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THE CONFLICT INEVITABLE.

From the day in which the Lord revealed Himself from Heaven to the Prophet Joseph Smith, down to the present time, there has been a conflict in the world. It is the struggle of light in the midst of darkness. It is the heaven which is eventually to leave the whole lump. A system has been established on earth which has come down out of Heaven. It is a disturbing element in the midst of the powers of this world. In the nature of things, it cannot be otherwise.

Yet the spirit of this latter-day work is the spirit of peace. It moves upon legitimate lines. It interferes with no human right. It seeks to subvert no legal authority. It stands for true liberty. It maintains the freedom of all people compatible with the general welfare. It concedes the privilege of every person and every society to worship according to the dictates of conscience. At the same time it upholds the authority of rulers and magistrates within the spheres of their proper jurisdiction.

But the system known in the world as "Mormonism" has been vigorously opposed on all sides, both religious and secular forces being arrayed against it. The chief moving cause of this warfare has been in the very heart of modern Christendom. The antagonism has sprung from that source. The fight waged with material weapons has been incited by ecclesiastical influences. While the religious organizations quarrel with each other and contend over points of doctrine and of discipline, exhibiting often intense animosity toward each other, they can come to a unity, almost at any time, to engage in a fight against "Mormonism." Recent as well as past history shows that they can enlist also the powers of the State, to help them in their endeavors to crush out an unpopular Church.

Some people, who become tired of the continued warfare and who naturally desire ease, and that "peace on earth and good will to men" which the latter-day Gospel inculcates, sometimes express the view that it is better to be passive than positive; to let the foes of the Church say and do as they please; to submit without reply to all kinds of slander and abuse; to resent nothing, to defend nothing, to reply to nothing; to occupy a negative position, that quietness may succeed tumult and the troubled waters become settled and calm.

That would be very pleasant if it were only possible and right. But what would it involve? We will tell them. It would mean the relinquishment of every doctrine and principle which comes in contact with the views and traditions of centuries. The laying down of the authority of the Holy Priesthood restored to earth. The abandonment of sacred ordinances for the living and the dead. The turning of Temples into mere houses of public worship. The tacit recognition of human systems as parts of a "Christian" whole. The union of darkness and light, of Christ and Baal. In other words, the merging of "Mormonism" into the mass of confusion that constitutes latter-day Christendom.

This Church and people can have permanent peace by laying down in the dust and allowing their opponents to walk over them. By yielding up every right and becoming perfectly quiescent. By forsaking all essential distinctions between the Saints and the world, so as to be in all things "like the rest of them." Giving up anything that forms a part of our creed will not placate the foe. Satan will never be satisfied without a complete surrender. The great object of his wrath and of his destructive forces is the Priesthood which is after the order of the Son of God. While that remains in the plenitude of its authority, officiating with the keys of power acknowledged and ratified in Heaven, his warfare aided by his hosts unseen, and the powers of earth through which his works are manifest, will never cease.

The struggle must go on. It is the final conflict that has been commenced on this earth. Darkness must be overcome, the truth must prevail. The kingdoms of this world must become the Kingdom of God and His Christ. The dominion of the adversary must be driven from this globe, and the posterity of Adam must be redeemed from error and sin and suffering.

The assaults, however, will come in the future as they have in the past, from the powers of darkness allied with those of this world. The Church which Jesus Christ has established in person, is on the defensive. It cannot yield or throw aside its armor or its weapons. It must fight the good fight of faith. It must stand by the work which it has been commanded to perform. It need not be afraid of its enemies. While desiring not to provoke disturbance, to create strife or to stir up wrath, it must be prepared to endure all things without shrinking and without retreat. Certainly there should be no cowards in its ranks who "would its

colors fly," nor should there be any cringing when those who are valiant stand up in the front to meet the attacks of the enemy.

The campaign of the Gospel is not a mere skirmish. It is a war that will continue until the great consummation. There will be brief periods of comparative quiet, but the clash will be renewed, and the struggle will proceed until He comes whose right it is to reign and His light and truth and glory flood the earth as with the sunshine of everlasting peace.

CHURCHES FAILING.

