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

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THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.

President McKinley in issuing the Thanksgiving proclamation that set apart the last day of November as one on which especially to remember the mercies of Providence, pointed out that in all branches of industry and commerce there has been an unequalled degree of prosperity, while there has been a steady gain in the moral and educational growth of our national character. He also reminded the people of the glories achieved on the field of battle. American patriotism has been exalted, he said. Those engaged in maintaining the honor of the flag with such signal success have been in a large degree spared from disaster and disease. An honorable peace has been ratified with a foreign nation with which we were at war, and we are now on friendly relations with every power on earth. The trust which we have assumed for the benefit of the people of Cuba has been faithfully advanced.

On the campaign in Luzon, the proclamation stated that while the insurrection still continues in the island of Luzon, business is resuming its activity and confidence in the good purposes of the United States is being rapidly established throughout the archipelago.

The American people have, indeed, much cause for gratitude. Their entire history shows that they are a nation with a mission. They are located in a land choice above all others with boundless resources and unsurpassed beauties of nature. They have been the guardians of the principles of liberty that ultimately will be the redemption of the race from bondage, and the foundation of a truly millennial reign. The soil on which they dwell is hallowed by events of immeasurable importance to all mankind, as well as by the blood of heroes and martyrs.

The people of Utah heartily enter into the spirit of thanksgiving. They have learned, to some extent, to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all things, and they can see nothing but success ahead. They have found, long ago, that even the blackest clouds but temporarily veil the sun. They soon exhaust their contents and are scattered by the winds, leaving the landscape bathed in radiance, and all the better in every way for the passing storms.

THE WAY THEY DO IT.

In these days of rapid travel and cheap transportation, it is quite common for people who have a high estimate of their own abilities, to pay brief visits to places and communities at a distance from the great cities of the land, with a view of obtaining data with which to startle if not enlighten their fellow citizens at home. Salt Lake City has been one of the strongest attractions for people of that class, because it is the chief city of what is popularly known as "Mormondom." The fame of it and of the people who founded it has gone abroad to all the world, and yet the most dense ignorance prevails against the vast majority of mankind concerning the Latter-day Saints or "Mormons," who first peopled this once desert waste.

The kind of tourists who imagine they can learn all about "Mormondom" and the "Mormons" in a two or three days' visit, may be seen here frequently. With note-book in hand they ask questions of any one whom they suppose can give them information, and from the scraps they thus collect they write newspaper articles and sometimes publish books, in which they seem to tell all that needs to be known about the religion, the social system, and the political conditions of the "Mormon" people. Sometimes the stop-over of a single day suffices for their investigations.

Of course the readers of such effusions gain a great deal of light therefrom, and the notions they thus are led to entertain are about as near the truth as the North Pole is to the Equator. Quite a number of such writers on the popular subject of "Mormondom" and the "Mormons" are ministers and newspaper reporters, and it is from their hastily gathered ideas, stories and opinions, that the American public are impressed with the misinformation which is so general and which is repeated again and again from the pulpit and the press.

The notion that an individual, however acute in mind and eager for facts, can learn all about the religion of the Latter-day Saints, the social problems that are presented by conditions in Utah, the history of the people who opened this region to civilization, their attitude towards the government, their aims and purposes, and all that relate to their progress and their destiny, in a day or a week or even a month's visit, is an evidence of egotism that is almost sublime.

Occasionally a gentleman or lady of national reputation, and with more than ordinary abilities and standing before the world, makes a call of this kind and proceeds straightway to follow the example of the lesser lights that shed forth misinformation. They always find persons here ready to fur-

nish them with what they regard as collated facts, in a shape ready to mold into the fashion desired, and, perhaps without intending it, they simply present in a different form, the errors and distortions of the truth against which the majority of the people of Utah have had to contend for over half a century. Recently a noted New York divine, with whose talented literary efforts the readers of the New York Herald are familiar, came to this city and expressed a desire to learn the truth concerning the "Mormon" religion, and the circumstances which have led to the great agitation in process throughout the land. He spent a few days here, had an interview with President Lorenzo Snow and two or three other members of the Church, but occupied most of the time in obtaining distortions of history and burlesques of the "Mormon" faith from their most malignant enemies. The consequence is that the New York Herald is now burdened with communications, pretending to be fair and impartial, concerning the Saints, their beliefs and their doings, which are nothing scarcely but caricatures.

