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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 ploded 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 to the light of recent events and developments. Their failure to perceive palpable truth, so easy of access, and for undisputed verities, would be comical if they were not so pitiful.

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. That paper imagined it was giving to the public something choice and novel about an unpopular faith, but in reality was simply repeating ancient gossip and dead romances. Among them was the stupid Spaulding story, which every well-informed journalist ought to know has been completely exposed and settled.

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 re-Hance of the religious opponents of "Mormonism" for many years, and found its way into encyclopedias and historical narratives, and was the only way by which the preachers and editors could account for the production of the Book of Mormon. Here is the way the New York Tribune, at this late date, relates the story:

the fact is fully established that the real author of the work was Solomon Spaiding, who was born at Ashford, Conn., in 1761, and, after engaging in business in various States, died at Cherry Valley, N. Y., in 1816, During his residence in Ohio, in 1810-12, wrote a romance to account for the American Indians from the Hebrews in dance with a prevalent notion that the Indians were descended from the lost tribes of Israel. The book, under the title of 'Manuscript Found,' was, as early as 1813, announced in the newspapers as forthcoming, and to contain a translation of the Book of Mormon.' His widow published a statement in the Boston Journal in May, 1839, declaring that in 1812 he placed his manuscript in a printing office in Pittsburg, where it was copied by Sidney Rigdon, who, about 1829, became associated with Mr. Joseph Smith. Immediately after the publica-tion of the 'Book of Mormon' in 1820, it was recognized not only by Spalding's widow, but by many of his friends, as his long lost work."

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There are a few inaccuracies in this version, deviations from the original narration, 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 1813," or at any time previous to the concoction of the charge against Joseph Smith, as that it was "a translation of the Book of Mormon." The widow of Solomon Spaulding did not state that it was "copied by Sidney Rigdon," nor did she recognize the Book of Mormon as her husband's "long lost work." Nor did Sidney Rigdon become associated with Joseph Smith in 1829; he never saw him till long after the Book of Mormon was published.

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 Painsville, Ohio. Hurlburt obtained the "Manuscript Found," by false representations, from Solomon Spaulding's widow, but did not publish it, because it did not answer his purpose, being found totally unlike the Book of Mormon, nor did he return the manuscript to the owner. For many years it was a manuscript lest.

But to the main story: The alleged connection between Spaulding's manuscript and the Book of Mormon, continued to serve the purpose of its inventors and repeaters for many years, notwithstanding the mass of evidence against it. But in 1884, Professor James H. Fairchild of Oberlin college, Ohio, was visiting his friend, Mr. L. L. Rice, then residing at Honolulu, Hawalian Islands; who was formerly associated in business with E. D. Howe in Ohio. He had in his possession a number of old papers received from his partner when he purchased the business. Searching among them for some anti-slavery documents, a package was discovered marked "Manuscript Story-Conneaut, Ohlo." Examination showed that it was the long lost Spaulding story, obtained from the clergyman's widow by

Hurlburt forty-eight years before.

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 Jule Verne's journey to the moon is like the Hebrew Bible. This discovery put an end to the Spaulding story as accounting for the Book of Mormon, in the mind of every honest person informed as to these facts. They are placed beyond

intelligent question. 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 inception, although thoroughly ex. American hemisphere, and was revealed to Joseph Smith and translated by him through the gift and power of God. It is true and of inestimable value both as a disclosure of the origin of the American Indians, and of the builders of the cities and temples, the ruins of which are found upon this land, and as a revetheir readiness to repeat refuted errors | lation of the word and will of the Lord, and of the manifestation of Jesus Christ on this continent after His resurrection

from the dead. 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 exhibt their unreliability as authorities on matters of present information. Why not tell the truth, no popular fictions?

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. They should be given an opportunity of studying American institutions and American sentiment, for themselves. They should he permitted to see something of our manufacturing and commercial establishments, and to obtain an idea of our "According to the opponents of Mor- | naval and military strength, but above all, they should learn that the American people are not slaves to tyrants and do not propose to establish tyranny in any place over which, by divine Providence, the Flag may be made to float. All these things can best be learnt in this he rests at night with more security. country, by personal observation and

experience. 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. The United States could not with honor leave the islands after its soldiers had been attacked. When the war was commenced it had to be fought out. But that attack would never have been made, had the influential men of the natives not been utterly ignorant of our motives and intentions, and at the same time misled by their own ambition for power. Now they are better informed as to the strength of this country. They know they have no chance to gain their objects at the point of the bayonet.

