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Charles W. Penrose, - - - Editor
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THEIR USUAL WAY.

The reverend gentlemen who are stirring up excitement throughout the country are animated by the pious desire to impress the uninformed with the idea that polygamous marriages are still solemnized in Utah; and that the doctrine of plurality of wives is still taught by the Elders of the Church. It would be a libel on their intelligence to say they do not know better than this. The kind of Christianity that moves them to the course they are pursuing we leave to the public to classify.

We notice that the three Salt Lake preachers who have undertaken to tell Congress what to do in the case of the Representative-elect from Utah, take pains to convey the same false impression that a number of their cloth of other denominations have tried to stamp upon the public mind. For this purpose an article published in the May, 1898, number of the Improvement Era, is quoted from. But the authors of the document sent to Washington fail to state that the article was written, as plainly appears on its face, not to advocate or teach or advise the present practice of polygamy, but to answer questions propounded by inquirers in New York. And the entire subject was, the question "whether polygamy can be justified from a Biblical standpoint."

A learned doctor, a Catholic, had taken up the subject in answer to the query, and as published in the Era article quoted from, said:

"The subject of polygamy should, in my judgment, be left out of your investigation. In a manifesto dated the twenty-fourth day of September, 1890, President Woodruff solemnly declared that he stood ready to abide by the laws of the land, and prohibited by the Priesthood of the Church, of which he is the head, to solemnize any more plural marriages after the date of that manifesto. That declaration, I think, should be sufficient to make us hold our peace even here in the east. Inasmuch as you press that subject upon me, I shall make the following remarks upon it."

The doctor then proceeded to address himself to the main question, and the gentlemen investigating it requested the publication of his reply in the Era, with the remark, "Here is what the Dr. says. What have you got to say?" That necessitated some remarks from the editor, and as the article by Elder B. H. Roberts was written and published simultaneously with the Dr.'s reply, Elder Roberts commenced by expressing regret that, in the investigation of "Mormonism," the subject of polygamy had not been passed for "the consideration of one more fundamental to what the world call "Mormonism."

There is nothing in the Era article but a reply to the question, "Can polygamy be justified from a Biblical standpoint." There is no argument or plea for its present practice. Everybody has the right to discuss the subject. It is legitimate, from any standpoint, to look into it, and to point out what may be fairly said on either side of the controversy.

The justice, fairness and religion which prompted these clergymen to seize upon that article, select certain parts of it that suited their purpose, conceal the fact that it was written under the circumstances and for the object we have explained, and then try to prejudice the National legislature against the writer in his political standing, may appear to their eyes, but to unbiased people, they are not perceptible with the strongest magnifying glasses. Nor can the shameful hypocrisy and misrepresentation to which these preachers have resorted, be covered up with the very broadest mantle of genuine Christian charity.

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

Archbishop Bruchesi of Montreal has lifted his voice against sensational journalism. In a letter to a newspaper published in his diocese, he states out that as the company of criminals is conducive to crime, so is the habitual showing of scenes as depicted by the press in illustration and vivid descriptions of details. There is no thinking individual will be slow to endorse such a very bad impression on the morals. He expresses the hope that the press will second his efforts for the suppression of sensationalism.

One of the commonest arguments in favor of the journalism the archbishop condemns is that that the public demand it and that the business of the press is to satisfy that demand without taking into account the effect on public morals. The fact is, however, that the press itself is the most potent factor in creating such a demand, and the effort to shift the responsibility on the shoulders of the public is neither just nor generous. In journalism, as in other business affairs, the principles of Christianity must predominate; otherwise professions of reverence for those principles are mere mockery.

HAWAII AND LEGISLATION.

Considerable uneasiness is exhibited among certain members of Congress as to the precedence of the bill creating a territory out of the Hawaiian Islands. Some congressmen urge that no delegate should be allowed Hawaii, lest it be taken as an intimation that statehood for the islands will follow at some future date, and that the Philippines will join in the procession. Others raise objections to the proposed reciprocal trade relations, lest these should form an injurious precedent to be used in the case of the Philippines.

Doubtless there is force in the objections taken from a certain standpoint. If the trade relations and government proposed for Hawaii were to be made applicable to the Philippine islands, with the "open door" and large proportions of the Malay race, then it might at present be quite disastrous indeed. But there is a difference between Hawaii and the Philippines which should not be forgotten. The latter are practically without a local government, while the former is not, and its Americanization is much more advanced than some congressmen and many other people, especially in Congress, seem to be aware of.