For instance: The gentleman devotes an entire letter of considerable length to a series of conclusions he claims to have formed, by the aid of a lawyer who is an avowed and rampant atheist and a cynical compiler of anti-"Mormon" gossip, scandal and prurient literature. He confessedly adopts the suggestions of the atheist and spreads them before the American people at length. In another communication he mentions a conversation with President Lorenzo Snow, occupying an hour and a half, and dismisses it with this sentence: "The story of his conversion to Mormonism was told in such simple and pathetic fashion that I wish I could reproduce it for your benefit." That is the kind of fair and impartial investigation conducted for the public benefit by Rev. Dr. George H. Hepworth.

It is not surprising, therefore, to a people who have been accustomed to misrepresentation, particularly by clergymen, from the organization of the Church to the present, to find that this gentleman informs the public that: "The head of the corporate institution is singled out as the recipient of a special revelation, and that the members of that institution are bound to give up their personal convictions and accept that revelation as authoritative." That this "destroys all freedom of thought and action and organizes a system of intellectual despotism on the one hand and of slavery on the other which puts an end to the manhood of a man and the womanhood of a woman."

Of course, starting with these false premises, it is natural, if not logical, that the writer draws the conclusion that:

"Mormonism therefore is fundamentally antagonistic to the principle on which this republic is founded—namely, the right and the duty of the citizen to think for himself on every subject, political and religious."

He further reasons and announces that:

"However honest the Latter-day Saints may be they are a menace to our government, the anomaly in our civilization, and the more honestly they hold to their convictions and the more firmly they set on them the greater is the anomaly and the more serious is the menace."

If the Dr. had been as anxious to learn what "Mormon" doctrine really is, as he was to gather up fiction and perversions of our faith from its enemies, he would not have fallen into the same rut of defamation which has been trodden by so many other transient visitors to Utah. It may be a surprise to him to learn that the Latter-day Saints do not walk, as he declares, "in blind faith"; that it is part of their creed to investigate for themselves, and their privilege to obtain light and revelation individually; that no man or woman is required to give up personal convictions, or to accept anything contrary to conscience and that liberty of thought which is urged and enjoined by the Church to which they belong.

He calls the "blind faith" and obedience which he imagines to be a part of "Mormonism," "the weakness of the institution." He has yet to learn that the very strength of the institution is the freedom which it promotes, and the personal conviction by revelation to each soul, male and female, of the truth of the system, and of every doctrine and precept which is taught and every measure which is adopted. A fundamental principle of "Mormonism" is that "All things in this Church shall be done by common consent."

We have not space today to take up other statements and notions which Dr. Hepworth has presented to the American public as "Mormonism," which are foreign to its doctrines and its practice, and which are either diametrically opposed to our faith or are such distortions of it as amount to perversion of the truth. At another time we may revert to this subject, and show still further how what is called "a fair and impartial" statement of fact and history, is a biased and untrustworthy mass of special pleading, against a religion and a people with whom it was not to be expected the Rev. writer would be in sympathy.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Every triumph about over British victories in South Africa seems to be hushed in sorrow when the price paid is considered. The brilliant achievement of Lord Methuen at Modder river was the result of ten hours' hard fighting, during which time the English soldiers were without food and without water, exposed to the burning sun, as well as the deadly aim of the enemy. The Boers were driven out of their position, but it seems the British forces were too exhausted to pursue them. And the casualties must have been terrible. If it is true that the war department in London hesitates to make public the list of dead and wounded.

The London Times is preparing the way for a further draft on the military resources of the country. It states that the military strength of the Afrikanders has been much underestimated and insists that another army corps should be dispatched immediately to the seat of war. Another feature of the Boer army has also attracted attention during the campaign. Its mobility is almost mystifying. At Modder river there was a force of 8,000. The report says they were strongly entrenched and con-

cealed. Then, after a desperate battle they disappeared, but where and how the report does not say. At several times the Boer forces have been dispersed only to reappear again where they were least expected. Their movements are made with both alertness and secrecy.

