

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Origin of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

JOHN W. WATSON, Editor

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In that view the passing of polygamy is the passing of the "Mormon."

On that hypothesis he explains a number of expressions to which the Deseret News has been subjected, and he announces that the "News" in its criticism really confirms his personal views. He admits that, as we observed, "It is a mistake to think that the (Mormon) claim the right to practice plural marriage." Also that, "There is no passing of the Mormon unless it be to larger and more active spheres. He does not charge that the 'Mormons' have contracted polygamous marriages since Statehood has been obtained, but believes that it is 'a thing of the past.'"

We are pleased to note these admissions, and to acquit the gentleman of any intention to misrepresent the people here, or their views and purposes. Also to see that he recognizes the fact that the 'Mormons' do not lay claim to any rights and privileges outside of the law, or to take any position as citizens different from that of others in this Republic.

With the explanation given by the gentleman, many sentences in his able paper in the Arena appear in a different light, and we cheerfully credit him with a desire to disprove the "ignorance, intolerance and injustice," which he truly says are "displayed by many newspapers and public speakers" on these matters.

Our objection to his phrase, "The passing of the Mormon," was, we think, well founded. It is true that with the majority of the public, "Mormonism" and "polygamy" are regarded as synonymous terms. But it was that very error we desired to point out, and the use of the phrase which we criticized, in our opinion tended rather to confirm than dissipate it, whatever may have been the author's intention.

It seems difficult to view this matter in any other light, after reading the gentleman's remarks about the "exclusive" of the "Mormons" or their "separateness," which he said was "radically opposed to the genius of the New World," and his assertion that, "Polygamy is the one feature of Mormonism that today keeps them a peculiar people."

We want the truth to be made clear, that the "Mormon" citizen pretends to no rights under the law that are not common to every American citizen; that Utah is not "exclusive" in any such sense as is inferred; that her domain is open and free to all the world; that the decisions of the court of last resort settled the vexed question nationally, and the announcement of the President and the action of the Church have settled it ecclesiastically; but that the passing of polygamy, which may be considered a proper expression, does not signify by any means or in any sense, "the passing of the Mormon."

On that point, which is the gist of the question, we repeat the closing paragraph of our criticism of the article in the Arena:

"The passing of the 'Mormon' is a corresponding phrase to 'The death-knell of Mormonism,' which has been loudly sounded at frequent intervals for more than half a century. It is not passing away, but moving upward and onward. It is a living thing, and animates its followers without cessation. The passing of the 'Mormon' therefore, is not his disappearance, but his immediate recognition among the people of the nations as the representative of a vital religious force, and at the same time as a progressive and active factor in social and civil affairs, for the betterment of mankind and the promotion of all that tends to unify and elevate the race."

Mr. Merrill has our thanks for his courteous letter, and we assure him and all other vigorous writers on living questions, that we appreciate every effort that is made to put the "Mormon" question in a proper attitude before the reading public.

**THE DANISH WEST INDIES.**

A rumor is going round the press that negotiations are now pending between the governments of Germany and Denmark, for the transfer of the Danish West Indies to Germany in consideration of the return to Denmark of the northern part of Schleswig.

Doubts are expressed as to the authenticity of the report, for the reason that Germany is supposed to be adverse to the alienation of any of her European territory on any consideration; but it must be remembered that the Fatherland has a "Sonderjylland problem" on her hands, which has threatened to develop into a boycott of German export firms, as far as Denmark is concerned. An exchange of a liberal part of Schleswig for the islands would do much towards a settlement of that problem. It would measurably reconcile the Danish people to the conditions established by the war for the dukedom, and it would, on that account, be a good policy on the part of the imperial government.

Besides, Germany has lately exhibited almost feverish activity in colonization. She has been reaching out for points of strategic advantage in nearly all parts of the world. In pursuance of that policy the Danish West Indies would be of immensely greater benefit to the country than a piece of Schleswig, in which a population with Danish sympathies are constantly causing uneasiness. The rumor is, then, not intrinsically improbable. It may not be true, but it will be considered plausible until officially denied.

The question then becomes of interest whether the United States can afford to let such a transaction take place. England and France have their stations in the Caribbean sea, and it might not affect our present status to acquiesce in the establishment of a naval base by a third European power, for the Monroe doctrine. Secretary Root, the other day, stated that we would some day have to fight for that doctrine, or give it up. Was that a prophecy founded upon information not yet possessed by the general public?

