

EMPTY CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

Interesting Communication from
Our Special Correspondent.

CHICAGO, Nov. 20, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

We are told that Mormonism must be suppressed. How can it be done? When it was told to the Irishman that wearing a green sprig of shamrock in his cauleen, was treason, he said "then the government must stop the grass from growing green." If you suppress Mormonism you must first suppress eternal omnipotence itself. You may confiscate some brick and mortar and distribute it among adventurers, but that is only showing your own folly and your own cowardice. You can no more stop the people from going to hear the Mormon Elder than you can force the people to go to hear the snivelling hypocrite in yonder pulpit. You may murder the Elder, but that does not suppress his creed, it only emphasizes its purity and truth. Why are our churches today empty in Chicago? Why is Christianity trembling in its old shoes before a bit of novelistic fiction? Why does the romance Robert Elsmere threaten the utter overthrow of our alleged Christian religion? These are all legitimate questions.

CHICAGO CHURCH GOING.

The Chicago Tribune has taken up the matter and is investigating. It starts out with the questions:

Do men go to church? If not, what is the explanation of their non-attendance? Do ministers still believe in Hell? Is orthodoxy dying out?

Then it proceeds in a practical way to work. It says:

Some twenty churches that may be taken as representative were visited last Sunday by reporters, and a count made of the men, women and children in each congregation. The figures are presented below, and from them the reader may draw his own conclusions.

It must be noted that these churches are the largest, richest and most orthodox in Chicago.

Three Baptist Churches visited.

FIRST BAPTIST—THE REV. F. A. HENSEN.
Men.....74
Women.....215
Children.....108

SECOND BAPTIST—THE REV. DR. LAWRENCE.
Men.....360
Women.....340
Children.....108

IMMANUEL BAPTIST—THE REV. DR. LORIMER.
Men.....97
Women.....213
Children.....19

Here are two of the principal Baptist Churches in Chicago with an aggregate of 141 men at divine service on a fine Sunday. This sect supports a host of missionaries in Utah. Would it not be better to commence work at home? Were it not for the women the churches would crumble to dust.

The Stronghold of Orthodoxy.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE REV. DR. J. H. BARROWS.
Men.....79
Women.....178
Children.....46

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE REV. SIMON J. McPHERSON.
Men.....218
Women.....217
Children.....61

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE REV. DR. J. L. WITHEROW.
Men.....489
Women.....611
Children.....93

Just fancy the three greatest Presbyterian churches in Chicago with an aggregate male attendance last Sunday of 787. This is another of the sects that throws itself into spasms of

THEOMANIA ABOUT UTAH.

It is safe to conclude that not more than one-third of these men entertained thoughts of religion.

Here are two of the oldest Mormon-eaters in Chicago:

Congregational Churches.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL—THE REV. E. P. GOODWIN.
Men.....216
Women.....218
Children.....168

UNION PARK CONGREGATIONAL—THE REV. DR. NOBLE.
Men.....198
Women.....341
Children.....81

There was a time here when Goodwin and Noble could not sleep without quaffing a goblet of Mormon gore. Noble had 393 men to hear him last Sunday in a district where his denomination is supposed to number from 8,000 to 10,000.

Here are a few of the OPINIONS OF THE CLERGYMEN in response to the queries from the reporters:

The Rev. David N. Utter—I attribute the growing disinclination among men to attend church services to their lack of belief in the doctrines which the churches teach. A man does not like to attend church if his presence there betrays his convictions. Some men have lost their faith in orthodoxy through their earnest investigation of it, while others have simply become indifferent. In either case the result is the same—such men stay away from church.

The Rev. J. Coleman Adams when asked—

Is orthodoxy on the decline?
So-called orthodoxy, yes, but not Christ.

lantly. People are moving away from the old formalisms, and will no longer be tied down to liberal creeds. The evidence of this is in every hard. Toleration is not merely general among the enlightened clergy, but it is almost absolute throughout the body of the people, which means the breaking up of allegiance to dogma.

"Do you think the run 'Robert Elsmere' has had done to the sympathy of the public with Elsmere's change for the orthodoxy to a more liberal belief?"

