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## THE FACT OF THE MATTER.

It is not worth while to bandy words with a wrigler, who, when cornered for falsehood, twists and turns and pours forth volumes of sentences utterly irrelevant to the original question. In refutation of the statement from a notoriously mendacious source that the charge made by Elder B. H. Roberts of Thomas Kearns' strenuous endeavors to obtain Church support for his reelection, was contradicted by President Joseph F. Smith in his interview with the representative of the Pittsburgh Times, the Deseret News quoted the actual language of each of those gentlemen, showing their complete harmony and the impudent falsehood of the Kearns hired apologist. This has been followed by a tirade of impotent and abusive verbiage that does not touch the matter in dispute. We need not follow the matter further, but we notice it now to introduce the following letter from a prominent citizen, who understands the situation thoroughly, and is familiar with the pertinacious attempts of the ex-Senator to gain the "indulgence" which he now pretends to deprecate:

"To the Editor—The daily prevaricator now is claiming that it was not Senator Kearns who went to President Smith in the interest of the former, but that President Smith sought him. That claim will not be believed by anybody here, for everybody understands that President Smith despised the hypocrite and enemy to Utah who for four years drew the pay of United States Senator from this State. The claim is made for foreign consumption. There is abundant evidence that Kearns kept the trail hot in running to President Smith's office, seeking the Church leaders' influence, but always failing to get it. Hundreds of people here know this to be the fact. On one occasion, when he was not permitted to see President Smith, Kearns grew so anxious for that influence that at the close of a pitiful appeal for it to one of the Apostles he exclaimed excitedly: 'For God's sake, get Joseph F. to move.' Mr. Kearns is not quoting the reply, but it was sufficient to show him that the 'Mormon' leader was not his tool.

"AN OBSERVER."

## "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."

A great many people are strongly convinced that whenever a statement is boldly made and often repeated, it must be true. They forget that the empty barrel makes most noise, and that the defamer of character who has no facts whatever to work with, always relies on repetition and brazenness. They forget that sleight-of-hand tricks skillfully performed have so close resemblance to reality, as to deceive the very elect. And thus with noise and tricks some obtain a hearing, who, were they standing on their own merits, would be shunned as lepers. And many readily draw the conclusion that where there is a following, there must be something to follow.

This is not always so, however. Crowds can be gathered on the very smallest pretext, or no pretext at all, just as sheep follow a leader apparently without knowing why. President Anthony H. Lund very aptly illustrated this truth when, in an address in the Assembly hall during the recent conference, he related the anecdote of the fellow who experimented to see whether he could not gather a crowd around him in the street, without saying anything, and without doing anything out of the ordinary. To test this he placed himself in a public square and commenced to gaze at the upper part of a certain building. Soon someone came along and stopped, and looked first at the man and then at the building. Other persons then came, and when they saw these men eagerly scrutinizing the house, they, too, had to stop and see what they could see. And in a short time quite a crowd was gathered, all looking at that building. Then one asked another what they were looking at. He did not know. And further inquiry elicited the fact that nobody knew, but all were sure that something was the matter with that house, since so many were looking at it. And the crowd swelled until it had to be dispersed. There was much ado about absolutely nothing.

According to the common adage there is no smoke without some fire, but there certainly very often are rumors without any foundation. They grow, as they roll along, too, and frequently it is impossible to trace them to their origin. The writer of this well remembers how a rumor flew like wild fire in a certain city in Europe, many years ago, to the effect that a steamer had been lost at sea with all on board. The name of the ship was given, and the place where it had perished with its precious burden of crew and passengers, and there was grief in many a home, until the ship came to port, safe and sound. The rumor was traced to a most innocent remark concerning the weather, made by a man who happened to meet a

friend on the street. He observed that there was a strong gale blowing, and he hoped that no ship would get lost outside the harbor. Some passer-by overheard this and thought the statement had been made that a ship had perished just outside the harbor. He then met a friend and naturally asked if he had heard about the shipwreck. He had not. Further conversation led to the conclusion that, since such and such a boat was due, that must be the one. And in a short time thousands "knew" that a vessel had just perished absolutely nothing.