Possibly the discussion over the Hawaiian government bill will drive our governmental action on it another year, though there is not real necessity for the delay. But it is probable that a thorough ventilation of the subject will result in giving to Hawaii a delegate in Congress, and trade arrangements substantially as now proposed. It is difficult to see what injury can would such upon the United States, while it would be only just to the Hawaiian people.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN GUNNERY.

The report of target practice of the British Mediterranean fleet for 1898 is very interesting to the English government. That fleet is understood to be the most efficient gunnery in the British navy; yet its target practice shows remarkable deficiency in the ability to operate the guns on the war ships. Alacrity in the manipulation of the big engines of destruction was all right, but to use a common phrase, when it came to shooting, the British tars "couldn't hit the side of a house." With no enemy to disconcert them, the record of target practice shows only thirty to forty-six per cent of effectiveness, the larger proportion of the guns being at the first named figure.

Taken in comparison with the efficiency of American gunners both at Manila and Santiago, this is a remarkably poor showing. Although the Americans were under the fire of an enemy, yet the effectiveness of their batteries was more than double that of the British gunners in peaceful target practice. If an equal force of British ships and men had engaged the American ships at either Manila or Santiago, with the gunnery displayed by both navies, as shown in the respective records for 1898, the British fighters would have been outclassed more than two to one both in accuracy and in effectiveness of fire.

With such a demonstration, it is no wonder that British naval officers were filled with admiration for the men behind the guns in the American navy. Nor is it a matter of surprise that they now demand that target practice on British ships must be something more than "perfunctory exercise," in view of what might have to be confronted in actual warfare. Upon its own showing the British admiralty must congratulate itself that there has been no war between England and any of the European powers, lest it might prove that some of the gunners of the latter had been making practical headway towards the high standard of the American naval marksmen.

IS THE PEACE TREATY IN DANGER?

A Denver contemporary takes the view that the situation at Delhi has jeopardized the ratification of the peace treaty by the United States Senate. It is claimed that the somewhat unexpected resistance to the occupancy of that place by the United States troops has increased the number of senators opposed to a "war of conquest," and that at the proper time a motion will be made to have the part of the treaty relating to the Philippine islands stricken out.

It is understood the Filipinos claim that they themselves have freed certain territory from Spanish rule, and that they have indisputable right to govern that territory. Accordingly they are determined to resist the entrance of our armed troops into Delhi. It is said they outnumber the forces under General Miller's command, and that they are expecting reinforcements from other parts of the islands. In administration circles in Washington, there is no doubt, however, that they will finally yield to Roman and American diplomacy.

It is not easy to see how the position of some of the native Filipinos at this time can influence the Senate one way or another. Their demand for independence is not new. The sentiments of the insurgents, as interpreted by Aguinaldo, were before the world previous to the American victory at Manila. Aguinaldo's representatives even went to Paris in order to enter their protest, but notwithstanding all that, the peace treaty was formulated and ratified by public opinion. Why then, should the stand taken by the Delhi insurgents be considered a serious obstacle to the ratification of the treaty?

The fact to consider is that the aspirings can neither be turned over to the Spaniards, nor left to the Filipinos without serious results. In the first case, the rule of iron and blood would continue; Spain would be unable to restore order, and anarchy would devastate the country. In the second case it would not be long before Germany or Japan or some other strong power would feel it necessary to take the entire group and place it against the interests of the United States. If such a denouement were possible, history would brand as treachery and folly a step especially that allowed others to reap the fruits of the brilliant achievements of our army and navy.

The logic of events makes it the duty of this country to establish peaceful conditions and a stable government in the region wrenched by Spain. All the great powers are putting as few arms as a preparation for the struggle for supremacy in the field of industry and commerce. Once in a peaceful period with a universe of freedom, it is all the more important, in view of what the future may have in store, that her standard should never be lowered where it has been raised, through her prowess, by the decree of Providence.

CENTURY FIGURES.

It is strange that so many people insist or regarding this year as the last of the nineteenth century.

It should not be difficult to ascertain beyond a doubt that the first year of our era extend with the last day of the year 1, A. D., that the first decade ended with the year 10, and the 19th century with the year 100. The second century, therefore, commenced with the year 101, and the twentieth century will commence with the year 1901. The present century does not expire until December 31, 1900.

If anybody is in doubt about the correctness of this, he has only to try to pay a debt of $1,000 with $1,000, and he will soon be convinced that another dollar is needed to make the hundred mark complete.

COMMENTS ON ROBERTS.