The New York Herald has taken pains to gather statistics showing the percentage of the so-called "Christian," and non-"Christian," population of the city of New York. The figures are somewhat startling, even when it is known that the influence of the various churches is declining.

According to an estimated census of 1896, out of a total population of 3,102,544, there were 255,617 Protestant church members, or about 8 per cent; Catholics, Jews, etc., constituted about 27 per cent, and the remaining 65 per cent of the population, or 1,572,000, were "non-religious" people, not connected with any church.

Tokio is the second largest heathen city of the world, but its population is placed at 1,200,000 as compared to New York's 1,372,000 non-church goers.

The Herald further points out that in 1845 the evangelical church membership was 13.5 per cent of the people, while in 1890 this had dwindled to 8.8. And this condition seems to be general. In San Francisco the Protestant population is estimated at 5.8 per cent. In one ward in Brooklyn with a population of 23,000, there is no Protestant church. In South Dakota, the Protestants number 1 to 232; in Indian Territory 1 to 227; in Alaska 1 to 3,461.

It would, of course, be unjust to conclude that all who are not registered in a church record, are agnostics. There probably is an ever increasing number who refuse to subscribe to any of the antiquated creeds and ceremonies, and yet believe in and practice some of the fundamental principles of Christianity. Yet, there can be no doubt of it, infidelity is on the increase, fostered by the aggressive work of higher criticism and its numerous allies no less than by the ever increasing love for things belonging to this world, coupled with indifference to that which is of eternal value.

A careful study of the religious statistics, as gathered by the New York Independent of Jan. 4, shows that nearly the entire religious force has suffered a collapse. The average increase during the past two years is given as one per cent, while the population probably increased nearly two per cent. And, remarkably enough, most of the gain has been among the colored churches of the South, and with the small denominations.

The larger denominations—the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists, seem to have lost their vitality. The Methodists show a most marked spiritual decline. The following, which is from an article by a clergyman in the Christian Cynosure gives a fair idea of the situation:

"I quote from the Presbyterian report: 'The gain for the year ending April 1, 1899, was about 9,000, while for the year ending April 1, 1898, it was 40,000. Many reasons have been given for this check in the increase of members.'"

This is the report of the Congregationalists:

"The latest statistics are for the year 1898. They show that the denomination is making little progress temporally, and in some respects is retrograding. This is quite apparent when we see that the increase was but three-tenths of one per cent, that the Christian Endeavorers had fallen off 13,000 and their benevolent contributions \$552,405—about thirty-three per cent."

Of the Baptists the writer in the Cynosure says:

"Of the Baptists, the growth of the whole is about equal to that of the population, but as the colored Baptists of the South seem to have had a large increase in ministers and churches there is reason to think that the white Baptists of the North have but little more than held their own. Like their brethren, they have participated in the general decline. The United Brethren (Liberals) report a falling off of about seven per cent."

BULLER AGAIN RETREATING.

From the dispatches sent out from Boer sources, it appears that the latest effort of General Buller to reach Ladysmith has failed under circumstances very much similar to those attending the Spion Kop episode. The British captured a strategic point—a "kopje" this time instead of a "kop"—and held it for some time, and then retreated.

It is explained that perhaps his advance was merely a stroke of strategy by which the attention of the enemy was to be averted from the central attack by Lord Roberts, which is expected in the near future, but this theory has very little to support it. It appears more probable that after the fruitless attempt to turn the Boer right flank at Spion Kop, an effort was made at the left flank, but with no more success. The precarious situation of General Buller and his truly heroic force justifies the supposition that General Buller is straining every nerve to come to his relief.

The repeated repulses of an attacking army is really no surprise, although in the present war the British nation feels keenly the humiliation of the situation. A soldier in an entrenchment, even if armed only with the obsolete Springfield rifle, is supposed to be equal

to three assailants. With magazine rifles and smokeless powder the effectiveness is supposed to be increased three times. That is to say, a soldier thus equipped is thought to be able to hold his position against nine assailants. But with the terrain selected by the Boers for the campaign, the effectiveness of the defense is still more increased. In fact some of the Boer positions are about as impregnable as Gibraltar itself.

