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A "CHRISTIAN" ADVOCATE?

The Deseret News has paid some little attention to the utterances of a purported religious journal called the Northwestern Christian Advocate, because it has joined the warfare against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and has made a specialty of repeating with comments the current stories in which certain portions of the pulp and the press take so much delight. In its latest issue the Advocate makes a response to our replies to its misrepresentation. It is a singular jumble of irrelevant matters, but all directed against Senator Reed Smoot's retention in the United States Senate, because of his connection with the Church.

The "News" some time ago pointed out the fact that this was the aim and end of the (re)visions of the Advocate, and now that paper has plainly acknowledged its purpose. Its latest article on "Mormon" matters is headed "Why Reed Smoot Should Be Excluded From the Senate." Its alleged reasons for such an unconstitutional and unprecedented act, considering the circumstances, occupies nearly three double column pages, wide measure, of that paper.

What does it all amount to? Simply this: That a number of the leading Elvers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made certain pledges to the President of the United States as to the future conduct of individuals who had been accused of violating the anti-polygamy laws of Congress, and therefore Reed Smoot, who was not one of the signers of the document referred to and had nothing to do with it, must be held responsible for their acts, and be expelled from the seat in the United States Senate to which he was fairly elected by the votes of the representatives of the political party to which he belongs.

There is logic for you! There is the reasoning of a Christian weekly journal! There is the justice and common sense of an anti-"Mormon" religious magazine! That paper parades the oft-repeated extracts from the testimony given before the committee of the Senate by President Joseph F. Smith, concerning his family relations and the reasons why he preferred to risk the consequences of non-compliance with the letter of a State law than separate himself from his wives and children. It also copies brief extracts from the amnesty petition to President Harrison, and from the testimony of President Woodruff and others before the Master in Chancery in this city, in relation to the restoration of Church property, omitting all but such extracts as suited its purpose. But what have they to do with the question which purports to be the subject treated upon by the Advocate? Reed Smoot had nothing to do with President Joseph F. Smith's actions or admissions, nor with President Woodruff's statements and explanations, and therefore all these quotations are barren of effect upon Senator Reed Smoot's status.

Supposing that all the allegations and inferences and strained conclusions that the Advocate makes, as to the "violation of pledges" attributed to the gentleman named are justified by the facts, what has all that to do with the election of Reed Smoot by the Republicans of Utah and his fitness to retain his seat in the Senate? Why, the Advocate asserts that:

"Mr. Smoot, in his official relation is committing at the defiant violation of a law of Utah and of the solemn pledge given on their 'faith and honor' to the people of the United States by the hierarchy of the Mormon Church."

The Christian Advocate does not offer a syllable of evidence that "Mr. Smoot" is doing anything of the kind. It simply makes the charge and leaves it without proof. How would the editor of the Christian Advocate relish it, if he were accused of "committing" at the real violations of virtue, decency, honor and divine and human law that have occurred in the ministry of the church to which he belongs, and of other religious organizations which he supports in his paper?

Now, he need not sidestep and dodge and pretend that we are endeavoring to make comparisons between individuals, or between polygamy and adultery, or attempting to justify one by contrasting it to the other. That is not the point. But our Christian opponents are so apt to take that twist and turn that we mention it in this connection. The real point is, that if the editor of the Christian Advocate is not responsible for the actions of clergymen within the denominations with which he affiliates, then he cannot justly or rationally hold Reed Smoot responsible for anything that the Advocate has brought forward against his co-religionists.

As to the attempted response of the

Advocate to the remarks of the Deseret News. That paper has evidently permitted a deft hand which is poorly concealed under the cover of its columns, to cull from different editorials in the Deseret News remarks on subjects touched upon by the Advocate, and weave them together in a style that is easily recognizable, and with a cunning sophistry that stamps itself on all similar fabrications.

