DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 25, 1899.

A CHRISTIAN SPIRIT.

In defending the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the repeated assaults of unprincipled lecturers and editorial, the Deseret News has had occasion to use occasionally some vigorous expressions. Any reply that may be made to the unjustifiable outbreaks of our opponents will no doubt pass judgment in some people. Article in that vein are not intended to give our enemies weight. If their arrows are stopped upon the Bible, it follows. They should not throw their feet forward with the idea that they can overbearingly stick at us with impunity.

But some of our pretending friends still say, "Is that a Christian spirit on the part of the Deseret News? When it is written on the one cheek, should it not turn the other? And when assailed with all kinds of epithets should it not either remain silent or use the mildest and gentlest and most Christian language?" All that depends on circumstances, and there seems to be a little misunderstanding as to what is Christian conduct and what is Christian language.

How many times do some people think a man or a paper should "turn the other cheek?" Is there to be no self-defense? May not a subject, a community, a church, and an individual, rise up to protect who were either themselves or their friends. Under such a policy would not the strong always prevail against the feeble, and would not the weak always go to the wall? Would not might triumph ever over right? A Christian life does not necessarily mean continual submission to wrong. It implies struggles for liberty against the oppressor, and the use of force to resist and overcome force that is evil, after proper patience and reasonable endurance have been exercised. Circumstances alter cases. A rule that would be right and proper and under some conditions would have to be reversed in others. To illustrate: Christ said, on one occasion, "Carry neither purse nor scrip," also he said, "He that taketh up the sword shall perish by the sword." On another occasion, he said, "He that has no sword let him sell his garment and buy one."

As to Christian language. Some people think that Christ was all lamb. They forget that he is also "The lion of the tribe of Judah." They were taught probably in childhood to sing, "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild," but they forget his epithets against the self-righteous sectaries of His time. They look upon Him as He stood at the grave of Lazarus full of sympathy, and repeat the scripture, "Jesus wept," but they do not behold Him at the entrance of the Temple, with flashing eyes and uplifted arm, wielding the scourge of cords, kicking over the tables of the money changers, and proclaiming the place of their merchandise "a den of thieves." Have some people a special "Christian language," as uttered by Christ himself.

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, even so ye also appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers! How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." "Then blind Pharisee!" "Ye fools and blind!" "Ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." "Ye devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." (Matt. XXIII.)

The Deseret News admires the character of Christ and believes that its readers in worship of imitation. Forbearance, patience, meekness, calm endurance of the Christ-like character. But there is a limit to this which is recognized by a just God and to sensible men. Indignation and outcrops for hypocrisy, falsehood and injustice are experienced by divine as well as human beings—he human being the robe of the divine—and will find expression in vigorous language, whether spoken by perfect Deity or imperfect and erring humanity. We have "turned the other cheek" long enough. "Patience" in the case has "counsel to be a virtue."

CAUSE OF THE DECLINE.

New York papers call attention to the fact that Presbyterianism in that city is on the decline, both intellectually and numerically. The New York Sun some time ago said:

"The decline from Presbyterianism has been going on for the last century, at least, but it has been in the last half of that time, and in place of it even Presbyterian ministers themselves have substituted the more popular form of carrying sects. Dr. Rhodes, for instance, has just gone over to the Episcopal church after fifty years' experience in the Presbyterian ministry, simply to be more comfortable in his surroundings. Apparently he has lost all interest in Presbyterian doctrine and regards it of no essential importance. Dr. Briggs preached him in the latter, apparently because he had lost faith in the infallibility of the Bible, but as he has become habituated to which so he is willing to let it go and to be rated of churchless agnostic. The Westminster Confession, once the actual and still the nominal Presbyterian standard of faith, is almost made by the present generation a dead letter and heresy is not of one, but many. Presbyterianism, in fact, has lost its distinctive character, and is now a mere name for a religious mixture of Calvinism, vague generalities and pretty religious sentiment have crept in. The inevitable decline of the Presbyterian pulpit has been as marked as its theological decadence. In old days earnest religious people filled the pulpit of the Presbyterian church, and of their strength, but they are now, in advertising advertising of religious enterprises, not come to be looked upon as indicative of weakness and feel ashamed, and as the exhibition of a delicate or of political weakness."