It must be remembered that the British have been as successful in holding Ladysmith against the Boer assaults, as the latter have been in holding the positions they have selected. The British have also successfully defended Kimberley and Mafeking with small garrisons, all of which demonstrates the superiority of the science of defense. The difficulty which General Buller has to overcome is not only to cut a way through to the beleaguered city. He does not want to enter Ladysmith only to be enclosed there and cut off from the outside world. His aim is to drive the Boers back from the entire region.

Further news from Natal will be looked for within the next few days. Will Ladysmith be able to hold out any longer? Will the advance of Lord Roberts be crowned with better success than that which has been recorded so far? What effect will the new disappointments have upon the Afrikaners throughout Cape Colony? And in Europe? All these questions a near future must answer.

THE CANAL.

The Nicaragua canal bill introduced in the House by Representative Sulzer of New York provides for the immediate construction of that waterway by the United States, regardless of the pending so-called Hay-Pauncefote treaty. It places the ownership and the exclusive control of the canal in the hands of our government, and declares the Clayton-Bulwer treaty null and void.

This comes pretty near expressing the general sentiment in this country. The American people believe the canal across the isthmus is a necessity for the special advantage of the United States. They are willing to build it on that account. When once built, the ditch will naturally be opened to the traffic of all nations engaged in peaceful trade, but the American people are not willing to invest millions in that enterprise with the understanding that other powers are to dictate terms as to the opening or closing of the canal. They want to reserve the right to say that no enemies of the United States shall be allowed to utilize that short route between the oceans, to the disadvantage of this country. They want to avoid the canal situation which seems to be a bone of never-ending contention between Great Britain and France. And the only way of preventing a similar difficulty on this side is to place the exclusive control of the Nicaragua canal in the hands of Uncle Sam. That would insure the equal treatment of all nations in times of peace, and prevent much trouble in times of war.

The contention is being made that a neutral canal would be of more service to the United States than one which this country would have to defend during a possible war. But if this is true, there should be no objection on the part of this country to the construction of the ditch by the joint efforts of all the maritime powers. Why should the United States be anxious to build singlehanded a waterway which, when completed, would be of no more value to this country than to Great Britain or France? The very fact that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been considered an obstacle to the enterprise proves the importance attached to it. As late as at the peace conference at The Hague the Monroe doctrine was by the American delegates declared to be in force. That doctrine is sure to be applied again in questions that may come up on account of the contemplated canal. This country will not give up its claim to exclusive jurisdiction over exclusively American affairs.

THE POSITION OF THE "NEWS."

It has been stated by some unscrupulous persons, notably one who has been the chief mover in the strife over compulsory vaccination, that the Deseret News has affirmed that there have been no cases of smallpox in this city. It is noticeable that during the conflict that has occurred, the advocates of force and despotism have had little to say by way of argument, but a great deal in misrepresentation of those who stood up against their attempted tyranny.

The Deseret News has not denied the existence of smallpox in this city. Possibly there have been several cases brought here from a distance. But that a number of alleged cases of that disease are something essentially different, is believed not only by a large number of private individuals, but also by members of the medical profession who do not wish to raise the question under present circumstances. We believe that the matter has been greatly exaggerated, and that business in this city has been materially injured without sense or reason.

It is a fact that cannot be fairly denied, that there are many more cases of sickness in this city from vaccination than from smallpox. This, perhaps, will be construed by the person who has made up his mind that compulsory vaccination shall be established in this State, into opposition on the part of this paper to vaccination in any case. That will be just as untrue as other statements that have emanated from the same source. We have simply stated facts, and they may be construed as our readers may determine.

Another thing which has been demonstrated is, that smallpox may and does frequently follow "successful vaccination." It has done so all over the world. Those who choose to shut their eyes to actual occurrence, and to discredit the testimonies of advanced physicians and scientists of world-wide repute, may rest and rejoice in their skepticism. But rational and broad-minded folks who are willing to investigate, will obtain light and information that will perhaps modify, if it does not entirely change their views on this im-

portant subject, which affects the welfare of all civilized humanity.

We hope and believe that some at least of our experienced and talented physicians in this city, many of whom are estimable gentlemen, will take the pains to inquire into the other side of the vaccination question, from that in which they were trained when receiving their medical education. They will be surprised at the evidences to be obtained in opposition to orthodox notions and statistics on this subject.

