once an old song about him, to the effect that he was

"Rich enough,
To give us all a farm."
He couldn't very well do that now, but there are a good many farms in 473,800 acres—that is, there would be if the land were arable. As a matter of fact, most of it is at present mountain, sandy desert. What considerable portions of it will be fit for a hundred years from now is quite another matter.

WILL THE CZAR GO INTO EXILE?

New York Globe.
The Russian navy is proclaimed revolutionary. And the army seems to be similarly infected. Although situated early by race hatred, the soldiers of Odessa obeyed orders and moved down the people. Information is leaking out of increasing army unrest. The recently recruited reserves, 200,000 in number, are represented as profoundly disturbed. A movement is on foot to present to the czar in their name a political ultimatum, with the important St. Petersburg garrison taking the initiative. Without the support of the army Nicholas would be nothing. Let once a considerable body of troops refuse to fire and fraternize with the people, and it is likely the example would be quickly followed. Then would be a quick end to the autocracy. The czar by judicious concession may yet save a constitutional throne, but if he delays much longer it is not impossible that he will join the kings in exile.

TEA

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