DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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THE PLAGUE OF PLACE-HUNTING.

If there could be a rule by which the appointing power could summarily turn down every man who by himself or by his friends makes himself a nuisance as a place-hunter, the public service would no doubt lose some pretty effective official material, but it would be the gainer in the long run. There would be a better opportunity to pick the right man if the authority which makes the choice were not pestered to death by applicants. There would be health in a return to the pristine idea that office is an incident of honorable career, not a profession outside of which the incumbent cannot make a living. There would be assurance of the perpetuity of American institutions in the assertion and observance of the doctrine that the country was not made for the politicians and pap-suckers, and that, unless they change their methods, they were not made for the country. There would be an assurance of purity in elections and of consistent patriotism in maintaining in the strictest sense that the office should seek the man.

Utah's progress in the art of place-hunting has been shamefully rapid during the four or five years past. It is probably still much less grievous here than in most other states, but it is bad enough in all conscience, and it is getting worse. For every little position with a few hundred dollars' salary, there is a scramble that ought to make decency blush—a swarm of trifling, hungry applicants whose conduct gives the lie to true and independent manhood. In many cases the seeker after place would make more money with pick and shovel, or out of a two-acre farm, than the coveted position can honestly pay; but no, there is a species—and, as said, Utah has its share—which wants rather to service dependents on public bounty than wear the honest garb of sturdy independence. With this class office-holding is a disease, a kind of itch, and when once its virus is in their system it makes them at the close of each term crazier than ever.

As we look at it, the man who works hardest for office ought to have the hardest time, and be the last one to get it. This is the clear logic of the case; for by his very pertinacity in pushing his claims, he confesses to all unprejudiced observers that his fitness and merits for the place are not such as to speak for themselves.

THE SONORA RUINS.

MIDWAY, Utah, Jan. 29, 1896.

To the Editor:

The DESERET WEEKLY of January 11 tells us of archæological discoveries made in northwestern Sonora by the McGhee scientific expedition, of remains of a prehistoric race never before recognized by archæologists."

In the Etoile du Désert, published in Paris, France, in 1851, by Elder John Taylor, there are fragments of a relation of discoveries made in the same region of country—the country of the Gila and Colorado rivers—and those discoveries showing that the race who left those remains were of a higher civilization than their successors in the land.

The relation of these discoveries had been published in full in the New York Herald prior to 10th September, 1851, which is the date of the publication in French of those fragments by Elder J. Taylor. By searching the files of the New York Herald the whole may be obtained, which would prove of interest to those who believe in the Book of Mormon, and who have faith in the future of the Indians. If these ruins are not the same as those discovered by the McGhee company, they are not situated very far from them and may be closely related to them.

The name of the discoverer, correspondent to the New York Herald, is not given in the Etoile du Désert.

Yours respectfully,
PRELUDE LEWIS.

The discovery reported by the McGhee expedition is considerably south of that referred to in the article cited by our correspondent. In both cases the report was made to the New York Herald before reaching other journals in the country. The ruins mentioned in L'Etoile du Desert have been more thoroughly examined since 1851, and bear conclusive evidence of being the work of a higher civilization than that of the aborigines of the time of the Spanish invasion. The later discoveries by the McGhee party seem to belong to a still more advanced people, evidences of whose presence have been found in abundance in Mexico and Central America, but none so far north before as the McGhee expedition reports.

The presence of this class of ruins has been well known to archæologists of recent years, but their classification as being the work of a particular race has not been definitely determined upon. With the continued additions being made to present information, the archæologists are about constrained to recognize that these ancient works are those of a distinct race of people from the American Indians, as far as the condition of the latter indicates at present. There is no doubt that many of the antiquities referred to are those of a highly civilized people, with an intelligent aim beyond any now possessed by the savage tribes, and equal if not superior to the civilization of Rome and Greece in their palmiest days. The observations of the McGhee party are looked to as the final act in establishing the fact that a superior race to the Indians occupied this country and have disappeared. This is the idea expressed in the dispatch received, and referring to a prehistoric people not heretofore recognized, yet not unthought of or unconsidered by archæologists. In fact their existence is so thoroughly established that no one questions as a part of prehistoric American experience that a thoroughly civilized people were overcome or supplanted by savages whose descendants now inhabit the land.

There is now no dispute among the well informed as to the correctness of the Book of Mormon order of these important occurrences; the tendency being to ignore rather than to consider that record, though occasionally there is made an effort to explain how a correct conclusion on this subject could have been deducted from information available in 1829-30. As time goes on, however, the indisputable evidence that corroborates the Book of Mormon is steadily accumulating, and its existence cannot be ignored or explained away. Whatever the McGhee expedition brings forth will be in conformity with what has been done already in the direction of confirming the divinely revealed record given to the world through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

ATTEMPTS TO BUY CUBA.

A Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record, answering a query from a reader, gives some information that will be of local interest, with reference to the several attempts that have been made by the United States to purchase Cuba. The first was by John Quincy Adams. When he was secretary of state under President Monroe he instructed Hugh Nelson of Virginia, our minister to Spain, under date of April 28, 1823, to sound the Spanish government on the question and ascertain what terms and price would be accepted. Mr. Nelson seems to have taken his time about it, for more than two years later, on the 12th of July, 1825, he reports that the Spanish authorities decline to consider such a proposition. In 1848 President Polk instructed Romulus M. Saunders, then American minister at Madrid, to offer $100,000,000 for the island. The proposition was rejected in a most peremptory manner. In 1854, during the administration of President Pierce, the representatives of the United States attending the Ostend conference, Messrs. Soule, Buchanan and Mason, suggested to the representatives of Spain the sale of the island to the government, but no sum of money was mentioned, nor was the offer seriously considered. During the sessions of the Senate in 1858 and 1859, Mr. Mildell, of Virginia, proposed to place $30,000,000 in the hands of the President for the acquisition of Cuba, but after some debate the resolution was withdrawn by the author.

HEALING AND FAITH.

J. Wells Hree, of Elba, Idaho, submits the following:

Will you please answer the following question through the columns of your valuable paper: Can a person be healed without faith on his own part? I refer you to Acts 3, 1st to 11th verses, which was the lesson we had in our meeting when the above question was asked and was not answered satisfactorily to some that were present.

To the question propounded we will reply, Yes; many persons are healed without the exercise of faith on their own part. For instance, there are the healings of infants whose mental capacity or understanding has not developed to that condition where they can comprehend the principle of faith and exercise it. A number of the miracles recorded in the New Testament set this idea forth clearly, where it is evident that the afflicted persons were not in a position to do anything in their own behalf, mentally or physically. At the same time no person is healed without the exercise of faith, though frequently that exercise is on the part of those who perform the ministration as servants of the Lord.

Regarding the particular case cited in Acts, called crippled, King James's translation of the New Testament it is not made clear whether or not the lame man was a believer. It is possible, however, that he was a follower of Christ, and not one of those who "denied the Holy One and the Just," as spoken of in the same chapter; and the likelihood of his having exercised faith is indicated in the sixteenth verse, where it is said that it was the faith which is by the Lord that made the man whole. Further, the man being capable of exercising faith, it is not probable that he would have obtained the blessing while in the condition of a pronounced unbeliever, since unbelief is a bar thereto. But if the subject were incapable of the exercise of faith, such as a person in infancy, or in a comatose condition, or who had not been taught, and who was not in the position of actually to exercise faith, then the faith of others is available, as shown in very many cases both in ancient and modern times. The exercise of faith is the use of a principle of power, and commonly extends in its effect to persons other than those who are directly operating by its influence.

JONES, OF SALT LAKE.

We do not know Stevie Senator Elmer B. Jones from a side of sole leather; but if he were twice as big and influential and many times as smart as even his best friends would have us understand him to be, he would still come in for the rebuke which is merited by his contemptible innuendoes against this paper in his speech yesterday. He is the Senate champion of the opposition to the fire and police commission bill—an attitude which he has a perfect right to assume and to maintain with all the talk and other energy he knows how to command; and this, too, without any impeachment of his motives until tangible evidence that they are improper can be furnished. But these same rights of freedom of action and opinion are not the sole possession of the high and mighty Jones on this or any other question. Advocates of the fire and police commission bill may be just as sincere and honest in their views as he ever thought of being, and this applies to friends outside the gilded chambers of legislation and does not exclude even the newspapers.

Coming down now to the personal grievance which the NEWS has against Mr. Jones, we want to assure him that he is altogether impudent and untruthful in the insinuation that this paper's advocacy of the above-named law is because of an idea that Mayor Glendinning if given increased appointive power would discriminate against Mormons. We do not know anything about the Mayor's intentions, having neither asked nor desired to know them for any private or other purpose. But we do know that there is a noisy and undeserving element which never loses an opportunity to inject the words "Mormon" and "Gentile" into every question of politics, place or policy. With some shallow and narrow minds this has the effect that a red rag has upon a turkey-gobbler; and in nearly all cases it is resorted to with the sole intention of arousing old prejudices, stirring up old fires, and reopening old wounds which all decent citizens have truly hoped we were well rid of.

If it comes to a question of motives, therefore, we imagine that Jones ought to think twice before he goes into the business of assailing others. At any rate, he may be sure he is entirely wrong in the assertion or the suspicion that the NEWS is fighting for political office for "Mormons." Such an insinuation is despicable, and a man who would without warrant credit it or circulate it as an evident excuse for getting in the word "Mormon" somehow, is beneath the scum of reputable people.