The Advocate some time ago echoed the senseless cry about "the Mormon hierarchy" having made an arrangement with certain land office officials, by which the "Mormons" were to obtain possession of the best lands in the Utah reservation, thrown open for settlement. The Advocate headed its nonsense, "Attempted Mormon Land Grab." We showed the fallacy of the story and also deprecated the mixing up by so-called Christian papers, preachers and women's societies, of the doctrines of the "Mormon" Church, the practice of polygamy and the political status of Senator Reed Smoot, and showed that he is "a well known monogamist, strictly temperate, an abstainer from every kind of stimulant, a moral and exemplary citizen, who stands for home and family and country, and against whom even his bitterest political enemies can advance nothing by way of personal reproach."

The Christian Advocate quotes part of this, ignores the exposure we made of its ridiculous repetition of the "land grab" story, which subsequent events have demonstrated to have been as stupid as it was false, but makes this reply:

"The demand for the exclusion of Mr. Smoot from the United States Senate is not made because he is a monogamist, or a total abstainer from every kind of stimulant and a moral and exemplary citizen."

Well, who said it was? The Deseret News did not intimate that the good "Christian" people who clamor for his exclusion based their demands on those grounds, but in spite of them. Our objection was to their mixing up of Reed Smoot with polygamy and "land grab" and other extraneous matters, and prejudging the public mind against him by associating him with affairs with which he had nothing to do. That is the trouble now with the Christian Advocate. But that paper argues that he should be excluded because of his association with high officials of the "Mormon" Church, who have "broken the pledge given officially to the nation, that if their people who were under arrest were granted amnesty, they would abstain from plural marriages and polygamous cohabitation," and it reaches this conclusion:

"While personally innocent, Mr. Smoot is officially a party to the violation of that pledge by his Church, and of the defiance of the law of Utah prohibiting polygamous practices as well as plural marriages."

That is to say, that an innocent person is to be adjudged guilty of acts alleged against persons with whom he is associated in religion. Observe the phrase that "Mr. Smoot is officially a party to the violation of that pledge." How does the Advocate make that out? He had nothing to do with the pledge in any shape or form. Such promise as was really made was tendered many years before his election, and before his official association with the Church leaders. That is more of Christian Advocate logic and justice.

Now as to the petition for amnesty which the Deseret News, out of charity for the editor of the Advocate, attributed to his lack of knowledge rather than to perversity of intent. We said, as he now quotes: "We are of the opinion that the writer of the article never read that petition, and therefore does not know that he misquotes it in both language and intent." The Advocate asserted and now repeats that:

"Congress admitted Utah to Statehood only because of the fact that the Mormon Church, through all of its heads and officials, had pledged its faith and honor that nevermore in the future shall polygamy be either a doctrine of faith or of practice."

It was because of that assertion that we expressed the opinion that the writer of it had not read the amnesty petition. He now quotes a part of it as proof that he had read it. This is one more bit of Christian Advocate reasoning. The fact that he has been furnished with a copy of the amnesty, a part of which he is able now to quote, proves that he had read it before he wrote the article to which we objected, does it? But let us see whether our suggestion was not well grounded. Here is what he cites as the actual language of the closing paragraph in the petition:

"As shepherds of a patient and suffering people we ask amnesty for them and pledge our faith and honor for their future."

This is signed by thirteen prominent leaders of the Church, several of whom are now deceased. Compare their language with that attributed to them by the Christian Advocate. Is there anything in their pledge about a "doctrine of faith"? Has not the Christian Advocate rung in something upon them which they never contemplated? And here is the gist of the matter: What had Reed Smoot to do with the signing of that amnesty, and wherein has he broken any pledge it contained, either in fact or by implication?

The Advocate states that the quotation to which the "News" refers did not purport to form the petition for amnesty. Oh yes it did! But it was given second-hand as coming from Senator Teller, and we expressed our doubts as to the accuracy of his purported remarks, and it is of no use for the Advocate to attempt to get around its contradictory statements.

That paper takes up the thoroughly thrashed-out subject of the understanding that was had when Utah entered the Union, that new plural marriages should not be entered into, but that men who had contracted them previous to the Manifesto of 1890 should not be interfered with as to those relations. That paper attempts to show that the very contrary was the understanding, and actually declares that "The reverse was the case. It was anticipated that that position would be taken and was provided against." Instead of citing some provision of the kind as evidence of its groundless assertion, it quotes some questions propounded to Presi-

dent Woodruff by counsel for the Church and his replies, when before the Master in Chancery. How the Advocate can twist them into a "provision" against the tolerance alluded to, remains for the writer of such reasoning to explain.