The Philippine commission has already given the natives a splendid lesson in American ideas of self-government, and Aguinaldo is reported as having expressed his admiration of the liberality and impartiality with which the arrangements, so far, have been made. His astonishment will increase, as he becomes aware that through the wise efforts of the Americans the people will be given the very liberty for which he said he fought them, and that in a more abundant measure and on a more secure foundation than he could conceive of, or have the power to establish.

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 "herolzed" 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 Carnegle, who has already made himself famous for his magnificent gifts for public IIbraries, 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. He thinks that in this way the stage might be elevated. In these theaters American and European actors and actresses might appear without fear of the censure of the manager, whose chief interest is centered in the box office. Here they might give only that which is pure art, calculated to refine, purify and ennoble the audiences.

Mr. Carnegie, it is said, is now in onsultation with eminent dramatic artists and critics on that subject. It is to be hoped the plan will be found feasible. If there were in this country a stage Here was the opportunity to explode which might be looked upon as the England has become the almost uni-

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 demon. strate. Is the stage pure in countries where there are theaters endowed by the government?

The fact is that the drama, as everything 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. An independent theater might not accomplish the complete overthrow of the immoral stage, because the taste of many is deprayed, but such a theater would nevertheless be a factor for good-a much needed help in the battle against evil. The stage is one of the most potent educational forces of our modern civilization, and too much cannot be done for its proper equipment. A corrupt drama is capable of undoing the work of both the school and the pul-

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

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. From one to four he is with his family. Sometimes matter if it does upset old theories and an aide-de-camp is summoned and questioned about the contents of the newspapers, or some affair in the outside world. His majesty, the account says, is a very irregular reader of news. papers, to say nothing of books, which he has not had in his hands for a long time. From four o'clock the Czar works again, sometimes only till six, but often till seven o'clock, at which hour the principal meal of the day, viz.; dinner, is partaken of. The rest of the evening till nine thirty, but till ten o'clock should the ex-empress be present, is spent with the members of his family. After this, he retires to his study, and punctually at midnight goes to bed. Court banquets and festivities interfere now and then with the routine of his daily life, but the minister of the imperial house, by his order, tries as much as possible to keep his working hours uninterrupted.

There is nothing very heroic in this mode of life. The well-to-do peasant of Russia has more enjoyment of his daily toll than has his imperial master, and

There is one item in the description quoted which explains some of the anomalies in the government of Russia. The Czar, it seems, does not keep himself posted upon current events. Sometimes an attendant is questioned as to the news of the day, and it is safe to conclude that no news of a disagree. able character is given to him. Undoubtedly he is kept ignorant of many things he ought to know about his own people as well as foreign peoples. Were he a really strong character, such as the illustrious Czar Peter, he would take cognizance of all current events and be guided by his own conclusions. As it is, he is evidently only the instrument in the hands of the strong oligarchs that rule with iron hand. There is nothing of the personality of the Czar in the foreign policy of the empire. or in the oppression of the people that happen to think for themselves. It is not the amiable person Nicholas who is crushing Finland's nationality and driving Tolstoi into exile; it is the inexorable system of government, of which that gentleman happens to be one unit, the Czar, but which he seems unable to turn into another course than

that already appointed. It isn't the unexpected that always happens. When it does we shall have pleasant, sunshiny days,

"Shall we annex Cuba?" asks the Baltimore Sun. Perhaps not immediately, but ultimately, no doubt.

Ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt says New York needs an autocrat. It has been the general opinion that Richard Croker was a "boss" autocrat.

William Warner, the inventor of the sugar coated pill, has just died. Mankind should hold him in kind remembrance for he did much to sweeten

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 specie of crime. This was not Kidd's way of doing, and it is safe to say that no kid

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.

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. French was once the universal diplomatic language but it is no longer so, each nation now using its own language for diplomacy. But English has become the almost universal commercial language, and for the simple reason that

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 expositon 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

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. Good can come out of the Philippines for good came out of Nazareth.

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. Recently some 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 Pecksniffilan, 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 steem 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 ances-

ALLEGED MANILA FRAUDS.

