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CHURCH LITERATURE.

The "News" has frequently warned against a class of literature the effect of which upon the impressionable mind cannot but be detrimental. To this class belongs many newspapers and magazines that cater to a depraved taste and therefore make their victims of the unsentimental, regardless of both truth and decency, and many novels written for mercenary purposes. We find in the improvement class for May a splendid article on the same subject, by President Joseph F. Smith, and we take the liberty of copying it and recommending it to the thoughtful consideration of all who may read it.

President Smith says:

"A very important consideration for the Latter-day Saints is to give thought to the reading matter that is introduced into their homes. There is a class of literature which gains admission into some of the homes of our people which may be said to be nothing less than vicious in its character. It is a cheap and sensational class which has a tendency to destroy a desire for reading that requires thought and consideration, and develops intellectuality. This class of literature may well be banished from our homes, and as it is the custom in the spring to clean house to make the surroundings of the home sweet and endurable, it would not be amiss to have a house cleaning in regard to reading matter. Newspapers of the cheap and sensational story style have altogether too many readers, and their elimination from the reading tables of the people would be a thing to be earnestly desired. Our own literature should have consideration instead, and from our numerous magazines many valuable and important truths might be learned of which at present it appears that many of the people are ignorant. We sometimes hear complaints that we have too much Church literature, and too many Church papers and magazines, but it is a fact that the papers and magazines taken aside from the Church publications are so numerous that if the latter were fewer in number, the reduction might only add to the number of outside publications subscribed for, many of which are really useless to those who read them. It is true that there are many valuable papers and magazines that are worth while reading, but these are often neglected for the sensational class, so that tons of cheap and trashy literature are yearly introduced into the homes of the people.

"The criticism might well be applied also to books. There is altogether too much novel reading of that class of novels which teaches nothing useful, and only tends to the excitement of the emotions. Excessive novel reading we all know is detrimental to the intellectual development of those who engage in it, and the wise and those who seek advancement might well give more time to useful, educational works—books that would enlighten the reader on history, biography, religion, and other important subjects which all well-informed people are expected to understand.

"Many of our young people, and some older ones, too, are not familiar with their own religion nor with the beautiful and striking doctrines of the gospel with which it is so laden. This class devote more time to reading useless or sensational books than they do to the study and contemplation of works that would familiarize them with the principles of the gospel. If they were better informed in this line, and understood the saving doctrines and every-day questions of their religion, more than they do, they would not be trapped by false teachings, false leaders, and advocates of evils that are false. They would not be misled as some of them are.

"An incident comes to my mind. It is that of a lady who had for many years belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and who was visited in her home by an advocate of Christian Science. This advocate of Christian Science understood her business perfectly, and taught the doctrine of that cult with much civility and earnestness. Strange to say, this good sister, who had belonged to the Church for many years, exclaimed upon hearing of their doctrine of healing that it was the very thing she had been seeking for years. And this in face of the fact that our literature as well as the teachings of the elders are full of incidents of healing by the power of God through faith.

"The fact is that every principle of healing, every principle of the power of the Holy Ghost, and of God, which have been manifested in the Saints in all ages, have been bestowed upon the Latter-day Saints. There is no principle, there is no blessing, there is no salvation, there is no truth in any other religious society or organization, which are not included in the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and after him by the leaders and elders of this Church, but it requires some effort on our part, some exertion, some devotion, to learn of and to enjoy these things. If we neglect them, we are, of course, not the recipients of the blessings that follow effort, and that come from a thorough understanding of these principles. Hence it is that others may come in

among us and advocate their ideas which, though not comparing with ours in plainness, instruction, and truth, are yet listened to by people who are made to believe that all these things are new, and not contained in the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Latter-day Saints. This is a fearful fallacy, and one that should be guarded against by every one who loves the gospel.

"In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be found to a greater extent than in any other church, the principles of life and salvation; and if we search them out of our literature and learn them for ourselves, have them confirmed by the Spirit, by right living, and make them a part of ourselves, we shall find greater comfort and richer blessings, greater treasures of everlasting life than in any other teachings that may be given to us by any other organization upon the earth."

SUBSCRIBE FOR STOCK.

Those who happen to have a little money saved up, which they can conveniently spare, would, in our judgment, make a good investment by subscribing for stock in the Utah Hotel company. Within the short time of a week, or ten days, \$90,000 worth have been subscribed, which proves conclusively that conservative business men consider the investment certain of bringing a fair return, since they are not in the habit of placing their money where they expect to receive nothing back. The committee in charge of the subscription lists are anxious that all who are willing to take stock should have an opportunity, and they have issued a public invitation to that effect.