We have already referred the Advocate to the provision of the Enabling Act on this question, and the compliance therewith of the State Constitution, after the matter had been thoroughly debated. The only requirement by Congress of the State was "That polygamous or plural marriages shall be forever prohibited." That was all that was demanded of the State, for the reason that we have explained. The endeavors of some persons to extend the provision to other matters were intentionally frustrated. The Constitution of the State complied with the requirement of the Enabling Act, and was accepted by the President of the United States with a clear understanding of its extent and limitations.

But whatever some of our kind Christian friends would like to add to that provision, however they may seek to magnify and distort the pledge made by the State in its Constitution, or that certain Church authorities made on behalf of individuals who were under arrest or indictment as to their future conduct; this fact stands out clear and distinct, and should be fully understood, that Reed Smoot is not and has not been a party to any pledge or agreement of the kind intimated by the Christian Advocate, and has not broken any such pledge in any manner, shape or form, and therefore all the roundabout and sinuous exhibitions of poor logic and cheap invective, which the Advocate has been foolish enough to adopt and print as its own, have no bearing whatever to substantiate "Why Reed Smoot Should Be Excluded From The Senate."

In conclusion, we again remind the Christian Advocate and other religious objectors to a supposed mingling of Church and State on the part of the Latter-day Saints, that they are themselves guilty of that which they falsely accuse the "Mormons" of doing. It is none of their business whom the citizens of Utah elect to any public office of the State or of the Nation. And their demands as preachers, as churchmen, as religious associations, that the United States Senate shall do thus and so, particularly when it affects a State of the Union in which they do not reside, is impudent, presumptuous and a violation of the rule of complete separation of church and state affairs, which they hypocritically demand of other people who keep them separate and distinct both in theory and practice.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate would be in much better business in advocating its own tenets and doctrines, than by continually attacking a Church which it misunderstands, and a public officer of the United States, against whose personal character it cannot cast a single stone or hurl a stigma of individual reproach. Is that kind of Advocate entitled to be called Christian?

THE ENCORE NUISANCE.

We are pleased to see that leading public journals are declining against the too common practice of demanding the repetition of songs and instrumental music at public gatherings and entertainments. It has become a weary nuisance. This city is notorious for its prevalence. There are occasions when an encore is desirable, and proper, but the inordinate appetite for "more, more, more," needs checking, and the only way to do that effectively is to shut off responses. The Boston Herald has the following on this subject:

"The New York Evening Post, in its notice of the new theatrical production, says of the encore nuisance: 'Some of the other songs were forced to tire some encores by the usual organized, clique, which has become an abominable nuisance nowadays, and should be suppressed. Audiences should not be bored by listening over and over again to weird music which publishers are determined to make popular.' Too frequently encores are a nuisance, and in more than one instance, as our New York contemporary suggests, the managers as well as the public are responsible. In the English theater they are more reasonable. Pretty songs are encoered, but a single repetition of the last verse is usually all that is demanded, unless the song is particularly attractive. The encores, however, are not encouraged by the musical director to any such extent as is the case with far too many of the light pieces produced in our own theaters."

Don't rush to flannels too soon. There will be plenty of warm days yet.

To neither Russia nor Japan is the peace of Portsmouth peace of mind.

France insists that Morocco must come to time. Standard time of course.

Even if it should not be a lasting peace it will be infinitely better than no peace.

In American naval history the Oregon will always have a place along side the Constitution.

The Russians are resuming their festive ways. At Kishineff they have resumed killing of the Jews.

Professor Pickering says the volcanoes of the moon are the ancestors of those of Hawaii. Moonshine!

The President has run his blue pencil through Public Printer Palmer's copy, and for making such copy he has been "fired."

France proposes to go it alone in the matter of making Morocco come to time. Morocco's wild tribes will stand a good deal of drooping.

And now Dr. Salmon of the bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture has resigned. The President insists on stirring up the animals.

