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Charles W. Penrose, Editor
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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 21, 1900.

NO DISCREPANCY.

We have received a letter of inquiry from friends in the north from which the following is an extract, and we are requested to reply through the "News."

"A dispute has arisen as to the correct translation of the Sermon on the Mount as found in the Book of Mormon and the so-called inspired translation of the Bible by the Prophet Joseph Smith as published at Plano, Illinois. In the Book of Mormon the verses, 'If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; also, if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee,' are not found, whereas in the above mentioned translation they are quoted in full the same as found in King James's translation. Now, the question is, which is the correct translation? and the one that we as a Church should be guided by?"

There seems to be a disposition among some of our people to raise questions over trivial matters, and to discover discrepancies that do not really exist. In the present instance, we can see no occasion for any dispute. The Book of Mormon gives an account of a discourse delivered by Jesus Christ to the Nephites, on this continent, after His resurrection from the dead. The New Testament gives a report of His Sermon on the Mount preached to His disciples, while He was yet in mortality, in Palestine, which is on the Eastern Hemisphere. Why there should be a difference of opinion as to the correctness of the translation of the former because it, in some few respects, differs from the translation of the latter, is one of those things that reason, aided by common sense, finds it very difficult to discover.

It is true that the speaker was the same on both occasions, and that His theme was the same at the two different times and places. But does it follow that He, of necessity, made His address identical in every particular? Could He not add to or omit from His sermon in Palestine, anything He pleased, when He delivered His discourse on this hemisphere? Our friends who have been discussing this simple matter, seem to think that the Book of Mormon gives a translation of the words spoken by the Savior at the former place and occasion, while as a matter of fact, it is a translation of His remarks at another time and a different place.

Then, the report of the latter address may not be full and complete. Mormon, who wrote and abridged the account of the visit of the Savior to the Nephites, remarked concerning it: "And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people." In reading the record, which has come down to us under the title of the Book of Mormon, it should always be remembered that it is an "abridgement" of other records. If that is not kept in mind a proper understanding concerning the work will not be obtained.

The translation of the Bible, referred to by our correspondents, has not been adopted by this Church as authoritative. It is understood that the Prophet Joseph intended before its publication to subject the manuscript to an entire examination, for such revision as might be deemed necessary. Be that as it may, the work has not been published under the auspices of this Church and is, therefore, not held out as a guide. For the present, the version of the scriptures commonly known as King James' translation is used, and the living oracles are the exponents of the written word.

In the letter of inquiry, it is further stated that the two verses quoted from the New Testament are "not in harmony with the promise, 'He that overcometh shall inherit all things.' Here again we see no reason for rational controversy. Indeed, it appears to us that the two scriptures are in perfect harmony. In casting away from us anything that is evil in our nature, we gain a victory which exalts and qualifies us for the conqueror's crown.

Of course no sane person would imagine, for a moment, that the instruction of the Savior concerning the eye and the hand is to be understood literally. It signifies the plucking out of everything that is evil and casting it from us, no matter how dear it may be to us, or how thoroughly a part of our fallen nature. Cutting off a hand, or pulling out an eye, would make no improvement either of the body or of the spirit.

Figuratively, the language is most expressive, just like the teaching of the same great Master in the same discourse about the mote and the beam. As well might we contend that Christ is a literal "door" or grapevine, and that when he said "take, eat, this is my body," He meant they were to eat His literal flesh. It is astounding that anyone possessed of sound reason would take the evidently figurative expressions, often used in literal language, and apply them in a literal sense.

We are of the opinion that there is too much debate over simple things. We will not call it "contention," although perhaps the term is often applicable in such cases, over unimportant questions and such as could be readily settled by the use of

investigation. A desire to arrive at the truth invites the influence of the spirit of truth. A disposition to establish one's own opinion, so as to prevail in a discussion, opens the way for the opposite influence. The former brings light, the latter darkness. Do not waste time over small technicalities, while there are great principles to understand and important labors to perform.

BOERS CONCENTRATING.

The dispatches from South Africa now indicate that the Boers are withdrawing from all the positions they have held so far, evidently for the purpose of concentrating somewhere. Gen. Cronje has led a most skilful retreat, and there is some reason to believe that, at this writing, he is still successfully eluding his pursuers.