That doctrine is an unfriendly act on the part of any European power to establish sovereignty over any part of the American continent. It is not to be supposed that Germany would willingly acknowledge the right of this country to prevent the imperial government from purchasing a lot of islands in American waters, when they are in the market. It would certainly be unpleasant to have to raise the question, "What is there of preventing fu-

ture complications, except by a peaceful purchase of the islands offered for sale? Even if the policy of acquiring outlying islands is not admitted to be the best, it will probably be deemed wiser to remove a cause of contention by peaceful means than to risk a war with its enormous loss of life and property.

**STATUS OF PORTO RICANS.**

A case has now been passed upon by a United States court as to the status of Porto Ricans, and as that is the first of the kind, it deserves attention. The judge, in his decision, took occasion to say that as soon as the treaty of peace had been ratified, the Constitution of the United States extended, ex proprio vigore, over the island and its people.

The case was one relating to a Porto Rican, Rafael Ortiz, who was arrested by the military authorities of the United States, tried, and found guilty of murder and carrying concealed weapons. He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life, and the prisoner was taken to the State prison at Stillwater, Minn.

A St. Paul lawyer then took the case in hand and appeared before Judge Loechn with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The facts were set forth and the contention was made that the prisoner had never been tried by a jury; that he was not informed of the nature of the accusation against him; was not confronted by witnesses, was not accorded compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his own behalf, and did not have assistance of counsel; and that the trial was conducted in a language not known by the accused. After conviction he was removed from his home and taken to a distant part of the United States by armed soldiers acting under orders from the war department at Washington.

On these grounds it was asserted that the prisoner had been deprived of his liberty without due process of law; and had been subjected to involuntary servitude in violation of the Constitution of the United States—which says that "no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war and public danger."

The judge ordered the writ to issue, and when the case came up he refused to release the petitioner on the ground that the crime had been committed before the treaty of peace had been ratified. But the opinion was given that when the island had been formally ceded to this country, it became an integral part of the United States; that the federal Constitution by its own force, and without act of Congress, immediately upon the ratification of the treaty, extended over the island and its people; and that the civil power then succeeded to the military.

The case now goes to the Supreme court, and the interesting question is whether Judge Loechn will be sustained in his decision.

**ZIONISM.**

Dr. Theodore Herzl, the leader of modern Zionism, at present in London, is said to be contemplating a trip to the United States. He has, possibly, less enthusiastic supporters in this country than in other countries, where his people are suffering under disabilities imposed upon them by bigotry and race hatred. But there are some who follow the movement, Zionism, with deep interest, and it is probable that a visit to this country of the enthusiastic Zionist might have the effect of stirring up more interest. It is to be taken for granted that he would give a lecture or two on the subject, and if so, much prejudice would be dispelled, as a better understanding of it were obtained. Whatever may be thought of the scheme to establish a state in Palestine, the energy and loyalty of Dr. Herzl to the cause must be admired by all.

A great many people see only impossibilities ahead of the Jews as a nation, and they seem to think that absorption by the gentiles among whom they live, is about the only alternative left for that people. No doubt many were of a similar opinion, when Zionism was originated among the Jews in the Babylonian captivity. Numbers remained in Babylon, and were completely lost among the inhabitants of that country. But there were enough brave men and women left, to face the perils of the desert, and to take up the work of rebuilding the city and the temple, though they had to wield the sword in one hand, while they were holding the trowel in the other.

The objections to Zionism today are as grave as they were then. Can the Sultan be prevailed upon to give his consent? Can Jews of the better class—the state builders—be expected to come to Palestine for the altruistic and patriotic purpose of breathing into it the breath of life? Can the Jews be expected to abandon their splendid stores, their banking institutions and synagogues in this country? Such are the questions propounded. To all of which it is a sufficient answer, that if the work were of men, it would not succeed. But a higher Power is moving it for the redemption of the race. Zionism must be viewed from the standpoint of the ruler of the universe, that which the ancient and modern Seers sometimes were permitted to occupy. From that point of view, what appears impossible in human estimation, may be in perfect accord with the daily occurrences of the world.

**AN EXPERT ON THE WAR.**

M. Jean de Bloch, the Russian military writer, whose name has become familiar to readers of current literature during the South African conflict, now has an article in the North American Review, in which he contends that Great Britain would better stop the war on the Boers.

He bases his position partly on the high moral ground that England, by refusing to arbitrate the dispute, is re-

grading and consequently giving up its position as a leader among civilized nations.