LABOR TROUBLES.

An exchange notices that while the times are better for the laboring classes than any year since 1892, there is also manifest a spirit of restlessness in many quarters. In the South a general strike of coal miners is threatened. Embassies of labor unions are visiting certain sections of the country, preaching the doctrine that it is the duty of laborers to precipitate trouble with their employers. The fact is regretted, as proving the willingness of some people to be swayed by agitators instead of consulting their own best interests.

Every story has two sides, though. The newspapers give daily accounts of conferences between producers of, or dealers in, commodities of life, at which agreements are made to raise the prices. Nearly everything has gone up, whether on account of an increased demand or not makes no difference. The laborer has to pay much more now than a year ago for coal, oil, clothes, food, house rent. What is, then, more natural than that the laborers should follow the general example and try, by combination, to force a corresponding rise in wages? Labor troubles are deplorable. No one can desire to see a duel between interests that are practically identical. But it is easy to account for them at a time when everything but labor is by deliberate contract between producers raised in price.

A MORE SERIOUS EVIL.

The Boston Herald is one of the influential journals of the country that has estimated correctly the agitation against the "Mormon" Church, raised on an issue entirely outside that organization. In its issue of Nov. 25, the Herald says, editorially:

"It seems probable that Mr. Roberts, of Utah, will not be permitted to take his seat in Congress, and this because of an agitation which has extended all over the country. We have not looked upon this popular protest as having material foundation, for the reason that it has been much more sentimental than sensible. If the entrance of Mr. Roberts was the first step toward the demoralization either of our government or our home life, no protest that could be made would be too vehement. But there is not the least reason for assuming that his presence in Congress would be attended with such results. The absolutely not the least probability that polygamy would be condoned by Congress because he was there, or that his political success would lead to the toleration of plurality marriages in the various States of the Union. The evil which Mr. Roberts represents is not the least serious, permanent or deep-rooted hold on our American methods of thought and living. The evil which is threatening us, alike in our political, industrial, and, to some extent, social life, an evil the seriousness of which no one who has looked behind the scenes of things can think of disguising, is the corrupt and corrupting use of money for the purpose of obtaining political and industrial results. The purchase of seats in Congress by wealthy men is a thousand times worse in its effect upon the American people than the acquiring of a seat in Congress by polygamy. The former constitutes a direct encouragement to rascality all over the country, since it implies that a conscienceless man who is shrewd enough to escape detection in his operations can receive the highest public honors at the hands of the American people. If petitions could be signed by millions, to the effect that no Senator or Representative should be permitted to take a seat in Congress who was suspected of owing his election to the corrupt use of money, public opinion would pronounce itself in a manner which might have some effect in maintaining the purity of our political institutions. But for some reason we fall into the old habit of denouncing sins we are not likely to commit, while we pass over with indifference a terrible offense which is constantly occurring and which has the appearance of being one of our besetting sins."

As the Herald says: "If the entrance of Mr. Roberts was to be the first step toward the demoralization either of our government or our home life, no protest could be too vehement," and the people of Utah, at least the "Mormons," would be among the first to protest most emphatically. Here the nature of the movement, its origin and the motives that prompted it, are thoroughly understood now, and some day the entire American nation will see it too. They will read the story and marvel at the ingenuity that re-enacted the mockery of Balzac's Den Juan Belvidere, whom the crowd would canonize, although all his life he had been a scoundrel and a hypocrite. Is not fact sometimes even more strange than fiction?

THE FLAG LAW.

Efforts have been made in Illinois to protect, by law, the Stars and Stripes from profane uses. The legal enactments for that purpose have now been declared unconstitutional by the court of last resort in that State.

In the decision rendered the judges declared that the law is an unreasonable interference with personal liberty. The police may issue regulations for the preservation of public health, morality, peace and the security of life and property, but if a statute purporting to have been enacted to further one or more of these ends has no real or substantial relation to them, it is a palpable invasion of individual rights secured by organic law, and the courts must invalidate it and give effect to the Constitution. The question is asked, how the use of the flag for advertising purposes can affect public health or morals. The dignified treatment of the national emblem must, in the opinion of the court, be regulated by good taste and an enlightened public opinion.