The charges made of widespread frauds in the government service at have an ugly appearance. Following upon those still fresh in mind that were developed in Cuba last year, they tend seriously to shake con-fidence in the kind of men who have come to the front in the commercial side of the operations growing out of the nation's extensions in territory. There are too many men who look upon the opportunities offered by these as fields for plundering. Our soldiers appear to have borne themselves cred itably amid the rage for looting the unfortunate Chinese. The men who have followed their camps in other places have made a less favorable record. It is feared too many of them are there for plunder,

Cleveland Plain Dealer. It is unfortunate for the influence of American rule in the Philippines that it is already marked by a grave scan-dal. If 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, that the censorship was abolished-dishonesty among the government officials and their agents in Manila is greater than that discovered among the postoffice officials in Havana. Numerous arrests have been made and others are expected to follow. In Cuba the dishonest officials were political appointees in the civil service. In the Philippines the alleged thieves are officers in the military service.

Springfield Republican. The Manila news bears more closely than even Aguinaldo's capture upon the real problem in hand. Great and sen-sational frauds in the commissary department are being uncovered. What is the ruling of subject provinces going

Worcester Gazette.

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.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

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. He has not the right stuff in him to make a gallant soldier. It is to be hoped that this scandal will be probed to the bottom by the war department, even if it involve one so high as the governor general of the Philippines.

Chicago Record-Herald. The government acted with great promptitude and energy in the Neely affair, and it is to be hoped that its prosecution of the thieves in the Philip pines will be equally vigorous. Though honesty of its agents, the scandal is most deplorable because it is a blot upon the American name which mus arouse the distrust of all the alien peo ple to whom we are now sending governors and administrators. They wi want to know wherein we are better than Spaniards, and will denounce us as grasping, sordid hypocrites if we do not at once assert the sincerity of our professions by visiting exemplar punishment upon all the culprits.

New York Mail-and Express, It is unpleasant that there should be evidences of corruption to mar in any mind the impression of the splendic pines or to qualify its creditable record. But alongside of the rumored and exaggerated revelations of wrong-doing should be put the fact that the machinery to discover it and the impulse in course from the discover it. to cunish it come from the circles in which it raised its head. It is an ugly incident, but it serves to accentuate the wholesome fact that the cure exists

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in the very organism on which this excrescence has appeared. The only thing to do is to get to the bottom of the charges with no predetermined pur-pose to shield or condemn and then to let the ax fall hard.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A feature of the April number of the Literary Era is an essay by William S. Walsh, "Critics and Sham," in which he discusses the extent to which critical authority should be acknowledged in matters of literature. Mr. Keenan. matters of literature. Mr. Keenan among his other "Old World Themes," writes suggestively about Fogazzaro the "authorized representative of the Italian idealists" in fiction, and gives an interesting review of the new life of Heinrich Heine, by George Karpeles, just published in Leipzig. John Habberton contributes a paper reviewing "The Spring Announcements" of the "The Spring Announcements" of the publishers. Sara Yorke Stevenson contributes an illustrated paper on "The Oxyrynchus Papyri." Eugene Didier oxyrynenus Papartack upon Tennyson, under the title of "An Illustrious Plag-iarist." Henry Illowizi has a short paper upon "The Jew in London." John Glimer Speed writes upon "The Passing of the Historical Romance." Alice Cobourn contribute upon "Women's Clubs," and Margaret Tatnall Canby a sketch of the early his-tory of Wilmington.—Philadelphia.

The April number of The International Socialist Review gives space to the discussion of "Trades Unions and Socialism," "Education and Socialism," "Social Evolution," "Socialist Move-"Social Evolution," "Socialist Move-ment in Great Britain." and kindred topics. A review of "Socialism Abroad" and editorial notes complete the list of contents .- 56 Fifth Avenue, Chicago.

The April number of The Pilgrim, a monthly home journal, is full of fine illustrations and timely articles. We notice one on King Edward VII., and an other on Finland. There is a very read-able sketch of a duel between a bear and a deer. Space is devoted to subjects in which lady readers are specially interested. With the May number, the editorship will be entrusted to Mr. Willis J. Abbot, contributor to number to the contributor to the contribu leading journals.-Battle Creek,

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