"Largely. Most people have gone through the same experience and are pleased with Mrs. Ward's appreciative account of it."

Have we not here ample evidence that what is called Christianity in Chicago is in a moribund condition?

The preachers do not, preach Christianity. They preach something they know nothing about. One fellow undertakes to preach on the tariff, something he knows as much about as the average bootblack. The men get disgusted and leave the preacher and the women to settle the duty on wool. Another fellow descends on the Board of Trade and its morality. He deals elaborately with his theme. But the men are absent, while the women admire the erudition of the minister. Like Goldsmith's pedagogue:

While words of learned length and thunder sound
Amazed the short-haired matron's ranged around.

THE WHISKY SHOP'S

are not empty on Sunday. Stand and count the visitors to any prominent saloon. On Sunday between 3 and 5 p. m. one can count 200 men, and 120 jugs, pitchers, growlers and bottles for beer and whisky. There are at present very near 5000 saloons in Chicago, all open on Sunday from 5 a. m. till long past midnight.

If Utah can help declining Nevada, why not give it a chance at the dying Christianity? We need not compel men to go and hear a Mormon Elder; but let us give a hearing to the Elder. If he has anything fresh, anything salutary, anything sustaining to the soul why not hear him? The preacher we have tried, and found wanting.

JUNIOR.

A COWBOY'S ANTICS.

A State of Things That Needs Investigating.

The Logan Journal of Dec. 5th contains the following episode, which, if the facts stated are correct, requires that something should be done by the officers to properly enforce the laws in Emery County:

Joseph H. Thomas, a son of Harrison Thomas, of Smithfield, left his home on the 8th of November to teach a district school at Moab, Emery County, Utah. He had been engaged in his occupation about two weeks, and was on his way home from the schoolroom on the 23d of November, and had to pass a corral where several cowboys were engaged in branding some cattle. He said nothing to them, but when he had proceeded about 200 yards from the boys, one of them remarked to the others that he was going to give that teacher (referring to Mr. Thomas) a thrashing. He mounted his horse, and when he overtook Mr. Thomas he asked him whether he was a Mormon, to which question he answered in the affirmative. "I understand you say that 'cow punchers' are no good," remarked Mr. Cowboy. "I do not know that I have said anything of the kind; cowboys are as good as any other class of men so long as they behave themselves," said Mr. Thomas. "Well, you are nothing but a G—d—d Mormon, and I will give you a little anyhow." So raising a four foot stick which he had in his hand he commenced striking Mr. Thomas over the head. He dealt about a dozen blows in all. Mr. Thomas guarded off the blows as best he could with his arm, and stated to the cowboy that he must have been misinformed in regard to what he had said, for he came there a friend to everyone. This remark seemed to soften the villain's heart and he held out his hand saying "put her there, then." Mr. Thomas shook hands with him, but no sooner had he done so than he put his hand on his revolver and requested Mr. Thomas to march up the road damned quick. "Tell Mr. Warner to come down and I will serve him as I have you; I want to kill that son-of-a-b—d—d—d cowboy," said the late "cow-puncher." It seems that Mr. Warner, one of the trustees, with whom Mr. Thomas was boarding, had incurred the displeasure of this cowboy through advising his daughter, who at one time had kept company with him, to cease paying her attentions to him.

Next morning after the whipping Mr. Thomas went to the justice and swore out a complaint against the cowboy for assault and battery. Mr. Warner also swore out a complaint against him for using threatening language. In a short time warrants for the cowboy's arrest were placed in the hands of Constable Nels Olsen. The arrest was made and the trial was appointed for three o'clock this afternoon. At the hour set Mr. Warner and Mr. Thomas were at the court room and soon the constable with the cowboy put in an appearance. As Trout, the cowboy, passed Mr. Thomas he asked him how he felt today. Mr. Thomas replied that he felt pretty well, with the exception of a pretty sore head. Trout remarked that if he had thought it was coming to this he would have had a bigger club. After the justice had allowed Trout to abuse