It is claimed that milliners can so trim hats as to overcome all the imperfections of a homely face. Probably by putting a heavy veil on the front.

The Lena will leave San Francisco Saturday for Russia. The interned

ships feel that they can now take a turn in the ocean without any danger of being captured.

Cannot those eminent engineers make up their minds whether a lock or a sea level canal is the better? Meanwhile work on the canal is at its customary standstill.

Baron Komura has been paying a visit to Harvard. How proud his alma mater must be of him, for he adds a distinguished name to her already long and distinguished list of graduates.

Not to be outdone by the President of the American republic, the German emperor now proposes to go down into the sea in a submarine boat. Which will be the first to go up in an airship?

The people of Indian Territory when they become a state, want it called "Requoyah." That suggests sequoia gigantea. But it must be remembered that Indian Territory is also big timber.

The younger Darwin maintains that both days and months are gradually shortening on this planet. The shortening of the days is easily traceable to the agitation of the unions for eight hours.

Ben Downing, "the pioneer mail carrier of Alaska," declares that he could reach the North Pole "if there was anything to gain." There is eternal fame to be gained. Is that nothing? But then no doubt Ben is "just talking."

The object of the New York legislative investigation in that state, into the insurance business, according to Chairman Armstrong, appears to be to let the dead past bury its dead and to act in the living present and future.

So Vienna is going to rename a street Theodore Roosevelt that the Portsmouth conference may be commemorated and the President's name perpetuated in history. In the latter case this makes assurance doubly sure.

Mr. Smalley reports to the London Times that among all the Republican candidates for the next presidency the name which has taken strongest hold on the general popular imagination is that of Secretary Taft. The squire probably confounds his own imagination with that of the general public.

The Kaiser thinks there is a genuine "yellow peril," and that Japan will follow up their military successes by closing the "open door" in the Orient and by their command of cheap labor drive Europe and America out of the far eastern market. Any opinion the Kaiser may express on any international subject will carry great weight. Possibly there may be such a peril but it does not seem very evident. And the very Japan receded from her first position at Portsmouth shows that she has no intention at present to court the hostility of the western powers. She is quite as shrewd as she is brave.

PAINTING A PICTURE FOR SCHWAB

Washington Star.
Villegas is painting, in Madrid, a picture for Mr. Charles M. Schwab of New York which has recently attracted the personal attention of the king of Spain. It is called "From Peace to War." It depicts the present era in America. Peace is seen stooping to salute a woman draped in the American flag, while figures typifying "Industry," "Trade," and "Agriculture" form a prominent part of the composition. It is a large canvas, and is reported to have cost Mr. Schwab \$40,000. It was Villegas who painted the sumptuous bridal procession of the Duke of Posauna, and the ceremony of the Duke of Posauna, and a considerable length of time to the coronation gallery, and displayed in the loan collection of that institution last

AFRICA'S RAILROADS.

From Africa.
With the completion of the giant bridge over the Victoria Falls the Cape to Cairo railway marks a further stage in its steady progress northward. No doubt it will give an idea of the majestic beauty of the Victoria Falls, on the Zambesi river, which when in flood are one mile and a quarter wide, the water precipitating itself through a gorge, from the 500 feet deep and 250 feet wide. The bridge is stretched a distance of 450 feet, and being 450 feet above the water it is the highest in the world. The railway will commence running over it in the beginning of July, and the members of the British Association who are going to attend the meetings in South Africa in August will thus be able to cross the bridge by rail. The Duke of Abercorn will perform the ceremony of opening the railway. Another great scheme is a proposed trans-African railway from Lar-es-Salam to Liberville, in the French Congo. The railway will thus pass through the heart of the Congo Free State.

KENTUCKY, OH, KENTUCKY!

Louisville Courier-Journal.
The more one thinks, the longer he dwells upon the York murder in Anderson county and the confession of the law officers of both Shelby and Anderson counties that they were unable to protect from mob violence a prisoner arrested on suspicion, the deeper must be the sense of shame and horror on the cheek and in the heart of every true Kentuckian.

The real culprit at the bar is the Mob Spirit, and if this is so life in such communities what part of Kentucky is safe against it?

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