What the plan of the Boers is, does not as yet appear very clearly, but probably an effort will be made to make a stand at or near Bloemfontein, and when the British have captured that place, the Boer forces will be obliged to fall back upon the river Vaal. There they should be able to make a determined stand. They should be in a position to defend every foot of ground leading to Johannesburg and Pretoria, and undoubtedly the British forces that are now advancing with but little difficulty, will before long have to do some heavy fighting.

There is some doubt as to whether the Boer army can be held together after the defeats it is now suffering. Some suppose that it will scatter, when it is required to engage in regular warfare. That, however, remains to be seen. The Boers have already had the benefit of training in a hard campaign of several months duration, and they may be regarded as seasoned troops by this time.

But whatever may be the further power of resistance of the two little African republics, if Great Britain is left alone, she will come out of the crisis stronger than ever and with military glory added to her record. There is evident uneasiness in Russia on that account. A demand is being made on the government to break the fetters Great Britain has forged for the bear, in the numerous treaties existing. But whether it will be any more than a clamor is doubtful at present. The British government, however, while conducting the campaign is closely watching every move of the great bear in Asia.

MEDICAL CONGRESS.

About a year ago a movement was begun in Chicago for some concerted medical effort against consumption, and a congress was called to be held in that city during the latter part of the present month, for the purpose of discussing the matter.

A similar congress held in May last in Berlin was attended by prominent physicians from all civilized countries. Some interesting facts were brought out during the debates. It was shown by statistics, for instance, that consumption is more prevalent in cities than in country districts, and that London, Naples and Buenos Ayres had the lowest mortality as a result of this disease, while Vienna, Budapest, Moscow and St. Petersburg had the highest. It was proved that cattle and hogs are suffering from the disease, and that infected milk and meat are liable to transfer it to human beings, and also that those who lead a sedentary life and whose lungs are irritated by dust are more in danger of becoming consumptive than others of different habits.

As to remedies, it was suggested that sunlight is one great agent to destroy the germs of disease. The necessity for strict attention to sanitary rules and regulations in factories and places where many people are working, was emphasized, and the establishment of sanitariums was recommended, where patients can get the benefit of pure air, sunlight, rest and abundance of good, nourishing food. Any other remedies do not seem to be considered reliable.

Consumption is one of the most destructive diseases which medical skill has to battle with, and very seldom is the outcome satisfactory, except when the sickness is attacked in its initial stages. We believe both pulmonary troubles and cancer are on the increase. The latter trouble especially seems to be gaining ground with fearful rapidity. The Lancet, some time ago, asserted that, "Perfectly accurate figures show that the registered mortality of that malignant disease in England and Wales has at least doubled within the last fifty years," and that "among males, indeed, there has been an uninterrupted increase from 19.5 per million to 55.1 per million in the latter years of the last century."

This—presuming the figures quoted to be correct—is a tremendous increase of one particular disease. Medical congresses would do well to investigate the causes, as far as they can be found. And it would be exceedingly interesting to notice the results, in case eminent specialists should endeavor to ascertain without partiality, whether any connection can be traced between vaccination and the growing tendency to consumption, cancer, and other diseases threatening to become prevalent. A medical congress ought to be able to shed much light on that question.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

The famine in India, according to all accounts, has assumed vast proportions. It is now estimated that in British territory 22,000,000 persons are suffering, and that a still greater number is affected in the native states. And if the winter rain fails, the crop on unirrigated lands will be lost, and the distress will spread to other districts.

The history of the country is full of records of such visitations. Between 1862 and 1864, five million lives were lost by famines. Between 1869 and 1879, the loss by hunger is estimated at twelve million lives. In 1874 the scarcity of food was not confined to a few districts, but was common to all British India. At that time the government established "camps" with 50,000 people in each, living on half rations, scantily clad and badly sheltered, and consequently carried away with disease.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press, speaking of the present famine in India, takes

the country of that periodical occurrence by ridding it of its religion. "Abolish," says that paper, "child marriage, with its inevitable consequences in the physical degeneracy of the race; abolish the superstitious fear of whole varieties of food, forbidden by Hindu law; abolish caste . . . in short, substitute the usages of Christianity for those of an antiquated superstition, and the physical redemption of India would follow its religious transformation."