But this is not the only point the Russian writer makes. He boldly declares that, in his opinion, the chances for final British success are everything but bright. He believes that from the time the invaders approach the Vaal river, they will have to wage a guerrilla warfare under very adverse circumstances. Beyond the Vaal and in the territory of President Kruger the difficulties will increase. The army will be in constant danger of being cut off; guerrilla bands will harass the rear and the flanks; if the Boers fortify one or two places where the enemy cannot turn, the invaders will "find themselves in a no-throughfare." This is the view of the military expert, and he concludes by stating that the Boers are in a position to render the invasion "abortive," no matter how the fortunes of war may ebb and flow.

Mr. Bloch's opinions on this matter are highly interesting. His theories are in line with the defiant declarations of the Boer president, as reported. But are they correct? To one, not a military expert, it would seem probable that Lord Roberts now has so immense an army and so vast resources, that the final victory can be but a question of time. Even the moral support that was counted on in the expected sympathy of European governments has not been forthcoming. The Boers, as far as is known, are now absolutely alone with their faith in the Supreme Ruler, their love for independence, and their mountain fastnesses.

Probably M. de Bloch underestimates the determination of the British to establish the sovereignty of the empire there. They, too, are fighting for a principle—for the supposition that peace and stable conditions in that part of the world are impossible under any other flag than the Union Jack. It is, then, really principle against principle, with the odds apparently in favor of the one that is supported by the greatest force.

**LABOR IN NEW ZEALAND.**

New Zealand must be a happy country. Since January, 1895, there has been no labor strike of any kind. It is a country, we are told, where there are no "sweat-shops," no tyranny of capital, and no violent laborers.

The secret of this happy condition is thought to be found in the law making arbitration compulsory. Henry Demarest Lloyd in his "Wealth Against Commonwealth," says the war between capital and labor had become so bitter that the New Zealanders decided to make an experiment in more rational conditions. A law was therefore adopted, the essential points of which are that in labor disputes, the State must endeavor to conciliate the contending parties, and if this effort is without success, the disputants must arbitrate, the award being a punishable offense. It will be seen the law does not prevent disputes, by establishing Utopian conditions. It simply provides for the settlement of labor disputes in the proper courts, where all serious disputes in civilized countries certainly belong.

Mr. Lloyd, as quoted by the Literary Digest, explains how this law brought peace into the boot-making trade. As soon as the bill became a law the labor unions began to strengthen their organizations and register. Not long afterward, there was a meeting of the representatives of the boot-makers and their employers in Christchurch, and it was agreed that they would have no more strikes or lockouts in this industry, but would submit their disputes to the courts. In other words, they were preparing themselves to arbitrate gracefully, and to the courts they soon went.

One of the results of the law is said to be that capitalists do not form trusts, to stifle competition, but encourage the workmen to form unions and to bring their disputes into court. The latest effort is to amend the law, so that a majority of the employers and labor unions in any trade can control the wages in that trade.

It will not do to say the presidential ticket put up at Cincinnati today is in the field, when its backers expressly place it in the middle-of-the-road.

A London dispatch says Lord Salisbury's speech referring to the permission to bear arms in Ireland was not well timed. Nor was it well timed to Irish ears.

It is complained now that the iron market is in the hands of doubters. A little while ago it was claimed to be in the hands of trusts. Some folks are never satisfied.

The question as to where Uncle Sam's foreign beef market is, is partly answered in the fact that last year Great Britain received from the United States \$21,229 head of cattle.

In view of the numerous arrests of the wrong man as the Pelican Point murderer, it is to be hoped that in the Ohio suspect, now in custody, the Wright man has been caught at last.

The fund for the relief of the widows and orphans bereaved of their means of support by the awful catastrophe at Scotland, is still receiving additions and we hope to be able to announce before very long that it has reached the desired figure of \$100,000.

When a man commits wrong, though without evil intent, repentance is better than excuses. The former is sure to awaken genuine sympathy and to merit forgiveness, while the latter is but the voice of further weakness to be overcome.

The American administration in Cuba has been fairly good, and it is to be hoped that this part of the record will be continued, till the American officials who brought disgrace on their country by engaging in the Havana post-office frauds meet the justice of a safe judgment behind prison bars.

It is announced from Washington that the United States will not join in the proposition of the European powers to police the rivers of China to preserve order there. The claim is that Uncle Sam has enough and to spare of "policing" opportunities in his own domain.