The committee will meet today, or tomorrow, on the old Deseret News corner to measure out the ground for the new structure. The deeds are being prepared, and the company will be incorporated next week.

There can be no doubt that this enterprise will bring fair interest on the capital to be invested in it. The ground is sold to the company at a very reasonable rate. The location for the hotel is ideal in every respect. And the character of the men who have taken the initiative is a sufficient guarantee that the management will be both efficient and conservative. There is no reason that it should not be a paying proposition.

There is no hostile rivalry in this enterprise any more than there is in any two business establishments of the same kind, in any community. Salt Lake needs more than one first-class hotel. Before very long it will need several. For the citizens of this city are going to realize that they must unite and put down that animosity which for years has been fostered by bigots and political robbers; chiefs; they are going to put honest, competent men in office who are opposed to graft, and they are going to accord to every man his rights as an American citizen; they are going to relegate to the rear the despots who have made it the object of their lives to rule or ruin, and who, in their hunger and thirst for despotic power, are as far from the American spirit as are the murderous Kurds in Asia Minor who plunge their daggers into the breasts of their Armenian victims. In order to rob them; and when that spirit of animosity has been eliminated from local affairs, and all the citizens work together, Salt Lake is going to be a large city. It will come to its rights and take its place among the most progressive communities in the Union—a place to which it is entitled by virtue of its location, its resources, and the spirit of enterprise that characterized its noble founders and that still is a characteristic of their descendants. With the future of the City in full view, to build hotels appears to be a good investment.

TAKING INHERITANCES.

The federal tax on inheritances, provided for in the new tariff bill, is meeting with much opposition.

In favor of it, it is urged that a person who inherits property can more easily afford to be taxed at such a time than at any other. Indeed, it is a question whether a stiff tax at such a time would not be a benefit to the average heir.

It is pointed out that Mexico has such a tax, both state and national, and it is said to work well, and seems to give general satisfaction.

The federal inheritance tax, as proposed by the new bill, is expected to add \$30,000,000 to the national revenue. The proposal is therefore, the friends of the bill argue, a moderate one, and, it is the beginning of a sound principle of taxation.

The bill puts a graded tax of from 1 to 3 per cent on direct inheritances (from parents to children) over \$10,000, and levies 3 per cent on all collateral inheritances over \$500.

Against it it is pointed out that since inheritances are already taxed for state revenue in 24 of 37 States there is a natural outcry at the prospect of double taxation.

One paper declares that the inheritance tax, by usage as well as of right, is a state tax, and should be levied by the nation only as a last resort, as in time of great war; and says that for the nation thus to tax fortunes is to put upon the states the alternative either of repealing a good revenue-producing law or subjecting their citizens to double taxation.

The reply to this is that it may be theoretically true, but it does not change the fact that those who inherit property can more easily afford, and will generally more cheerfully consent, to pay such a double tax, than perhaps any other class of persons that can be subjected to taxation.

Many famous writers have denied, in a broad sense, the right of any heir to take enormous bequests of property that he did not earn and that he therefore will not in most instances be prepared to manage to the best advantage or to administer with success. And the state, which not only has the right but is bound, to seek the best employment and conservation of the wealth of its citizens, may, they may, very properly seek to limit the amount of property that can be passed on from father to son, without some compensation to the

state under whose laws and fostering protection the wealth was created and made permanent.

NAVY AND AIRSHIPS.

At the eve of the celebration, all over the civilized world, of the tenth anniversary of the opening of the first Hague peace congress it is not without interest to note that the various nations now have built, or are about to build, not less than seventy Dreadnoughts.

"Outside of Europe," says Archibald C. Hurd in Cassell's Magazine, "the United States has been the most active in the development of the big battleships. At the present moment, while England possesses built or building twenty-two battleships or battleship-cruisers of upwards of 15,000 tons, the American fleet possesses six of 16,000 tons built, two of 16,000 building, four of 20,000 tons also under construction, and two more authorized during the present year, which, it is understood, will displace about 26,000 tons and will, therefore, be the largest battleships hitherto planned by any naval power."

