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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Charles W. Fenimore, Editor. E. Grace G. Whitney, Business Manager

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 10, 1901.

THE SPAULDING STORY AGAIN.

It seems surprising to people who know anything of the history of "Mormonism," that the old fables concerning it which obtained credence at its inception, although thoroughly exploded by the force of irresistible facts, are still held and clung to by preachers and editors, who ought to be susceptible to the influence of reason and development.

A few weeks ago we made some comments on the efforts of the Troy, N. Y., Press to enlighten the world, by the publication of a lot of stories told in a book made up of absurd anti-"Mormon" fabrications, printed half a century ago, but mixed with a few quotations from authentic works.

Now comes the same fiction, copied into many country newspapers, from no less an authority than the New York Tribune. In an article headed "The Mormon Bible," that paper has once more told the tale of the "Manuscript Found," which was the chief reliance of the religious opponents of "Mormonism" for many years.

According to the opponents of Mormonism, from investigations made soon after the Book of Mormon appeared, the fact is fully established that the real author of the work was Solomon Spaulding, who was born at Ashford, Conn., in 1761, and, after engaging in business in various States, died at Cherry Valley, N. Y., in 1816.

There are a few inaccuracies in this version, deviations from the original narrative, but they are not very important. The so-called "fact" was NOT "fully established," but was merely a groundless suspicion. The "Manuscript Found" was not "announced as early as 1812," or at any time previous to the concoction of the charge against Joseph Smith.

The first notion that the Spaulding manuscript might have had something to do with the Book of Mormon, was put forward by an apostate "Mormon" named Hurlburt, who was cut off the Church for unvirtuous conduct. In 1836 he wrote a book called "Mormonism Unveiled," which was published by E. D. Howe, a printer, of Painesville, Ohio.

It is reported that Andrew Carnegie, who has already made himself famous for his magnificent gifts for public libraries, is now contemplating another line of philanthropy. His purpose is said to be to build a great theater in this country, and another somewhere in Europe, and to endow both sufficiently to guarantee their future existence.

the Book of Mormon, if the account given by its opponents concerning its origin was correct. Mr. Rice presented the manuscript to Oberlin College, first copying it verbatim with all the original blunders in spelling, punctuation and composition intact. It is there now. The copy has been published. It can be had at this office for twenty-five cents. It is no more like the Book of Mormon than like the Hebrew Bible.

We have repeated this matter of recent history, once more, for the benefit of some of our contemporaries who still linger in the darkness of the past, and in response to the request of some of our friends who want the particulars for their own use. We do not expect to stop the mouths of those very pious preachers who hate to acknowledge the truth, and want to account for the Book of Mormon in some way different to its claims as a divine record.

It is not the "Mormon Bible," as so often asserted by anti-Mormon writers. The "Mormon" Bible is the regularly accepted King James' version of the Holy Scriptures. The Book of Mormon, though in harmony with the Bible, is a record of the dealings of the Almighty with the former inhabitants of the American hemisphere, and was revealed to Joseph Smith and translated by him through the gift and power of God.

The editors of the religious and secular papers of the country may disbelieve the divine character and worth of the book, but they have no right or excuse to continue in deceiving the public as to its alleged connection with Solomon Spaulding or his legendary story. By persisting in this course they either expose their ignorance to well informed people, or exhibit their unreliability as authorities on matters of present information.

LET THEM COME.

Now that Aguinaldo has signed the agreement drawn up by our representatives in the Philippines, there can be no objection to permitting him to come to this country on a visit, if he so pleases. Other Filipino leaders should be invited to come, too. We do not believe they should be exhibited here as curiosities, either on the lecture platform or in the side show of a circus.

The trouble between the Filipinos and the Americans that freed them from Spanish domination, was owing to a lamentable misunderstanding. The Filipino leaders little knew the vast power of the United States. They knew less about the friendly intentions of our government. By precipitating a murderous conflict they made it morally impossible for this country to withdraw its troops.

By all means let the Filipino leaders be invited to visit the United States and learn more of the good-will here existing toward their people. They should not be "herozed" any more than they actually deserve, but they should be taken good care of, while here, and be sent back to their own people with correct ideas of the nation that has made many sacrifices for them and their descendants.

ENDOWED THEATERS.

It is reported that Andrew Carnegie, who has already made himself famous for his magnificent gifts for public libraries, is now contemplating another line of philanthropy. His purpose is said to be to build a great theater in this country, and another somewhere in Europe, and to endow both sufficiently to guarantee their future existence.

Emperor William has ordered the substitution of English for French in the German high schools. This is a tribute to the English language. The substitution has been ordered, no doubt, for commercial and not for literary or diplomatic reasons.

standard of excellence, that would have a beneficial influence upon the entire profession. The artists there engaged would find imitators. The class of plays there selected would have the stamp of respectability, and the example set would be copied throughout the land.