We shall not attempt to take care of Mr. Jones or any other legislator, but in speaking as above, we are only exercising the right to take care of ourselves. If we might go a step farther and give the young gentleman—we understand he is young—a word of advice, we should like to remind him that if there had not been some doubt as to the eligibility of an excellent and well-known lady, the present Legislature would have had to worry along without his distinguished service; remembering the accident by which he comes to adorn the State Senate, he should endeavor to conduct himself so discreetly and wisely that his constituents will not have any more regrets than they now have at the loss of the representative whom they said they wanted.

HAS A BAD MEMORY.

Hawkins Taylor, who has the prefix of "Han" added to his name in the Peoria, Ills., Journal, in a series of sketches of pioneer life in Iowa and Illinois written by him for the Journal, has been giving considerable attention of late to what he alleges to be history of the Mormons in Missouri and Illinois. Mr. Taylor was sheriff of Lee county, Iowa, in 1850, so he is getting to be an old man now, and from his statements to the Journal's article those who are well informed on Mormon history of that time will recognize at once that with his advanced years Mr. Taylor has also advanced in the ability to economize the truth. His stories of Mormon life in the states named, and of alleged prophecies by the Prophet Joseph Smith, are made out of whole cloth, and are wholly undeserving of a place in the columns of a reputable journal, because of their fictious character. This statement is applicable to the whole of his references to the Mormons prior to 1850, not an incident that he mentions being a narrative anywhere resembling the truth. As to the Mormons subsequent to 1850, he says:

The history of the Mormon Church since that, if it was written as a novel, would be read with great interest, and would be a remarkable book, especially if the secret, as well as the public history could be written. No other church has had the same prosperity as the Mormon Church, of the same membership. If their cities, towns, churches and homes are inside the test of prosperity. It has been a church of more power, of industry and a church of the purest and most immoral practices.

Mr. Taylor's alleged history prior to that date is indeed "written as a novel," and a most despicable one too; and the "great interest" it may awaken in the minds of its readers arises from the same fact that would give "great interest" to his suggested later novel—its wholly fictional and sensational character. Inasmuch as people as a rule are not overburdened with discrimination no doubt many will believe the Taylor sketches in our Peoria contemporary; but those who give a second thought to the subject should easily discover that Mr. Taylor's statements are at least inconsistent because of inaccuracy; as for instance, where he says in the foregoing quotation that judged by "their cities, towns, churches and homes," no other church has had the same prosperity as the Mormons, while at the same time it is "a church of the worst and most immoral practices." Such practices as Mr. Taylor falsely charges against the Mormons do not go to make prosperous cities, towns, churches and homes, as is amply proved by history, and which should have been remembered by Mr. Taylor, who evidently does not seem to possess the long memory which is so essential in the vocation he has adopted.

IN VIEW of recent marine catastrophes it begins to look as if the shores of the continent were in the way of safe and rapid ocean sailing. The land parts of the globe are only thrown in to fill up with, anyway, and as a matter of accommodation to ambitious ship companies and captains trying to make a record, the Atlantic coast perhaps ought to be moved farther inland.

IT IS reported that Senator Quay on his return from Florida was suffering from a swollen jaw. But it is safe to say your Uncle Matthew's affliction did not come from overmuch talking. He is the man who knows how to keep silent in seven languages.

AT HIS inaugural Gov. Griggs, the new executive of New Jersey, said that he would veto every law that had not some positive and convincing reason to justify its passage. A pretty good policy to announce, and an excellent one to follow.

THE NEBRASKA Populist who wants to raise and a million dollars with which to buy up the newspapers of the country is not good in mathematics. He can buy them all at prices varying from one to five cents apiece—per copy.

OWING TO the manner in which some step-children act with reference to their proposed new mammas, it might be well to assure them that she is only expected to marry their father, not the whole family.

CAN IT be that the statesmen who are now advocating a tax on tea have forgotten the incident in Boston harbor about a hundred and twenty years ago?

ONE SAVING grace possessed by the average legislature is that very few members really try to do any legislating.

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The exposure to all sorts and conditions of weather that a traveling salesman is called upon to endure in the competition produces severe colds which, if not promptly checked, result in congestion or pneumonia. Mr. J. O. Davenport, salesman of the Fort Bragg Redwood Co., an immense institution at Fort Bragg, Cal., says they sell large quantities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy at the company's store and that he has himself used the remedy for a severe cold and obtained immediate relief. This medicine prevents any tendency of a cold to develop into pneumonia and insures a speedy recovery. For sale by druggists.

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