The American Sentinel, the organ of Seventh-day Adventists, we believe, takes the view of the recent Utah decision for Congress:

If the appeal to any one like the Mormon Church, may it be possible, it has remember that it is the duty of Christians, as such, to vote especially improved men. Unless Christians up the pope, and upon Episcopal, Presbyterian, Spiritual, Papal, and other Christians be disgraced of their respective denominations, to see that the state is molded upon Christian principles, and it was with this plain duty before them that the Mormon Christians of Utah went to the polls to cast their votes. That persons were elected to office (the Mormons being largely in the majority) who believed in and practiced the doctrine of the Mormon religion, and even that a congressman should have been chosen whose existing home-hold includes three wives, is only what was naturally to be expected. Will not a Catholic naturally vote for a Catholic, a Methodist for a Methodist, or other Christian voter for one of his own denomination, or being the candidate who will administer his office most nearly in harmony with the principles of the Christian religion? How, then, can it be expected that Mormon voters will do anything else? The Mormon Church has the same right to go into politics that any other church has, and she is justified in doing so by the same logic.

The Forum, published at Middletown, N. Y., has the following brief article on this question:

A great hue and cry is being raised because B. H. Roberts, recently elected to Congress from one of the Utah districts, is alleged to have three wives, and is outspoken in his declaration that the people of the state have a right to practice their religion in the way that seems fitest to them, even if a plurality or a multiplicity of wives is indeed, so great is the nonsensicalness claimed that it is now proposed to unseat Mr. Roberts, notwithstanding the fact that he received more votes than both of his opponents put together, as they themselves acknowledge, nor has it been the defeated candidates who have moved against him. Those who have determined to oust him are the ultra-good people, who think they are letting their light shine in thus sitting upon a horrid monster with three wives.

Reese Cushing had a wife; he also had Kate Chase Sprague and numerous others. The malodorous name of Breckenridge has not yet ceased to fill the corridors of the capitol like a dead rat in the wall. But there was no movement to oust either of those gentlemen. The majority of the representatives in Congress have their wives and their concubines on the back streets.

But Roberts has offended awfully. Just see the hands of the Pharisees go up in holy horror. Just hear Congressman This, Senator That and Hon. The Other Not about in a frenzy of outraged virtue and spasmodic piety.

Bosh! Bosh, the whole of it! I don't care if Roberts has as many wives as the ability and energy possess, or as many concubines as the lofty and virtuous David, he was lawfully elected to Congress, was his seat fairly and I hope he will be smart enough to hang to it.

I am not thus upholding polygamy. Personally, I am very modest in my matrimonial aspirations. I don't know what I should do with even one wife. Probably she'd have to have darned frightful.

But I do look at the justice and consistency of the question. Roberts has been duly and lawfully elected; therefore, no matter how many wives, or houses, or horses, or cows, or sheep, or shares of bank stock, or railroad bonds he may have—give him his seat; he is entitled to it.

"Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." If this proviso were carried out, I suspect that Congressman-elect Roberts would not have much to fear from the brickbats of his adversaries. Anybody who thinks that our representatives in Congress are pure, virtuous angels, don't know them very well. At the final session of Congress in 1895, the floor of the house would have put to the blush any house of assignation in the capital city. Whisky flowed like water and many a drivel-guzzled representative reeled about the corridors and cloak rooms embracing the most notorious strumpets of the city of Washington.

Hence, I say, if we are to purge sin from our national Congress, let us eliminate the whole lot of it, not simply lop off one branch of it, because its church creed happens to differ from that of the majority.—Joseph.

It has been vaguely suggested that Hon. Chauncey Depew be appointed to conduct the future department of the Congressional Record.

It is a strange thing that so many professional "interviewers" will insist upon thrusting their own notions and suggestions forward, in the place of the actual views and utterances of the people whom they pretend to quote.

Ex-Gov. Alvord, a champion of Anglo-American alliance to the limit and the limb, lying down together, with America as the lamb, of course. But even Algerid could not convert Europe to look on America as a lamb after the experiences of the late war.

Catholic priests from the Philippines say the natives generally do not want to fight, all the trouble being due to a few discontented half-breeds. But the latter evidently had sufficient basis for their arguments to induce the natives to take up arms against Spain.

According to a decision rendered by the Illinois supreme court, lobbyists, whether known as legislative agents or attorneys, cannot bring suit to secure remuneration from their employers. Lobbying is declared to be against public morals and therefore without legal standing.

The train robberies latest for the United States during the past nine years aggregate 196, with 80 persons killed and 77 wounded. In 1898 there were 28 train robberies in this country, while in Mexico, which formerly was greatly afflicted in this way, there was not one. The fact that train robbing is punished by death in Mexico is an important factor in making this comparison.

