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RELIGION AND SCIENCE.

An eastern paper answering a question regarding the final disposition of the animals in Noah's ark, says they increased, multiplied and "went west" like the people who accompanied them in that floating voyage, only the animals went first. The reservation is made, however, that the correctness of the answer depends upon the correctness of the "biblical story," and it shows that scientists now declare that America and not Asia is the oldest part of the world. It ought to be a matter of gratification to the mind which yearns for information that science in this respect agrees with true religion; in fact, we may say that they never disagree; that which is called science is sometimes a misnomer, and it is then and only then that it collides with revealed or demonstrated truth.

Scientific men are sometimes dazzled by their own brightness and thus led astray. They have been the agents through which so much enlightenment and entertainment of mankind have been transmitted from the great Source of all knowledge, that they at times may by the force of habit rely upon hasty conclusions erroneously based and give them out to the world as new discoveries in the line of information. When this occurs and the truth comes at last, showing the incorrectness of such conclusions, it has the effect of causing the judicious to grieve and the less thoughtful to draw further away from science as a system. This is also wrong. Science is demonstrated or demonstrable truth; it is the unfolding of occulted things, the development of imperfect conditions, the explanation of intricate and previously unknown or wrongly known problems. True religion is the same, and whatsoever conflicts with either is wrong. But all things that are pronounced science by scientific men and all things pronounced religion by religious men are not of necessity what they are proclaimed as being for reasons already stated.

Religious sources conveyed the information to the world and the actual knowledge to those who would receive it many years ago that the beginning of man, the beginning of all things attendant upon and accompanying man here below was on American soil. It is consequently fair to assume that the ark did not sail from either a European, an Asiatic or an African point but from one upon this continent, and with the prevailing western winds was swept across the mighty expanse of waters encou-tering no land until it reached Mount Ararat, a lofty eminence in Armenia, western Asia. Here its voyage and its mission ended at the same time, and here the human beings

and the animals—all native Americans—disembarked, going thence wherever their instructions or their inclinations led them. We say this is not recent information to those who seek to learn from the sources most likely to afford it, and the fact that scientific men now "claim" that such is the case does but show that in this instance they might have been much further ahead had they relied less upon the ruts in which they have seen fit to confine themselves and reached out above and beyond the sphere in which they have moved.

We know of men of letters, of knowledge, of wisdom, of science, who are also men of spiritual tendencies and who seek to know that which it is proper for them to know from the sources where their questions are most readily and satisfactorily answered. They realize that human attainments are at the best but the gaining of a point more or less advanced along a road which leads to infinity, and that to depend upon themselves or their co-laborers for all that they acquire is to be ofttimes in error and always in doubt. To these men the announcement of the "claim" of their fellows elsewhere as to the archaeology of our and the other species of the world and the world itself will sound some what strangely; it will sound to them as though those learned men had only just seen fit to declare that the Atlantic ocean could be crossed in less than a week's time, or had given utterance to any other truism long since known.

ANNEXATION PUT OFF.

But four working days remain of the present Congress, and it is a certainty that much that is now before it in one form or another will either be permitted to quietly slumber with no awakening promised or be hastily strangled. Nothing of a conspicuous character seems more sure of such a present outcome than the annexation project.

Some of the opponents of annexation occupy that ground for the same reason that a certain exceedingly cautious element in every nation oppose everything to which there is even a shadow of opposition—through fear of a conflict with somebody else; others look at the expense involved as an immediate and continuing consideration and base their objections on that; others still want no entangling alliances; while the great majority of opponents, we believe, see in it nothing but a speculation pure and simple in which one man or at the best a few men would realize the benefits. This is a phase of the subject well worth considering; it largely outweighs all the other grounds of opposition, and whether true or false should receive adequate attention before definite action is taken.

Many of the great papers of the country are unconditionally against annexation, and it is not flattery to say that their objections have been weighed in the balance and found to count, for the present at least. One of them heads an article on this subject, "A fine thing for Claus," and then proceeds to show that Mr. Spreckles owns about 75 per cent of

all the Hawaiian land fit for the cultivation of sugar and rice, some of which is worked by himself and the rest rented out to other planters. Why, it asks, should the United States annex these islands, spend millions on a cable, build a few battle ships and pay a sugar subsidy to the tune of \$4,000,000 annually all for the benefit of "this Hawaiianized German who never did a thing in this country except to extract some of the people's wealth?" A pertinent question, whether founded in fact or error, yet cut a portion of the case is developed by it.

There are several reasons why the United States should own the Sandwich islands in fee simple, the chief of which is that history, ancient and recent, has abundantly shown that the islanders cannot maintain themselves and keep up with the Christianity, civilization and progress of the age in which we find ourselves, and as such are bound to become the dependency in one form or another of one or more of the great powers sooner or later. The United States has the best and least assailable right not only because of contiguity, but because of having more people and greater interests there than any other nation and because of having done three-fourths of the improving and civilizing, placing the people on the way to eventual enlightenment and self-support as the better races elsewhere are supported. Then the islands are a strategic point viewed either in a civil or a military sense; as coaling headquarters for steamers, as points of general supply, or as a naval station for auxiliary work in case of war, from either point of view they are valuable not to say indispensable adjuncts. Perhaps the greatest and most pressing reason of all is that if we do not accept the offer of the islands Great Britain will be made the tender, and Britannia would as soon rule the waves which lash the shores of the little insular nation as any others. Of course we could not stand that sort of thing; even at the risk of ridicule if nothing more serious for acting the part of the dog in the manger, we could not permit her majesty's flag to float unchallenged over Hawaiian soil, and thus would likely arise an entanglement much more serious and consequential than if Uncle Sam took possession and let John Bull do the growling. It has been observed all along the line of history that Britain is much more easily kept out than driven out.

As to the cable, we must have that before long anyway. We should not only be in immediate telegraphic communication with Honolulu but with Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Yokohama, Hong Kong and other great commercial ports of the inter- and trans-Pacific regions. So that objection may as well be rubbed off the blackboard. We are and for some years have been in the business of building battle ships, so there is no potency in the second count. Lastly, the sugar bounty, or "subsidy" if that term be preferred, is a matter within the control of Congress, and if it appears that Spreckles or any other man or number of men are going to be unduly profited by the operation of any of our laws, we must repeal or change