The decline in the spiritual power of the church accounts for the intolerance and desire for persecution it manifests. As long as Christianity was the world-conquering power of God it never even far alloy the methods of Pilate and Saul. But when the pulpit became the instrument of mobocracy, when the fearless tones was made the voice of sensational mobs, and verbal sentiment the chief ambition of the orators of liberty, when anathemas were hurled in all directions and preachers thirsted for the blood of their foes.

If one sign of extinction and fools of society to provoke suspicion that "saints" are dangerous to the state, but when that has accomplished, the stone broke loose, a storm that sweep the Christendom from the face of the earth. A personalized church must necessarily become a monstrosity.

TOLSTOI AND THE CZAR.

That Count Nicholas is in earnest about his proposition to inaugurate an era of peace may be judged from the fact that he, as reported, has solicited Count Tolstoi to add his influence to the proposition.

The meeting between the emperor and the philosopher was a most remarkable one. It is said the emperor embraced the count and kissed him, and that the latter returned the cordial salutation. But when the czar asked him for his opinion regarding the coming peace congress, he frankly stated that he would believe in the sincerity of his ruler, when his majesty would illustrate his world with his acts and set the other nations a worthy example. The czar then explained the difficulties and obstacles which make it impossible for any one to do his work single-handed in the matter, and it is said the result finally softened down and promised to do what he could to further the scheme. Tolstoi, it seems, became thoroughly convinced of the sincerity of the emperor, while he does not regard the Russian ministers as sincere. The discussion, even in its most incipient form.

It is useless to speculate at present upon the probable results of the proposed congress. According to Count Marovitch's best circular, the idea is to propose an agreement whereby the use of the most destructive naval engines of war are to be prohibited, but as some kinds of bullets invented for the army have been discarded. That is, Russia proposes as the beginning of peace, to render more less destructive. This, as will be noticed, is contrary to a widely spread opinion that the more destructive the engines of war, the less probability that nations will appeal to the arbitration of arms.

It is very probable that the influence of such men as Tolstoi, will do more towards the final solution of the problem than all the representatives of the ruling governments. Were are so happy as to be supplanted by the mere desire of rulers. They know too well the enormous difficulties to be encountered in mobilizing vast armies, providing them with absolutely necessary equipment and also with many things formerly regarded as luxuries. They know what genuine peace-loving people are needed to organize and command these huge armies, so as to cause all departments to work harmoniously. They know how few are the schools that are adequate to the task. They do not need long discussions to persuade them of the benefits of peace. It is the nations themselves that are to blame for most of the modern wars. The masses of the people do not realize what a great conflict is. They urge their rulers on, who often yield to popular pressure against their own judgment.

It follows that the peace movement must first become popularized, and the efforts of popular authors and speakers in this direction will be of immense importance. The value of the czar's action will likely be in the fact, that the nations will focus attention to a subject so lofty, so far in the sublime, so remote so earth but called there attention. And this discussion will remain whatever may be the outcome of the first congress on the subject.

RECOGNIZING THE FILIPINOS.

A Washington dispatch details the negotiations between that city and the Filipinos. It is said that immediate recognition of the Filipino republic in Germany and Spain will prevent serious, the object of the former being to gain a foothold in the archipelago, and of the latter to take revenge on the United States, so far as opportunity affords. It is further pointed out that recognition by Germany has been deferred only from a fear that Great Britain will recognize the sovereignty of the United States in the islands.

The situation in the Philippines is critical and requires delicate handling. For it may be remembered that Cuba had a military chief, yet the Americans have brought order out of unmanageable exotic conditions there, and it is fair to presume that a similar result will be attained in the Philippines. As to Spanish sympathies of the Filipino republic, Gen. Aguinaldo can act as comfort from that since the French power in the islands was broken. But to assume that Premier Sagasta would take such a step within the six months allowed for ratifying the treaty, and before the Spanish cortes itself has taken action, is to assume him of a stone breach of faith which his last record does not warrant anticipating.

Germany may have an eye open for and probably or positive signs of Great Britain in favor of the United States; but when it comes to charging an intention to provoke such hostilities with this nation, the question made is inconsistent with even the most erratic movements of Kaiser Wilhelm, who cannot be accused justly of carrying caution to foolishness. If that personage would a school in the Philippines he is far more likely to endeavor to secure it by friendly diplomacy than by any act that might awaken the thunder of Dewey's guns in defense of what is virtually American soil, though under the technicalities of international law the transfer of title to the Philippines is not yet completed. Nor is Great Britain likely to be over-forward in recognizing the nation's sovereignty until the formal acceptance thereof is made.