Arthur Sewell, Democratic candidate for Vice President in 1896, disagrees with his former running mate on the question of territorial expansion. Mr. Sewell's view is that the United States has got the Philippines, and to turn them over to either Spain or Aguinaldo would be alike unjust and dishonest to the inhabitants of the islands.

"What was the mistake?" queries a latter day children commentary in an attempt to justify indefensible journalism. The answer is there was no "mistake." The complaint is against wilfully substituting the language of a letter with different words conveying opposite sentiments, and printing the latter as quotations from the former. The difference is wide. It is the distinction between a blunder and a deliberate falsehood.

"We sincerely trust that young Utah will not fail to read the Grace letters." Very good. We sincerely hope that all who read them will also contrast the statements as to their contents, in the headlines and introduction to those letters, made by the paper which has twice tried to make a sensation out of them, with what they actually contain. "They will not fail to note" the desperate effort to convey false impressions and the malice poorly concealed in the crude sentences preceding the letters.

AMERICAN EXPANSION.

Portland Press.

The argument for retaining Cuba is ten times as strong as that for holding the Philippines. Cuba is close to our shores, the Philippines are 10,000 miles away. Americans have large interests in Cuba, in the Philippines they have not a cent's worth. Cuba lies at the very gateway of the Gulf of Mexico, and is far more necessary for our defense than the Philippines can ever be, or even the Hawaiian islands. Cuba is so near that it will be likely to attract many American residents in the winter season.

Canton Register.

Those who oppose national expansion don't seem to realize the fact that expansion is an accomplished fact. Instead of being anti-expansionists, they are simply contractionists—Sag-Boilers—anti American. The party that goes into the national campaign of 1900 on that platform will be wiped from the face of the earth.

Bloomington Leader.

Senator Gorman is credited with the statement that he intends to fight the ratification of the peace treaty whether anyone else does it or not. He neglects to his reason that he wants to enter his protest against the expansion policy before he leaves the Senate. It is evident that the Senator counts on being left out in the division of the spoils of victory from his state.

Decatur Republican.

Every day the reasons multiply for thinking that when the Cubans come to the time of voting as to the kind of stable government they want to set up, the great majority will vote for annexation to the United States. A vote of that kind will insure prosperity to the people of the island and in that event they will belong to a government that will insure them everlasting peace.

Chicago Times-Herald.

In spite of his own logic Professor Jordan is not prepared to acquiesce at once. He thinks that after recognizing the independence of the Filipinos we should remove to a safe distance from them and lead them "our army and our navy and our wheat connectors, our Dewey and our Merritt." This is to say that he perceives that the problem of letting go is a serious one. The only difference between him and the expansionists is that they advocate effective and he half-way measures whose lack recommends an obligation.

Illinois State Journal.

Santiago is being transformed as the result of American rule. Instead of being known as one of the dirtiest cities in the world, as it has been under the Spanish government, it now claims to be one of the cleanest. And what has been accomplished at Santiago by Dewey, Wood can be accomplished at Havana, and other Cuban cities by the American military governors.

THE PEACE PROGRAM.

Rockford Register-Gazette.

The outlook is now that the czar's peace proposition will occupy a leading place in the attention of the Christian nations during the two remaining years of the century. It seems quite strange that American sentiment has not responded with more warmth than it has to the powerful challenge put forth by the czar. Here we have a typical American idea, adopted and launched by the very heart of autocracy.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Chicago Times.

The American people ought to begin the new year with the determination to have the Nicaragua canal put through as speedily as possible. About the importance of this enterprise in a nation with such great interests as ours there ought to be no two opinions.

FINANCES AND CURRENCY.

New York Evening Post.

Secretary Gage's report as regards the subject of currency and banking will be received with great interest by all those who have taken part, in late years, in the movement for currency reform. It will also have a most favorable influence in the rural communities of the West and South, where the greatest amount of prejudice has been shown towards the national banks and, indeed, against all banks. This prejudice has been the great stumbling-block in the way of any kind of reform. It has proceeded from the high rates of interest prevailing in the country districts, and the fact that money in those parts of the country is hardest to get hold of at the very time when the farmer wants it most.

Cleveland Leader.

Of course everybody who is familiar with the financial question knows that there has been no real cause for complaint of our money during the past year, and we may be sure that no future good law will be to trouble it. It is not to provide a currency that will serve in a time of emergency that the President, the secretary of the treasury recommend financial reform. Their object is to provide against emergencies that will, whenever they occur, find us in a condition to meet them, and to furnish a source of revenue in case that time so far from the realm of such strategy. Congress may possibly reach the conclusion that it is better to wait for another session, but that is extremely doubtful, and it it does not the country will not suffer greatly.

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