That, at least, is the supposition. Whether the effect would be all that is hoped for, experience alone can demonstrate. In the stage pure in countries where there are theaters endowed by the government?

The fact is that the drama, as every thing else that engages human thought and interest, presents a battle ground for the good and the evil principles that always are at war for the possession of the human soul. The conflict is constantly being waged, and very often the evil principle seems to have the victory.

THE CZAR'S PRIVATE LIFE.

The Czar of Russia is commonly supposed to be the mightiest potentate on earth, and this may be true. But it does not follow that his daily life is one of continual pleasure, or even satisfaction. Even if he were not the constant object of conspiracies against his person, the monotony of his existence would be enough to make him weary of the illustrious crown that adorns his brow.

A St. Petersburg correspondent to a German paper describes the daily life of the Czar in all its simplicity. He is said to rise at half past eight o'clock in the morning. At nine he is at his desk engaged with matters of state submitted to him by his ministers. From ten to eleven he takes a light luncheon, from eleven to one he signs documents, studies bills, and the reports of ministers and governors, drinking many glasses of tea as he works.

ALLEGED MANILA FRAUDS.

The charges made of widespread frauds in the government service at Manila have an ugly appearance. Following upon those still fresh in mind that were developed in Cuba last year, they tend seriously to shake confidence in the kind of man who have come to the front in the commercial side of the operations growing out of the nation's extensions in territory.

It is unfortunate for the influence of American rule in the Philippines that it is already marked by a grave scandal. The reports published are not exaggerated and it must be borne in mind that the military censor still keeps watch of the telegraph at Manila, although it was announced months ago that the censorship was abolished.

It seems to us we have heard of frauds in this country before we began to rule subject provinces. Apparently they know how to discover them in Manila as they did in Havana. That is more than can be said of New York.

Army frauds flourish because of the tendency to cover up the tracks of any one with shoulder straps. To an army officer the reputation of another army officer is very sacred. The question of innocence or guilt does not cut any figure in the case. This is taught at West Point. There a cadet who will reveal the crimes of another cadet is at once marked for slaughter.

The stealing of three gold bars, valued at over sixty thousand dollars, from the steamer Wilhelm Kaiser der Grosse, may be said to be a new species of crime. This was not Kidd's way of doing, and it is safe to say that no kid did it.

In France they are beginning to talk about the "Yankee peril" as the "yellow peril" was talked about in this country a few years ago. Such talk was as ridiculous in America as it is today in France. As well get alarmed over the "peril" of one's own shadow.

It is unpleasant that there should be evidences of corruption to mar in any mind the impression of the splendid efficiency of our army in the Philippines. It is to be hoped that the prosecution of the thieves in the Philippines will be equally vigorous. Though it is itself the chief victim of the dishonesty of its agents, the scandal is most deplorable because it is a blot upon the American name which must arouse the distrust of all the alien people to whom we are now sending governors and administrators.

versal trader. Germany aspires to that position now, and hence the imperial order to substitute English for French in German high schools.

Mr. Justice MacLean, of the supreme court of New York, has decided that the fact that a man had kissed another man's wife might occasion the husband of the woman who had been kissed to make an inquiry and entitle him to an explanation, but did not warrant the court in granting to the husband a decree of divorce. Of course an explanation would satisfy most husbands, but this ruling should not be acted upon too frequently. There can be too much of a good thing, and these explanations might very easily become such a thing.

The press department of the German Village, which is to be one of the great features of the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, N. Y., has issued a colored lithograph of "Alt Nurnberg" which is a beautiful work of art, and gives a striking view of the village that will form such a big attraction at the "fair." German-Americans, if that term is allowable, will be strongly attracted by the real thing, and the picture that has been published will be greatly valued by all who receive a copy, or even obtain a view of this fine production.

The Filipinos are said to have lost 50,000 men in their struggle for freedom. A people who can make that sacrifice, be they white, black, brown, or yellow, have in them the stuff that makes nations. It now appears that their struggle is about over. When they have fully accepted American sovereignty the very largest possible liberty should be given them and they should be encouraged in the practice of self-government. Doubtless this will be done, but it should be helped along by that optimism for which Americans are famous the world over.

Gen. Funston's capture of Aguinaldo continues to draw forth much comment. Goldwin Smith is among the very latest to condemn it, as all Britishers do, so far as we have seen.

British officers condemned it in strong terms and indirectly, almost directly, lectured American officers on their duties as officers and gentlemen. It was pointed out that no British officer would ever do such a thing. These lectures read very well though rather Pocksniffian, when the fact is recalled that Major Andre put aside his uniform and donned that of a civilian, to enter the American ranks as a spy to treat with Arnold for the betrayal of his country. Andre was hanged as a spy yet so highly did his government esteem his work that a monument to his memory was placed in Westminster Abbey. We Americans no doubt have many faults, but a large portion seems to be inherited from our British ancestors.

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