Viewing the whole situation, the complications of trouble in the Philippines through any action of Spain or Germany do not seem to have good foundation, and are open to the suspicion that they emanate from a desire to affect action on the treaty now pending before the Senate. The difficulties which Americans must face in the Philippines are those arising from lack of harmony among the natives themselves, and which can be overcome by a better understanding on the part of the Filipinos as to what American sovereignty means. The understanding is in greater danger of being disturbed by injudicious meddling on this side than by anything the nations over the seas may attempt.

COMMENTS ON ROBERTS.

The Boston Traveler, it appears, has been publishing extracts from a letter written in Salt Lake City, which have elicited some remarks from a lady who spent considerable time in this city in contrasting "Mormonism." Referring to a gentleman credited with being a polygamist, she gives some particulars coming to her knowledge, showing that

"there is good in men who entered into that system of marriage previous to the admission of Utah as a state," and goes on to say:

"Do not construe from this letter that I am a believer in this. The old custom of the 'Mormon' Church, however, I am not, but as person, unless extremely narrow, could live almost the neighbor of the Church of the Latter-day Saints as I did and not have the highest regard for both the men and women of Utah called 'Mormons.'

"I found them an honest, God-fearing, true-hearted, home-loving people, and if the men and women I saw trying down B. H. Roberts would go to Salt Lake and go into his and the homes of the members of the Church of the Latter-day Saints, I am very sure they would see where they could make an improvement in their work."

The proposed bicycle saddle combine is expected to provide a comfortable seat for one of the big trusts.

A monthly U. S. mail for Alaska, as now promised, should make the people there feel at home with Americans.

The prospect is good for early action on the treaty with Spain, the Senate having decided to take a vote on Feb. 6.

The Indiana house has adopted a resolution in favor of the election of U. S. Senators by popular vote. We concur.

Adelina Patti is again a bride. The great songstress has given abundant proof that she is not a believer in "single-blessedness."

Gov. Jones of Arkansas recommends that State officers be elected for four years and that the governor shall in no case serve more than one term.

Possibly the children of the subject—voice—at this season of the year, is what prevented an explosion last night on the part of some heated members of the City Council.

The copper boom, as described from official figures at Washington, D. C., seems to have a powerful force behind it, and might to be valuable in helping the development of Utah copper properties.

The Italian President Alfaro has had a big fight on his hands, but he seems to have dealt the rebellion a death blow in the government's signal victory reported from San Ancanea today.

Gen. Hahl, the Cuban Indian chief, is said to have taken to the hills with a force of men, and to be in an angry mood. He probably realizes that in the hills is a safe place to give vent to his wrath.

The Lafayette memorial committee has decided to ask appropriations of $100,000 from the United States to set up an entertainment to his tomb for the monument fund. It is a good scheme to get stamps.

It is understood that there is to be no "women's department" at the world's fair at Paris next year. The directors do not believe, perhaps, that the fair sexes have separate interests in the industrial progress of the world.

The situation reported among the Zuni Indians of New Mexico is appalling. Two hundred and seventeen have died of smallpox, and of 400 now afflicted half are likely to succumb to the disease.

In view of Admiral Dewey's undoubted good judgment, there is a significant bearing on American territorial expansion in the admiral's remark that "the greatest factor in the civilization of the world is the imperial policy of England."

Americans who have been clamoring for office in Porto Rico that a little spiteful to the military governor there, Gen. Henry, who said he doesn't want that kind of officers on the island. The general hints the man for the office, and finds plenty of Porto Ricans capable of doing the work he requires.

London street cross and spectators are not allowed to carry newspapers beyond the number for which seats are provided, and police are now enforcing the rule. Serious? Really, it may be thought by the British protection who would rather hang on by the straps to ride home on the last bus than make the journey afoot.

Burns, the last of the social Scottish bard, was born 140 years ago today. He died but a short period—37 years—yet in that brief space of time, he gave to the world some of the noblest sentiments that ever crowned the line of minstrelsy. No wonder, then, that he is held in loving remembrance by his people. They honor him as their honor their country.

The lawyers of Mrs. Dodge, convicted of murder, are seeking to have the sentence set aside on the ground that California courts have no jurisdiction in the case. They opposed extradition on the ground that the Delaware courts had no jurisdiction. All of which proves that to some murder cases no courts have jurisdiction, and the murderers should be set free with an apology.