The study of military ballooning is also being pursued with remarkable persistency by the great powers of the world, with a view to war. France is credited with nine airships, of which four are completed, and seven aeroplanes, and 46 officers and men. Germany is said to have six airships, and 46 officers and men. Our country has one airship, two aeroplanes and 13 officers and men. Great Britain is believed to have one airship, one aeroplane, and 45 men. Russia is reported to have one airship, six aeroplanes and 2,351 officers and men. Italy is thought to have two airships and 35 men. It is evident that if military developments along the line of airships as it has done on naval lines, the nations will soon be driven to rivalry for the domination of the air, as well as of the sea. It will be a question of ruling the wind, and not only the waves.

"Where am I at?" The ex-actian.

Old men for counsel, Young Turks for war.

You can't keep a good mousethatch down.

Often a worthless man has plenty of money.

The weight of the coal man is hard on the buyer.

Soon the roof gardens will be full of society buds.

The City of Washington is a L'Enfant industry.

A barber can cut an old friend and not lose his friendship.

In the last analysis the sinews of war are the thews of the citizen.

Abdul Hamid is between the Devil and the deep sea of Marmora.

There is cold comfort in the thought that April showers bring May flowers.

A tariff debate is nearly always flat and stale, and usually is unprofitable.

"The price of peace is the price of Dreadnoughts," say the big navy people.

Does Colonel Roosevelt believe that "a living dog is better than a dead lion?"

If molders cast bread at all, they cast it upon the sand and not upon the water.

Nothing takes the conceit out of a man so soon as a truthful photograph of him.

"Took-wood" is the name of the latest style of collar. Would not iron-wood be a better name for a collar?

Mrs. Susan Young Gates is the proud owner of a Taft button with the autograph of President Taft on the back of it.

A complaint fourteen feet long has been filed in a Nevada court. The defense in the case certainly has cause for complaint.

"Appendicitis is caused by too much sleep," says a physician. Yet the people of Philadelphia are not more predisposed to appendicitis than those of other cities.

The Boston Herald announces the inception of a movement to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims by an international exposition to be held in Boston, in 1925. There is nothing like taking time by the forelock.

Miss Anna S. Peck is preparing to go to India to climb Mount Everest. The Duke of the Abruzzi is already there for the same purpose. Will this American woman and this Italian man repeat on Everest the race of Whymper and Curd up the Matterhorn?

"Salt Lake City is to have a new hotel, the million and a half required for the same having been subscribed. Anybody who has made a trip through the far West, but not for twenty years back, would be astounded at the transformation wrought in many of the towns," says the Troy Press. Salt Lake is to have two new hotels, each costing in the neighborhood of two million dollars. The young man who comes to Salt Lake to grow up with it will have to come soon and grow rapidly.

The Frankfurter Zeitung tries to give a fair estimate of what travel will cost when passengers are taken in airships from place to place. The estimate is arrived at as follows: A "Zeppelin" costs about \$100,000, and may last four or five years. The outlay for gas, a crew of seven men, landing charges, depreciation, and so on, will amount to about \$12,000 a year. Assuming that 120 days will be available for trips, it would be necessary to take in over \$500 per trip in passenger expenses for a twelve-hour journey, and this charge would have to be divided among the passen-

gers. How many of them would it be possible to take? Fifteen, at any rate, the German expert thinks, which would make the cost of a twelve-hour trip about \$30, plus such profits as the company would wish to make. So it is cheaper to own an automobile.

JUST FOR FUN.

"She—I consider I am responsible for your business success. If—Well, you certainly did make it necessary for me to earn more money."—London Opinion.

"Oh, George, I dropped a brass-headed tack on our new Persian rug this afternoon and I've hunted and hunted for it, but I can't find it!"—"Wait till bedtime. I'll take a walk around in my socks."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Is your husband all you thought he was?"—"Just about. But he doesn't come close to being all he thought he was."—Cleveland Leader.

"Did papa give you my hand, George?"—"No, he gave me his! Look at my eye!"—Houston Post.

Robbs—Why do you like Hardupps to the busy bee? He isn't particularly industrious, is he? Sibbs—Oh, no, it isn't that. But nearly everyone he touches gets stung.—Philadelphia Record.

"Did you ever feel that the world was against you?"—"Sure, I felt it this morning when I slipped on the sidewalk."

Compunct Sutor (on his knees)—If you will not accept my offer, at least help me up.—Magdendorf Black-tear.

"He might have been a millionaire today but for an accident."—"What happened?"—"He was making a fortune dealing in eggs when he broke one."—Judge.

"Did she marry for love?"—"That's what everybody is wondering. Her husband is charming in manner, wealthy, has no bad habits, and moves in the best society."—Judge.

BOTH PHONES 3568

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