Now the Boer women want to take

the field to resist the British invasion of the Transvaal. The guns of a civilized army trained knowingly on a corps of civilized women would be a new and an awful development of modern warfare, but it may come to that in the South African conflict, judging by hints that have come from Pretoria.

Says the Cleveland Plain Dealer:

"It seems to be true that the Utah mine horror has attracted considerably less attention than these great disasters usually call forth. In the world getting caloused in its regard for human life?"

Wars, lynchings and violence as a rule, have that effect. It was that condition which called for the Deluge.

Dr. Treves, the eminent English surgeon, reiterates his complaint of a "plague of women" in South Africa, but he makes it plain that the class of women he makes objection to are the "society set" who are not of the home-making or home-comforting kind such as are welcome as nurses to sick and wounded soldiers.

The Denver Stockman makes this pointed comment in the discussion on government reservoirs for the arid West: "If the government will spend a little more money to start a few irrigation enterprises in the West it will prove the best investment ever made. If these enterprises were energetically pushed, the population of the West could be doubled in five years. While the West is divided in opinion on the land leasing question, it is a unit in the demand that the flood waters be stored and the public lands be irrigated as far as possible."

**BOER SYMPATHY.**

Springfield Republican.

The expressed determination of Congress not to declare sympathy for the Boers in their struggle to perpetuate republican institutions in the great continent of Africa has a very interesting historical and political significance, since it is the first time in the history of this republic that Congress has assumed such an attitude. Viewed in a particular way, this attitude seems reasonable, since it seems to say, "We propose to mind our own business." On the other hand, things are not always what they seem, and probably four people in the United States believe that the attitude of the present Congress is due primarily to regret and penitence over the conduct of its predecessors for over 100 years.

New York Mail and Express.

In the present instance, we can all have our individual opinion of England's course in South Africa, and public meetings can be called denouncing or approving it. Such proceedings do not involve the government, nor so far as the expression of public feeling. It is a far different matter, however, when a United States Senator asks for an official expression of opinion, and endorses or commits the government to either side of the controversy. The proposition then assumes a world-wide importance, and is not to be favorably regarded except under stress of circumstances quite as repellant to humanity and to our own national welfare as was the case when we interfered with Spain's brutalities in her island possessions.

**ACCIDENTS IN PARIS.**

Superior Telegram.

The Paris exposition has been open nearly a month and still it is far from being a success. And it is far from the fraud of advertising more than it exhibits, the thing is alarming and disgusting visitors with disclosures of criminal negligence in architectural features. A defective bridge fell, killing ten and injuring a score; a scaffold gave way and four were dashed to death; and at every turn the visitor sees and endures Crapaud has counted on his gullibility and schemed to get all he can out of his victims with the least possible expenditure. This disclosure early in the season is likely to bring about a boycott more serious than the British threatened last winter.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Although preparations for the Paris Exposition have been in progress for years, like almost all other international fairs thus far held it was thrown open to the public before its buildings were ready for occupancy. The French have the reputation for knowing how to do things lastingly, but they seem to be as backward as any other nationality in the matter of completing arrangements for a big exposition. The Manchester, England, exposition of 1851, in fact, the only one ever held that was complete in all its details when the public were first admitted to its grounds. This state of unpreparedness at the Paris fair creates much confusion and considerable discomfort to visitors. Workmen are everywhere rushing structures into shape, and visitors are pouring into the grounds in immense multitudes. Under such conditions it would be marvelous were there no accidents to record. Visitors are being injured in the grounds in various ways, and in their haste, under rush orders, workmen grow reckless.

Kansas City Star.

Accidents continue to occur daily at the Paris exposition grounds. It has been, time out of mind, a fashion in the Eastern hemisphere, to discourse upon the slight and hurried police work, the reckless haste and so on of Americans. But it is shown to be a truth that "haste makes waste" in France quite as much as in the United States. Scaffolds, bridges and the like come tumbling down in the Paris exposition grounds with rather more precipitation than at the World's Fair, the Centennial or the Chicago World's Fair. The truth is the American reputation for slipshod methods and the European reputation for first class work are both untrue. The American hammer drives its nail in quite as sure a place as any other.

Chicago News.

Paris authorities have decided to test all the bridges at the exposition. This wise forethought is eminently commendable. One of the bridges was tested yesterday. It was not up to the requirement and a dozen lives were lost. It may be taken for granted that the remaining bridges are secure, because they would have collapsed by this time if they had not been. But the official test will give the officials a pleasant sense of having done their duty.

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