Accordingly the flag may be used for advertising purposes to draw attention to places where, for instance, tobacco, intoxicants, etc., are sold, and the law must not interfere with the personal liberty of those who so use the emblem; but what the law can not do, public opinion may do. Is this not equal to a justification for that kind of interference with personal liberty which sometimes finds its expression in the demonstrations of mobs?

When public opinion is against the

display of Old Glory for advertising purposes, the law should certainly be made to correctly interpret that sentiment.

NO REWARD FOR REBELS.

As the Filipino rebels find that their cause is lost for ever, they seem to believe that Uncle Sam owes them an office as reward for laying down their arms. The American people may in a spirit of reconciliation be willing to do much, but there should be no undue haste in giving power, authority and salary to those who are responsible for the disturbances and bloodshed that have taken place after the war with Spain. Those natives who have remained loyal to the United States should first be rewarded with such positions as they are capable of filling. The rebels need to pass through a term of probation before they are trusted to any great extent. As for Aguinaldo himself, if he ever is caught, he ought to be placed somewhere where he can do no further harm, just as were some of the Indian chiefs in this country, who could not be trusted when at large. The Spanish policy of massing insurgent leaders cannot be justified, but the other extreme of rewarding them with offices is no policy at all, when the government has to deal with low, treacherous characters.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that the rebel leader started on his career of resistance to the United States in the hope that he could make the climate so uncomfortable for our troops, that the government finally would be willing to buy his loyalty and services at an enormous price. Everywhere there are storm-giants who know nothing but brute force. In their mad career they will pile rock upon rock until the rough structure falls and furnishes them a unenviable grave. They may be objects of pity, but they cannot expect those against whom they have made a relentless and insane war to pull them out of the self-made pit and enthrone them in their confidence and affection.

Thanksgiving day is being duly celebrated.

The rule of benevolent assimilation is rigidly applied to the turkey today.

Aguinaldo is nearly due at the next scoring point in the Filipino race.

The Boston wool market seems to be pretty well shorn of its supply of wool.

The dreadful railway collision at Paterson, N. J., stands as another appalling evidence of criminal negligence on a railway.

Farmers are now figuring on their potato patches for next year, on the basis of this season's prices for the "spuds."

Gen. Gatacre, who commands the British troops at East London, Cape Colony, bears a strong resemblance to Admiral Dewey, in his picture.

It is a fortunate circumstance that Thanksgiving Day comes prior to the meeting of Congress each year, and after election, when the country is at the season of the least turmoil.

It is gratifying to note that so many members of Congress concede that there are two sides to the leading question, and declare that they are willing to hear both before deciding.

When a person figures out the advance in prices in groceries, provisions and clothing during the past year, he soon reaches the conclusion that the cost of living has increased about 20 per cent.

The Yaqui Indians have their grievances too, and they promise to be peaceful if President Diaz of Mexico will protect them in their rights. Surely there should be no refusal to agree to that.

Speaking of South Africa, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain said in Leicester last night that he did not believe in dividing the skin before he caught the bear. The way things are going now, it looks as though the skin would not be worth the cost of dividing.

Circulating sensational stories, groundless rumors and unprovable charges is "noble work" in the opinion of the distributor of such reports. But a demand for official investigation as to their truth or falsehood is denounced by the same paper as "a strained effort" and the Senator who calls for it is pleasantly denounced by the same elegant authority as "a pettifogger."

An instance of Boer devotion and courage comes from the battlefield of El-andslaagte; it is told by an Englishman who was an eye-witness. "Twelve Boers separated themselves from the main body, and standing together, diverted the enemy's fire to themselves, thus enabling a detachment of the Boer artillery to retire. Of these twelve brave burghers eleven were killed as they stood there. It is an incident worthy to be commemorated in song and story."

The Canadian minister of marine says Canada and the United States could not agree on the Alaska boundary because the Americans would neither compromise nor settle by arbitration the claims to certain territory. That is true; but the Canadians were either very foolish or very impudent to think that, when they set up a claim to a portion of territory belonging to Uncle Sam, the latter would do anything less than require them to get off his premises.