Thomas and Warner in the most shameful manner, he proceeded to read the complaint for assault and battery to the prisoner. At the close of the reading Trout pleaded guilty to the charge, and the justice assessed a fine of \$15.00 and costs, amounting in all to \$21.00. Then the charge for using threatening language was read. Between the reading of the charge and the paying of his fine Trout continued his tirade of vile and abusive language, and to back his threats and put them into execution, if necessary, was in possession of an ivory-handled bulldog, which he had taken from his belt on entering the room and placed inside his pants at the waist. The constable and all those in the room, with the exception of the cowboy, were unarmed. Imagine Mr. Thomas' feelings when called upon to give testimony in a court where a wild and heartless villain had cowed the officers, and got them completely at his mercy. He gave his testimony as regards the threats Trout had made against Mr. Warner, and the justice, through fear or some other reason, decided that the evidence was not sufficient to bind the would-be assassin over to keep the peace. His threats while in court, if nothing else, would have warranted the justice in binding him over. The following are some of his threats:

"Warner, you are a low lived s—n of a b—d. If you will come outside I will lay off this gun and fight you or I will get you one. Mr. Thomas, you lied; if you will come outside I will tell you of it, and will make you swallow it. Come out, both of you, and I will see that Mr. Wade, the justice, hangs you off."

On Monday morning, about 9 o'clock, Trout came to Mr. Thomas' school room, revolver in hand, and enquired for the teacher. Mr. Thomas had taken the precaution not to be present that morning, and thereby avoided being made the target of his wild assault. Mr. Thomas concluded that if cutthroats and cowboys were going to be allowed to run the place, he would be safer at his far-off home in the north, so as soon as he could arrange to leave that locality he started for his home in Smithfield, which he reached on Saturday last.

CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

The Scramble for Africa.—Lord Mayor's Day in London.—Salisbury's Speech.—England's Army.—New French Coins.—Boulanger's Bluster.—Austrian Reform.—Bismarck's Burdens.—Russian Rant.

Lately the news from Africa has not been of a very reassuring nature, and it really looks as if the "scramble for Africa" was going to have unfortunate results for the powers interested. The Italian occupation of Massowah has been costly both in blood and money; the Belgian Congo Free States have necessitated an expenditure quite out of proportion with the returns; and now, the latest German enterprise has had a severe defeat. It is true that the German African Company was only a private undertaking; but the encouragement and support given to it by the government were such that the power of the German Empire in Africa has been shaken by the defeat. The immensity of the African continent, and the difficulty of coping with the slave traffic, render useless the isolated attempts of the individual powers to bring about an improvement in the situation. If a great European federation for the civilization of Africa were formed and the work undertaken in a broad spirit of humanity, and not on a narrow commercial basis, in which the old influence of rum occupies a first place, the effect would soon be visible. True, a policy of common action has been agreed upon between Germany and Russia on the East African coast; but this agreement is limited to naval action by blockade or to prevent the transportation of slaves. The Boersens Zeitung says: "The fiasco of the German East African Company can no longer be disguised; and it is feared this fiasco will have a fatal influence on the proposed expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha. On the other hand, if the present system of filibustering expeditions, prompted by international rivalries, is continued, the subjection of Africa will be the work of decades, perhaps of centuries, and will be accomplished by brutalities discreditable to the age. Such methods were practiced by the Spaniards in America three hundred years ago, and with the worst possible results. But with such men as Livingstone, Speke, Burton, Gordon and Stanley we should not despair of success."

The Lord Mayor's procession in London this year was quite a changed affair from the pomp and pageantry of former times. But if the money so saved can be devoted to better purposes, we may be sure that everyone will forgive Lord Mayor Whitehead for his determined breach of a time-honored precedent. It was feared that the new policy would provoke impatience from the populace, but it was not so. The day was characteristically gloomy. The rain kept off, but the air was bleak and laden with damp, and the streets were dirty. Over and over again the sun tried to break through the leaden clouds and once or twice succeeded. But eventually confirmed dullness settled down. Some good-natured people attempted to add a little amusement to the crowd by tossing coppers, and even