It is necessary, therefore, in times of commotion to use common sense and not go astray with a crowd that may be led by infamous schemers who understand how to take advantage of the peculiarities of human nature. In the large slaughter-houses there are, we understand, sheep trained to lead the other sheep to the place of death. They are kept and fed for the purpose. Some humans seem to have no higher aim in life than to lead others to moral destruction. They should be known, and their work should be clearly understood.

## COMMENCE AT HOME.

Somebody is sending out appeals for contributions to enable "workers in the mission fields of Japan to aid the sick and wounded of both armies," as well as the widows and children of soldiers killed in the war. They represent the situation as "appalling." They say that in a single Japanese town, Sendai, over 2,000 families are in need of the absolute necessities of life. Every charitable agency in Japan is said to be taxed to the utmost.

The conditions created by the terrible conflict in Asia no doubt calls for the exercise of charity, but until it is evident that the government is unequal to the task of caring for the sick and wounded, and widows and fatherless children, it is best not to insist upon the acceptance of charity.

When the war broke out, enthusiastic individuals by the hundreds hastened to Japan, to offer their services as nurses. The Japanese were too polite to directly decline their offer, but the doctors soon found that these foreigners, notwithstanding their good intentions, were useless in the hospitals, since they did not understand the directions given, nor the simplest requests by the sick, whom they were to take care of. It also developed that the Japanese themselves had a most efficient hospital service, something so perfect in that line, that all the occidental powers may go to Japan to learn how to take care of an army. With this experience it would seem necessary not to go to the trouble of collecting funds all over the world for the wounded and bereaved of Japan, until it is certain that such relief is needed there, more than among the sick and poor at home.

## REACHING OUT EASTWARD.

According to a recent correspondence of the Neue Freie Presse, of Vienna, Russia, notwithstanding her external troubles and internal convulsions, has not forgotten that the northern parts of Norway would be a most desirable acquisition to Russian territory. The article in the Vienna paper should be noted in connection with the agitation on the western slope of the Scandinavian peninsula, for ultimate dissolution of the union with Sweden; for, the charge was made several years ago that this agitation really was in the interest of Russia. Russian designs on Norway would also account for the strenuous attempts at the Russification of Finland, since any territory acquired by Russia in that quarter naturally would be added to that principality, and that would, of course, not suit Russian unless Finland were thoroughly Russified first.

The correspondent of the Neue Freie Presse points out that for many years Russian fishermen have settled in that part of Norway and bought up large tracts of land. In addition, the country has been flooded with pamphlets, which disclosed to the unsuspecting inhabitants that they had many wrongs which should be remedied. This produced a state of extreme discontent which was particularly manifested during any mass-meeting of the people, at which times secession was openly discussed, and it was even suggested that telegrams should be sent to St. Petersburg by way of protest against the Norwegian government. Men dressed as peddlers went from house to house and sought to increase the feeling of friendship for Russia, and that of discontent with Norway, these Russian agents in all cases laying all of the blame for the onerous conditions of life on the Norwegian government, and representing that such things did not exist in Russia.

Investigation by the government of Norway disclosed the fact that the Russians were constructing military roads towards the Atlantic and through a country where only Laps and reindeer roamed, who had no more use for such roads than had formerly the Indians of this country. It was evident that these lines of communication were not intended for the Laps.

Russia's fate in eastern Asia is about to be decided, if we mistake not. If the ships of Rojstvensky are destroyed, and the Russian army driven out of Manchuria, all Russian hopes of reaching an open harbor in China must be abandoned for a long time. The plans for obtaining a convenient Norwegian fjord for a naval station will then be taken up in earnest, provided the Russian empire is not then broken up and reconstructed on the American model of government, in which case there would be no danger of a Russian policy of expansion toward the Atlantic.