To abolish caste and compel the people to eat food prohibited by their sacred records can, however, not be done with the sanction of true Christianity, which is based on the law of liberty. It cannot be accomplished by the commonly accepted religion of "Christian" countries, for all through Christendom, "caste" exists as badly as in India, and it seems to be growing on us. So if that is the only remedy, India must continue to suffer periodically from famine. Besides, the substitution of "Christianity" for Brahminism and Buddhism would mean the general introduction of the saloon and kindred institutions, as is in evidence in all oriental cities where "Christian" civilization has obtained a foothold, and that would, perhaps, be equivalent to the decimation of the Indian population by intemperance and other vices from which they now are entirely free. Even if "child marriage" is an objectionable Indian institution, would it be any gain to prohibit it in favor of certain practices not unknown in the "Christian Occident?"

Indian famines are always caused by the lack of rain, and the consequent failures of the crop. Just as in this country, floods have been charged to the sheep, so in India it has been supposed the goats are responsible for the drought. Flocks of from 15,000 to 20,000 goats will roam over a tract of land and in a short time denude it of all young trees and green shoots. Soon the forests die out, as would the population of a city, were all the children to be taken off. But when the forest is gone, the rainfall is short, and the consequences are a scanty harvest and hunger. A rational system of forestry, and proper attention to irrigation wherever that is possible would be the salvation of India. A religious persecution would but add to famine and pestilence another curse.

During the present British crisis it is not probable that the government can pay proper attention to the needs of the stricken Indian districts. The Indians are fatalists and submit to what they accept as the will of the Almighty, but when the pangs of hunger spur them on, they will become lawless. There is some danger in this, at a time when England's enemies are on the outlook for a chance to "get even" with that country for diplomatic victories won in the past.

A GOOD MAN GONE.

The announcement of the death of Richard Mackintosh, of this city, will cause profound grief in the hearts of a great many people in this western country. Although for some time past, it was evident to all his acquaintances that he was suffering from some serious complaint, which greatly wasted his stalwart and once vigorous frame, his cheerful announcement on inquiries as to his health that he was rapidly getting better, gave them an assurance which it appears was not warranted by the actual state of his case. Therefore, his unexpected demise has given a great shock to a host of friends, who are saddened at his departure. Richard Mackintosh was a good citizen, an enterprising man, and stood in the front rank of the mining magnates of this region. He was highly respected by all classes of the community and was a prominent figure in social as well as business circles. Since the death of his estimable partner in life, which occurred about five years ago, he has never seemed to have the same vigor and vivacity as he exhibited before. It was a severe blow to him, from which he seemed never fully to recover. He was also afflicted with a disorder of the stomach which, interfering with his digestion, gradually sapped the fountains of life. We shall all miss his kindly greeting and familiar face. His death is a loss to the State. We sympathize with his surviving daughter and relatives, and hope that the realization of the thought that he has gone to join his beloved wife, in a region where pain and death do not come, will soothe their sorrow in this great bereavement.

Russia truly has old scores to settle, but it should not be forgotten that these sometimes are expensive bills to pay. Horses and mules are yet invaluable in war. When they cannot be used for travel, the soup-pot still remains open. Gen. Cronje is said to have been given a time limit in which to capitulate. He will probably take a walk as well as the allowed time.

Near Cheyenne, yesterday, five men tried throwing out dynamite with hot water. There is little probability of even the two survivors trying the process again. A chain trust is being formed in the Eastern States. Its links need to be closely welded to stand the strain of competition that must be borne before the combine gets the upper hand.

Washington's birthday anniversary never saw a brighter year in the prospects of the Republic than this. Long reign the principles for which the Father of his Country and his compatriots toiled and triumphed.

There is talk of a war between Bulgaria and Serbia. If these little powers were to begin hitting at each other, Russia and Austria would be likely to take each by the collar and see that more peaceful behavior prevailed.

Another noted British officer has gone down before Boer marksmanship—Gen. Hector Macdonald, who succeeded Gen. Wauchope in command of the Highland brigade with Gen. Methuen's army. The present war is finding many shining marks.

Chief Commandant Ferrerera, who commanded the Free State forces around Kimberley, is among the killed; he was killed in an accident.

Gen. Ferrerera is the highest Free State officer who has yet lost his life in the war.

The announcement at Windsor, England, today, that Ladysmith had been relieved, is probably accurate; yet it may be a little premature, but the coming of the event is much more certain than was the probability of the town's fall when Spion Kop was fought.