A short time ago Gen. Hernandez was vice president of Venezuela, and commander of the government forces battling with revolutionists. The revolutionist general, Castro, was successful, and took the reins of government. Gen. Hernandez continues the war, and is now classed as a rebel. Thus in Venezuela a man can keep on one side yet at the same time be on both sides of the question of loyalty to the government.

It is said that, because J. P. Reese, of the United mine workers, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for violating an order of court, the union mine workers in the Pittsburgh, Kansas, district will go on strike till he is released. The threat thus to discommode business is not likely to have effect on the court's order, if the

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condemnation of Mr. Reese was in due form; and in that case, the miners would be out so much wages. Perhaps they can afford the holiday, but it seems queer to take a course of retaliation that will cause the chief suffering to come on themselves.

THE KAISER IN ENGLAND.

Boston Transcript.
The object of the kaiser's visit to England probably is to placate British public opinion which he provoked to hostility by his ostentatious sympathy with the Boers at the time of the Jameson raid and which he has frequently ruffled since. The kaiser seldom does anything without a purpose—even his fussy activity is designed to fix upon himself the eyes of Germany—and he doubtless is seeking to placate England with the intention of inducing her to further some of his projects. A man of enormous conceit, he is not, however, incapable of learning something from experience, and during the past four years he has had many opportunities for realizing that he made a great mistake by adopting a policy of insolence toward Great Britain.

Los Angeles Express.

German newspapers insist that Emperor William's visit to England has no political significance and is simply a family matter. But there have been occasions when Wilhelm and his grandsons were on terms of the reverse of good, so that Germans and Britons can at least congratulate themselves that there are no family scraps on hand.

Kansas City Star.

There have been numerous Anglo-German royal and princely intermarriages and the exchange of innumerable visits. This mixture of perpetual good and ill will is and always has been ridiculous. Even now the English and German newspapers are not agreed as to the significance of the imperial visit, the English journals asserting that it means all sorts of political consequences, while the German newspapers declare it means nothing and is simply a family incident. The visit means, if it signifies anything in particular, that what has been will continue; that Great Britain and Germany, if they do not work together, will not come into violent collision to each other's injury. There may be some growing over politeness both would like, but eventually a settlement by division.

Chicago News.

How much this new Anglo-German entente may signify it is too soon yet to predict. That a change has come over the spirit of the young war lord who during the Jameson raid sent the famous congratulatory message to Kruger is evident. That he is right in cultivating a good understanding with England in preference to aiding the ambitious designs of some of his continental neighbors is also evident. Germany has set out on the road to colonial empire and apparently the emperor, at least, is willing to travel amicably with John Bull and perhaps Uncle Sam in company. In other words, Teutonic unity—the unity that rests upon kinship of blood—has been greatly accelerated within the last few years. This is a new revelation to Europe and will probably have in the coming century consequences of vast import to the world.

New York World.

Such a visit at the present time, with Great Britain at war with the South African Republic, is significant. It is equivalent to a revocation and repudiation of the telegram of sympathy sent by the German emperor to the Transvaal Republic after the failure of the Jameson raid. It is important because when the commander-in-chief of the German military power chooses such an occasion for the expression of his kindly sentiments toward Great Britain no other European power is likely to advocate the slightest movement in opposition. Never has any grandson of Queen Victoria received a more sincere welcome in London than that of Great Britain to William II.

Sacramento Record-Union.

Yes, it does look like a nice little family party and so many, oh, dear, no! Not for the whole world with a slice of Krugerdorp thrown in! Emperor William goes shooting in the morning, Chamberlain drops in at Windsor and is closeted alternately with von Hatzfeldt, Wildenbruch, the German ambassador, and von Bulow, German minister of foreign affairs. Just called to ask after their health, and feel their pulse in a friendly way, don't you know. Later in the day the emperor returns from shooting and has a long talk with von Hatzfeldt, and a little chat with Chamberlain. But all in a social way, without any possible bearing on political questions; how could there be? The queen was out driving.

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