Events of importance are transpiring in this day and generation. Those who are wise will read and understand the "signs of the times."

## LEAVING THE NAVY.

Naval desertions certainly are more common in this country, than they ought to be. It is asserted that 600 men deserted Rear-Admiral Evans'

fleet at Pensacola. Rear-Admiral Converse states that last year 10.7 per cent of the enlisted force of 30,000 ran away. Among the seamen the desertions were 7.07 per cent, and 17.19 per cent among the engine room force. The heaviest percentage was among the mess men, nearly one-quarter of whom, or 23.15 per cent, left the service. The latter fact, the Bureau sought to explain on the ground that there were many foreigners among these messmen, and that the servant question is, after all, "one which is not wholly confined to the naval service."

The fact that many of the men in the navy are of foreign parentage does not, of course, explain this wholesale defection from the path of duty. Many of the most efficient and faithful sailors are found among the Johannesees, the Corahorgis, the Brenshans, etc., whose parents came to this country from foreign shores. Nor is the treatment they receive from superior officers entirely to blame, although this, in some instances, is said to be brutal. But the chief cause is to be found in the fact that militarism and democratic government are as detrimentally opposed as despotism and freedom. No true American will care to wear the shackles of serfdom in any form, and that is one reason why so many risk everything, for freedom. It is this love of freedom that threatens to disrupt every institution that cannot be maintained upon the basis of equality and fraternity. It is this sentiment that makes America distinctively American.

There is much talk of the necessity of enlarging the navy, and perhaps this must be done. But, if an efficient force is desired, this American objection to abject slavery must be taken into consideration. As a free citizen there is no better soldier, and no better sailor, than the American. But unless he feels that his rights as a citizen are respected, he soon becomes a rebel, or a deserter.

Trouble is brim among the Colorado bears.

Secretary Taft is still holding the lid in place.

The Czar isn't even a hero to his people, much less to his valet.

Municipal ownership is in the air. And it probably will stay there.

If it is not John Paul Jones' body possibly it is something equally good.

The long and short of the coming naval conflict is Rojstvensky and Togo.

Everything connected with the Standard Oil company seems to be in bad order.

Who cares for the outcome of the war in the Orient? The baseball score's the thing.

Nan Patterson's trial should shed much light on the vexed question, "Why Smith left home."

A Berlin scientist has discovered the antidote of laziness. There is still hope for the hobnob.

"Married life on an average lasts twenty-eight years," says the Chicago Journal. Not in Chicago.

You may break, you may scatter the automobile as you will, the agent of the gasoline will hang round it still.

Neptune himself must be anxious as to the outcome of the impending battle between the Russian and Japanese fleets.

The Japanese are giving Mukden a thorough cleaning up. But they first gave the Russians a thorough cleaning out.

California is sending luscious green strawberries to our market. They make the eyes as well as the mouth water.

Rider Haggard claims to see nothing but revolution and ruin in the United States. He must have the gift of second sight.

Perpetual motion is still a problem, but perpetual "knocking" has been discovered and developed by a set of intransigents in this town.

Mr. Carnegie is to bite off his next gift—to small colleges—in a twelve million dollar chunk. That is more than most men could "chaw."

Barrett Weddall says that Shakespeare was an imitator. But his imitations are better than the originals; in fact they are inimitable.

Six hundred men are reported to have deserted from Admiral Evans' fleet at Pensacola. This must make "Fighting Bob" feel fuller of fight than ever.

The chaplain of the Illinois house of representatives offered this prayer on the departure of the President on his hunting expedition:

"We invoke Thy choicest blessings upon our country at large. Bless the Chief Executive of this great nation personally and officially, and as he is soon to reach the happy grounds on which he has fixed his far away gaze, and where the wild beasts abound, whether these monsters of the mountains flee from him in fear or fly at him in fury, may he find himself protected by the shield of the Almighty so that upon his return to his home in peace and safety, like Thy servant David of old, he can testify to the people that 'The Lord delivered him out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, and let all the people praise Thee.' Amen and amen."