"Upon confession is good for the soul," there is therefore some hope for the anti-"Mormon" worker who utter that jingoism with an opinion's language and deliberately place a false construction upon it. The listening admission made by that preacher the morning is a bit of confession we did not look for. It says: "The evidence of the criminal conspiracy against in his crime fully destroys the effect of whatever moralizing his delinquents may impel him to indulge in, while humiliation on the proposition coming from such a source do not could." Comment is needless.

The anti-"Mormon" sheet published in this city continues to reiterate the falsehood that a nomination was made for Congressional delegate because the candidate was a tie-breaker, and that this was done for the purpose of resisting former conditions in Utah. Everybody here knows that such statements are utterly false, and the malice that prompts their utterance is well understood. To use its own language, such untruths "coming from such a source do not count." They are intended for outside effect. They are published for the purpose of poisoning the people of the East against Utah, and of still further influencing public sentiment. The action is criminal, the latter is diabolical.

INSTRUCTION OF REPRESENTATIVES.

[From Cooley's Constitutional Law.]

The care taken to impose restraints on the action of representatives shows it is sufficient to demonstrate the want of constitutional basis for the opinion that representatives are bound to obey the instructions of their constituents from time to time communicated to them, and it is well that it should be so, for, if such instructions are binding, there is no machinery for gathering the voice of all electors again until the next general election, and it is not assumed any in the ballots which express a choice between candidates. Between the elections the constituents have no way through the press and by petitions, but these are not authoritative and it can seldom be known from such expressions what is the popular will. Senators sometimes consider themselves bound to express and obey the instructions of State legislatures; but these are composed only of delegates of the people, and they may be supposed the sentiments of the constituency no more than the Senator himself.

But aside from practical difficulties, the right to instruct representatives cannot on principle be sustained. Representatives are chosen in States and districts, but when chosen they are legislators for the whole country, and are bound to all, they do, to regard the interest of the whole. Their own immediate constituents have no more right than the rest of the nation to address them through the press, to appeal to them by petition, or to have their local interests considered by them in legislation. They bring with them their knowledge of local wants, sentiments, and opinions, and may enlightened Congress supporting these, and thereby aid all the members to act wisely in matters which affect the whole country; but the moral obligation to consider the interest of one part of the country as much as another, and to legislate with a view to the best interests of all, is obligation upon every member, and no one can be relieved from it by instructions or instructions from any source. Moreover, the special Senator to legislate for all, which is acquired by the association, social information and comparison of views of a legislative body, cannot be had if the representatives of the different types would be lost to legislation if the right of instruction were recognized.

THE SAMOA DIFFICULTY.

[Chicago Daily News.]

Probably Germany may not care to deal with the United Country and Great Britain in behalf of her actors a consul, and may make a scapegoat of him. Evidently Germany means to go on as they have for the last few months and the outcome is likely to be that one of the powers will choose individual, if not proprietary, control.

[New York World.]

Of course, having become a great "world power" we must resent an insult, and be a suitable but been disposed to the violation of his imperial representative? Before sending any more ships or troops to Manila wouldn't it be well to inquire into the merits of Samoa? Of course, having "no home problems" to engage our attention, we are really free to meddle in the South Pacific. But perhaps we are not quite ready for two wars at the same time.

[New York Journal.]

But what a beautiful object lesson we are having in the Philippines! Peace is valuable and a naval station at Honolulu. With them we could have a cruiser at Apia in a week instead of three weeks, or now.

[New York Evening Sun.]

It would be church to imagine for a moment that Germany could even contemplate war with the United States and England over Samoa. And even if Germany's attitude in the matter were left out of account, the latter would not risk serious trouble with this country. A war between Germany and the United States would be entirely fatal. The recent negotiations with Spain showed what sort of a navy we have. Before that that came to light an authority that ex-Secretary Tracy said, on the in private conversation, that for his part he had no doubt that our fleet would be capable of dealing successfully with any naval force that Germany could send against us. If that was his opinion then what must it be now, when the prowess of our sailors has been demonstrated to the satisfaction and admiration of experts the world over?

KEELEY'S MOTOR.

New York Journal.

The learned professor who after an examination of Keeley's motor arrived at the conclusion that the inventor was "half fool and knave," is in error. Keeley was undoubtedly a "knave," but his success in finding there to advertise his money proves that he was not a "fool."

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