The Deseret News has contended for nothing more than that personal liberty which is guaranteed to every citizen, as to his personal protection and that of his children. It has stood for the enforcement of all rational regulations for the preservation of the public health, and it has resisted nothing that has the sanction of law and of common sense. It is accustomed to being misrepresented, but will not on that account refrain from expressing its honest convictions or from maintaining the rights and liberties of the people.

Gen. Buller seems to be able to cross the Tugela at will.

Up to the present the public seems to be aware of the whereabouts of Gen. White.

France wants Egypt; but the want is about as far as the Frenchmen dare to risk nowadays.

In the dispute over recognition of Filipino independence, Admiral Dewey seems to hold both kops and kopjes.

The scene in the national House Friday evening may have been very entertaining, but it was not a thing to be proud of.

Kentucky politicians do not seem to be convinced yet that there is a middle-of-the-road. Each side claims full up to the center.

Another attempted comparison between the Boers and the Filipino rebels has failed. The Filipinos demonstrated remarkable ability as runners.

"The Same Old Malignity" forms a fitting headline to a tirade in a morning contemporary, which is so troubled with a chronic anti-"Mormon" eruption about the mouth. The malady is evidently incurable.

Boer sympathizers got the American Senate into a trap today, and passed a resolution of sympathy for the South African republics. The successful party was magnanimous, however, and allowed a vote of reconsideration. But the joke went, particularly on those legislators who were late arrivals.

There is a malady known to advanced medical students as "epilepsy of the epiglottis." The sufferer endeavors to say something but only foams at the mouth. Readers of a morning contemporary which makes a specialty of raving at the "News," will recognize the symptoms and know what to call the disease.

By nailing a falsehood the story that he promised to Aguinaldo independence for the Filipinos, Admiral Dewey makes a scathing arraignment of every Congressman who has, set forth the story as true. It is "dollars to doughnuts" though, that not one of them will face the grim old hero out on the question.

One member of Congress says the granting of the pension requests now before the national legislature would bankrupt the national government, while another member says that its beneficial effect would be in saving the country from a Wall street panic. In both cases the taxpayer finds his position unchanged.

A local paper that has ever been the apologist for social evils, speaks of "vices which the world has been fighting for three thousand years." Nonsense. "The world" has been all along supporting them. Religion has denounced them. Social scientists have sought to suppress or restrict them. But "the world," with the flesh and the devil, has fostered them, and the paper that thus condones them has advocated them as a counteracting influence to "Mormonism." It is "of the world" that casts off restraint and revels in the world's vices.

About the most venomous slander uttered against the Latter-day Saints is this, that they "seem to take a fiendish pleasure in inculcating bitterness and hate upon the rising generation of Utah against the inhabitants of the United States." If there is anything conspicuous in the history of the Saints, if ever there was one entitled to its generous, broadminded inhabitants. The Saints believe in the world mission of this nation, and look upon the country as blessed by God above all others. But they do refuse to regard a few narrow-minded, bigoted, unscrupulous demagogues, no matter in what garb they appear, ecclesiastical or political, as the American people, or the interpreters of American sentiment.

Some people seem to have very indistinct ideas of what "persecution" is. They contend that there has been no religious "persecution" in this country. From their point of view John the Baptist was no martyr, because undoubtedly he was a crime less majestic; the early Christian martyrs were not the victims of persecution, for they refused to obey certain decrees of the emperors; Huss was no martyr, only an obstinate law-breaker, who defended the truth as he saw it. What is persecution and what constitutes a martyr? If ever there was one entitled to that distinction, our Prophet is, and the faithfulness with which he laid down his life for the truth given to him, will give a blessing to his native land, and to the world.

"TREASON" IN THE SENATE.

Evening Wisconsin.

Richard Franklin Pettigrew, of South Dakota, merits the sharpest epithets that can be applied to an individual. He endeavored to force into the records of the Senate yesterday, a petition from that embroiling, treacherous, robber and bribe taker, Aguinaldo. Pettigrew was not sustained by a single senator. Senator Spooner pitifully declared that a man who was known as an open enemy of the United States government

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