pieces of silver into the street, as a kind of charity to the poor and half-famished ones that stood there shivering. What a curious assembly it was, unheeded, as it were, of all that was most forlorn and woe-begone. Young men in old men's coats, lads in grandfather's clothing, down at heels, unkempt and undressed. A little more dirt, a trifle more untidiness, could make very slight difference. The roadway, covered over with a thin coating of greasy mud, was as slippery as ice, and they thought it fun to see the street boys, and men for the matter of that, dart across to catch the descending copper, or to scramble for it in the indescribably filthy kennel. A youth would rush forward at highest speed, and fall ignominiously on the flat of his back amidst the roar of the surrounding multitude. The crowd that had issued from courts and alleys and frowzy neighborhoods showed how willing they are to be amused.

In the evening there was a banquet, at which the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, made a speech, and seldom has it happened that a minister could speak of the policy and general condition of his country with greater satisfaction. Upon the great and main question—peace or war in Europe—that throws its pall over our departing century, his words were weighty and convincing. "The five great powers of the continent maintain at present, twelve millions of men under arms, and the collision of such hosts implies nowadays not merely the defeat, but the annihilation of the vanquished. They, most of all, understand how terrible a thing war has grown to be in this age, when science exhausts the resources of chemistry, metallurgy, and of engineering to arm to the teeth the countless legions torn from industry and home life to fill the barrack and the drill ground." Well might the Prime Minister confess that "increased armaments are necessary for the bare safety of the British Empire." It is evident that Great Britain stands imperatively in need of a strong army, well equipped and well commanded. Does it possess this? Let us consider a few of the most salient facts. To begin with, the system of voluntary enlistment, which in theory appears very fine, in practice answers very badly. Only the lowest orders of men can be persuaded to join, and these only through the employment of numerous recruiting sergeants, who, dressed out in the most brilliant uniforms ply their trade of decoys with but scanty success. Such refuse of the streets, enlisted with an utter indifference as to physique and general suitability, cannot naturally make the best soldiers the population could furnish, and the deception that awaits them in the stern realities of barrack life causes the number of deserters each year to be very large.

English officers, on the other hand, are a very fine class of men, supplied as a rule from the highest ranks of society. They possess abundant courage, it being a point of honor with them to stand in all the exposed positions while their men lie under shelter. But of military science they have next to none. It is a social distinction to be an officer in an English army, and such a man is literally beset with invitations to dinners, garden parties, balls, etc. But most regrettable of all is the intemperance prevailing among English officers as a class. Every reader must have noticed the frequency with which the Sudanese surprised the English expeditions in the desert. A sergeant who fought all through the ill-fated campaign and earned the Victoria Cross for his gallantry, told the writer that on several occasions when the camp was attacked at night every officer was drunk. Another instance of the same sort was the threatened mutiny of the officers when Sir Garnet Wolseley inaugurated his command in Zululand by stopping the brandy drinking which had probably killed more officers and privates than had the Zulus themselves. Thus in recruitment, in organization, and in soldierly habits the English army is alarmingly defective. What then would be the role of England in a future war?

One of the principal topics of conversation in Paris is concerning the new French coins. The administrators of the French mint have decided to de throne the copper *Sous* that have so long reigned supreme, and word out so many pockets since Caesar captured Gaul. Nickel will soon replace copper and the model of the coin that at present is most favored by the government, as well as by the most prominent bankers and merchants is a small nickel piece with a hole in it. The only objection to nickel is that it is easily mistaken for silver. But the authorities at the mint propose to obviate this by having a hole in the middle of the coin, which can be felt readily even with the gloved hand. Then again the economy to the French government will be about two millions of francs a year—a sum equal to about four hundred thousand dollars. Moreover the work of counting and handling money especially in offices, railway cars, toll gates, theatres, counting rooms, etc., will be greatly simplified, for the coins of various values can be strung on wires or little spikes, and counted or carried about with the greatest ease.