To an on-looker in Vienna it would seem that the wild beasts needed praying for.

## THE PHILIPPINES.

San Francisco Call.

The population is 2,554,425, and of this number almost 7,000,000 are more or less civilized; indeed, the non-Christian peoples are stated to be only 847,740. The Christians are practically all adherents of the Catholic church. The wild tribes are only about 5 per cent of the population. The Moros are Mohammedans. The Visayans form nearly one-half of the civilized population; next come the Tagalogs and third the Ilocanos. Almost all the inhabitants are native

born. Exclusive of the army there are only 3,350 Americans. Persons of mixed blood are reported to be only two-tenths of 1 per cent. The illiteracy is terrible; only one-fifth can both read and write, and only 15 per cent have received a superior education. This will rapidly be remedied, however, for now 37.5 per cent of the children of school age are attending school. The Pampangan is the most literate tribe, nearly half of the males being able to read and write.

## A MYSTERY OF THE SEA.

Boston Herald.  
The great naval battle which is expected to be decisive of many important conditions in the world's current affairs, and perhaps in its whole future, has not yet been fought. But it will be fought. The advance of the Russian fleet into the China sea makes any alternative seem impossible. Much expert speculation, and there is no expert, is ventured upon the strategy and tactics of the commanders of the two fleets. It is all so various that necessarily a large part of it will be discredited by the event.

## HE WANTED TO BE A CONSUL.

New York Tribune.  
An ambitious young man in Michigan wants a consulate somewhere in Italy. He gave reasons for asking for the place which are original and highly engaging. "You see," he explained at the state department, "a sister of mine married a Dago up in Detroit three or four years ago—Dago who paints or sculpts, or something of that sort. He took her to his town in Italy—the place where I want to go—soon after they were married. The folks at home have heard from various sources—not from Sis herself, because she never writes a word about it—that he isn't treating her on the square, neglects her, and all that. I want to be appointed to that Italian town so's I can be near Sis, and if I find that she's getting the worst of it, so's I can punch the nose off that Dago. I guess that's a pretty good reason, isn't it?"

## JEFFERSONIAN THEORIES.

Kansas City Star.  
The usual number of divergent interpretations of the theories of Jefferson were given at the various dinners last night. The radical and the conservative alike took pleasure in pointing out that he himself was the only original, simpson-pure Jeffersonian and he was ready to bolster up his case with quotations from the writings of the master. Thus the patron saint of Democracy was quoted yesterday in support of the most contradictory doctrines. Religious sectarians do the same thing. You can find a text of Scripture to bolster up almost any theory. The most divergent sects proclaim themselves to be firmly based on the impregnable rock of the Bible. Such literalism in things religious or sectarian is absurd. It is the spirit of Jesus or of Jefferson that counts and not texts wrested out of their connection or considered apart from the conditions of the times.

SALT LAKE THEATRE  
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GEO. D. PYPHER, MANAGER.  
CURTAIN 5:15

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The sensational scenic melodrama.

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A Story of Intense Heart Interest.

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Whose teeth are gone how much suffering that has meant to him, and be warned by his example.

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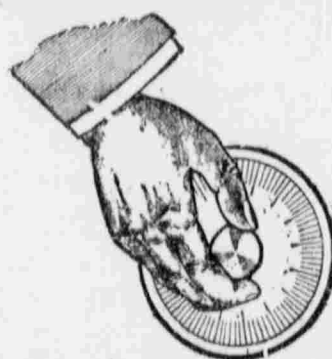
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Ladies' Swiss ribbed vests, worth 15c, for.....	10c	Men's fancy soft front shirts, elegant line from 65c to.....	\$2.00
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