Even South America is threatened with international war, and Peru, Bolivia and the Argentine have formed an alliance that bodes no good to Chile. The latter, however, is preparing to give a warm reception to any aggressor on her national rights.

One good effect noted in London as attending the Boer war is the diminution in the ranks of the unemployed. It is a sad comment on civilization that men must be set at killing each other in order to open avenues of employment for their fellow beings.

So far as reports come through British channels the retreat of Gen. Cronje in the Orange Free State bears a strong parallel to the retreat of Gen. Greene's army across the Carolinas in the American Revolution. It remains to be seen whether Cronje can complete the parallel of Greene's masterly exploit which made retirement a signal victory.

It is possible the next heavy fighting in South Africa will be in the mountains that border the Transvaal, in which event the Boer resistance probably will be greater than any they have shown yet, as they will be right at their own homes. Those who count on the present movements in the Orange Free State as being the decisive engagements of the war must include the crushing of the Boer army in order to hope for success of their plans.

AS TO TRUSTS.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. While the anti-trust conference in session at Chicago is pointing out the evils of trusts and gigantic monopolies, and trying to devise means for averting the dangers with which they threaten the public, a striking object lesson is presented at Pittsburgh in the Frick-Carnegie disagreement. * * * The principals of the great combination known as the Carnegie company disagreed about something, the exact nature of the disagreement not being known except to the parties themselves. Carnegie has objected to some proceeding of Frick's, or Frick doesn't approve of the Carnegie policy. Recently Carnegie was reported to have offered to sell out his interests in the company, but the sale was not made. Now the story runs that Frick is to be driven out of the company, but doesn't want to go on Carnegie's terms. There is talk of a resort to the courts in order to settle the terms of separation, but this is doubtful, for that would necessitate a showing of the company's affairs with possible revelations that would be more interesting to the public than agreeable to either party to the controversy.

San Francisco Chronicle. It is coming to be the consensus of opinion that the first step toward control must be publicity of corporate transactions. No one who has followed the testimony and the questioning in the investigations in progress by the industrial commission, will doubt that the commission expects to recommend enforced publicity. That will be but the first step. When we know what corporations are doing we shall know what to prevent and what to encourage. There are grave constitutional questions involved. There are many who do not believe control of consolidated capital possible without far-reaching constitutional amendment. The subject is a very deep one, going to the very roots of our modern civilization and requiring cool and clear-headed thought.

Baltimore Sun. There is no irreconcilable conflict between popular interests and industrial progress and development, unless our civilization is an absolute failure, and that we are not yet quite ready to admit. A way can and must be found to protect and preserve both classes of interests. That is one of the great problems that is set for solution this year, and there is ground for hope that the Chicago conference may furnish some of the factors essential to that end.

New York Mail and Express. If the "strenuous" gentlemen who open another anti-trust conference in Chicago today and sufficient comfort in mutual admiration to reward them for their labor, the country at large should rest content. There can be no serious general interest in a gathering of men whose minds are made up in advance of the fact, and who are not open to conviction.

Chicago Record. The practical problem for immediate consideration is that of effective public control over railroad rates. The entire question should be taken in hand by Congress, for State legislatures are powerless to deal with the subject effectively. Complete publicity is the first step toward a solution. Every shipper should be privileged to know accurately the rates according to any or all other shippers. Then penalties for discrimination between persons and places could be enforced. The interstate commerce commission should be made a court and given control over the rate situation, which that body requires to make it something more than the figure-head it is at present.

Chicago Times-Herald. An "anti"-conference of this character must necessarily be against everything that it is. It is anti everything and concedes no good in anything. The remedies it proposes for industrial ills are radical and revolutionary. It would destroy all proprietary rights and all individual initiative and enterprise. "Government ownership" of everything is the burden of its song. Several speakers even advocated the withdrawal of government protection from the products of inventive genius, declaring that "patent monopolies" should be destroyed.

Chicago Democrat. Those who are the best informed through study and experience believe that if the existing laws were honestly enforced the trusts could be controlled. This is the view taken by Former Attorney General Monette of Ohio, and he is the man who forced the Standard Oil company in his State to burn its books and to take refuge in bribery. There is no necessity for a radical change in the laws. There is no necessity for a constitutional amendment in order that trusts may be combated.

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