Gen. Boulanger's latest addition to his oratorical efforts throws no light on the present political situation. Like most of his speeches it was full of inflated phrases and rounded periods which when reduced to the level of common sense mean nothing at all. The reiteration of the well worn cry "Revision and Dissolution" has lost

all novelty. After the general elections next year an attempt to "Revise the Constitution" will no doubt be made, but with the Chambre des Deputes as at present constituted, revision would be out of the question. During the last eighteen years so many ministers even with less influence than Gen. Boulanger possess have had their short period of supremacy, that it would be rash to say that he will not attain his object. But if experience points to his possible success, it still more strongly points to his speedy downfall.

Austria with all her conservatism is at last making progress toward political freedom. Count Tassie, the Austrian Premier, who has hitherto maintained himself in power by a strong coalition of the Catholic Bohemians, Poles and German ultra conservatives, is likely to encounter a formidable opposition in the Austrian Parliament. Through the influence of Herr von Plener and other liberals, a fusion has been brought about of the different liberal groups, and under the new order of things we may expect a little more social and religious liberty. Even Austrian priestcraft is losing its hold upon the masses.

For some time past there have been rumors current about the resignation of Prince Bismarck and the silence of the German official press in this regard is very significant. The formidable opposition to Prince Bismarck's policy has been by no means weakened by recent developments. As a rule great statesmen never resign, unless forced to do so, and in two notable instances—that of M. Thiers and Mr. Gladstone—the world has seen statesmen who used threats of resignation, simply as a means of silencing opposition to their schemes. There are some who say that Prince Bismarck is inclined to work with the same weapons; but it is nevertheless true that the idea of his resignation has produced consternation even in Paris. *Le Partis National* says, "It is easy to be comprehended that the proposed change cannot be regarded by France with indifference. The state of Germany has been considerably modified since the death of the Emperor William I. This is scarcely the moment for Prince Bismarck to withdraw his hand from the helm of the Empire. The work to be done is exceedingly arduous and up to this time, his probable successor, Count Herbert von Bismarck, has given no proof of his father's aptitude in affairs of state."

Gen. Gourko, the commander-in-chief of the Russian force in Poland, has just been making a warlike speech at a banquet in Warsaw. He said: "We are told that the situation is pacific, yet the Russian army must be prepared for war. Public opinion is against us, the army of Russia is laughed at. Nevertheless within 24 hours we could cross the frontier and show the world that we know the road to Berlin and Vienna." In Russia, where military discipline is severe, and the press under strict censorship, such words coming from a high military officer possess a peculiar significance. Some of the wise ones are shaking heads and asking, "What has happened to cause Russia to suddenly menace her neighbors?" J. H. W.

Europe, Nov. 19, 1888.

VARIOUS RELIGIONS.

Philosophical View of Idolatrous Systems.

SALT LAKE CITY,

Nov. 20th, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

Man is a religious being. He cannot thrive well without religion. "Man shall not live by bread alone." What some call religion others may call sin or folly.

History informs us that there are ten great religions, namely, those of Egypt, Greece, Hindoostan, Rome and Scandinavia; also those of Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Mohammed and Jesus of Nazareth. Out of these have grown several hundred smaller or minor religions, and some of the above named grew out of others of them, notably Buddhism out of Brahmaism or Hindoostan, much in the same way as Protestantism grew out of Romanism. History informs us that Zuinglius or Zwingle, Luther, Calvin and others protested against the corruptions of the Roman Catholic Church and preached reformation, establishing what the Protestants then and now claim to be the Christian religion. But how a pure stream is made to issue from a corrupt fountain does not clearly appear.

The Protestants have never claimed to have received new revelation from Christ, nor authority from any other source, to establish or re-establish Christianity; and yet they persist even down to the present day in claiming that the Roman Catholic Church

IS CORRUPT

and not of Christ Jesus. But on that subject I will leave everyone to draw their own conclusions. I wish for a few moments to compare this Romanism, which was essentially a state religion, and Buddhism, which is of an older growth. So numerous are the resemblances between the rights and ceremonies of the Buddhist system and those of the Roman church, that the first Catholic missionaries who encountered the priests of Buddha were confounded, and thought that Satan had been mocking their sacred rites. Father Bury, a Portuguese missionary, when he beheld them praying in an unknown