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ANTI-"MORMON" LEGISLATION IN GEORGIA.

"DISPATCHES from Atlanta, Ga., say that the Georgia Legislature has passed the bill prohibiting the Mormons from making converts among the people of that State. It is a fact not generally known that Georgia has been a fertile field for the Mormons, and during the past ten years large numbers of her citizens have been enticed into the Mormon Church. The Mormon preachers have spent much time and labor among the ignorant people in the mountain regions of the State, and have made many converts, particularly among the women. To their attention has been most directly turned, and the younger ones have been especially objects of their missionary work. They were so successful in the northern and mountainous portion of the State that they have been operating of late in other sections, and with such boldness that the Legislature has determined to check their operations. Therefore, after a long discussion of the subject, a law has been passed which makes it a felony to propagate Mormonism or attempt to make converts to it. The feeling is so high that it is entirely safe to predict that the law will be enforced."

The above is from the New York Sun of August 22nd. We are inclined to think that the luminary of Gotham has been to some extent misinformed. The Georgia Legislature has probably passed the bill which was introduced with the object of preventing proselytism by our Elders in that State, but it is not likely that the provisions of the enactment are directly to that effect, because the law would be unconstitutional and inoperative as well as void. Every religious society has the right to proclaim its own tenets whenever opportunity is offered, by preaching, lecturing, debating or publishing. Freedom of speech and of the press is a fundamental principle in our system of government, and all persons have the right to believe and teach what seems right to them.

In the EVENING NEWS of August 20th we presented an article on this subject, with an extract from the Louisville Post, which we believe contained a more correct account of the purport of the Georgia bill than that given by the New York Sun. It was there stated: "The bill provides that any person who shall in public or private assembly, counsel or advise another to commit the crime of polygamy or bigamy, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and be punished accordingly."

A great many people through ignorance will conclude that the statements of the Sun and the Post are similar. They imagine that "Mormonism" and "polygamy" are synonymous. They think that making "Mormon" converts is tantamount to "advising people to commit bigamy." Many editors and other instructors of the people frequently fall into this blunder. But a very large number of people who become converts to the faith of the Latter-day Saints do not enter into the practice of plural marriage. Belief in the rightfulness of plurality of wives is but a small part of the "Mormon" creed. Joining the "Mormon" Church, is no evidence whatever that the communicant intends to practise polygamy.

The statement in the Sun about the character of the converts in Georgia and the selections made as objects of missionary labor, is a great mistake, showing that the writer of the despatch does not understand either the facts in the case or our methods of proselytism. The Elders who are sent into the field have no persons in view as "special objects of missionary work." They preach the gospel to all who will listen. Young or old, rich or poor learned or ignorant, priest or congregation; their message is to all. And as we have

shown before, those who receive their testimony are men and women of reflection, who become willing to forsake all things for the truth. And it will be found on investigation that the Elders do not specially address themselves to women, either young or old, married or single, for their object is not to introduce polygamy, but to preach the first principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We do not credit the statement that Georgia has passed a law making it a "felony to propagate Mormonism or attempt to make converts to it." That is too absurd and intolerant in a free country. It could not be done even in England. It cannot be done in any of the States of the Union, nor by the United States in its Federal capacity. It is not improbable that Georgia has passed a law making it felony to induce or advise people to commit bigamy or practice polygamy. But such a law would have no more effect upon our Elders than upon the Governor of the State or the preachers of the orthodox sects. Because that is not the business of our missionaries either in public or private. Polygamy stands out so prominent in anti-"Mormon" eyes that they can see nothing else when "Mormonism" is mentioned, and hence they stumble into many stupid blunders concerning it.

The movement in Georgia is indicative of the fear of the sectarian preachers and their inability to cope with the arguments and testimonies of our Elders laboring in that region. One cruel murder already lies at their doors. The blood of innocence is spattered over their skirts. They stirred up the lawless and ignorant until the life of Joseph standing was sacrificed on the altar of bigotry, and now they are working to bring down the force of State authority to stamp out that which they cannot meet upon a fair field with scripture logic and reason. But they will fail. The law as well as in religion, they will find nothing that is hostile to our doctrines or its propounders. They will draw attention to the subject of the Gospel, which it is our duty to preach to all the world for a witness, and thus while they aim to destroy "Mormonism," they will help to spread it and build it up. The hand of the Lord is over all, and He will make His name known, as well as the wrath of His Divine purpose.

SANITARY REGULATIONS AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE sudden change in the weather, the thermometer having fallen to 63°, though very trying to feeble constitutions will most likely prove generally beneficial and reduce the death-rate in this city, which during the past ten or twelve weeks has been alarmingly great. During the prevalence of this cold wave care will have to be exercised and attention paid to proper clothing, for the chilly air will be found almost as dangerous as the sultry atmosphere of July and August.

A great deal has been said during the sickly time concerning the sanitary condition of this city, and persons who make it their chief business to find fault and talk about "what ought to be done," have blamed the municipal authorities for the sickness which has prevailed, and prescribed sewerage as a cure-all and preventive of infant mortality. We have no doubt that stagnant pools, which may be found in the suburbs, and decaying vegetable and animal matter lying upon the surface of the soil, have much to do with the condition of the atmosphere breathed by the residents of this city. Fallen fruit, rotting in the sunshine; excrements in barns and sheds and outhouses, fouling the air; refuse thrown into streets or accumulating in gardens; all are noxious and emit gases that are not favorable to human life. Then there are shallow wells into which unwholesome fluids percolate, and though the water may be clear and cold and palatable, yet it contains germs of disease and death, impalpable to the senses, but vigorous for evil when imbibed and aroused to fatal activity by the warmth and motion of the vital fluid through the human system.

There is much sickness outside of the city. Chills and fever are playing havoc in South Cottonwood and the regions round about, where people live on their farms and are not exposed to the evils which are said to arise from the

close congregation of denizens of cities. In all probability there are stagnant pools and swampy places in that region, from which exhalations arise under the influence of the sun's rays that are uncongenial to health. In taking a drive into the settlements adjacent to the city, anyone with sensitive olfactories cannot help noticing the dank, unpleasant odor which arises every now and again, as though coming from swampy, stagnant spots. There is a place in Mill Creek especially, a very little distance from a schoolhouse, where the scent is like that from a dead animal, and evidently proceeds from a large pond on a farm used, we believe, for a pleasure ground. It is most offensive and we should think unhealthy, and if it does not seriously affect those who live near the spot, the germs which arise and float off into the surrounding atmosphere, in our opinion must have a dangerous effect upon the health of those who breathe the air impregnated with these infinitesimal spores of death.

Some more efficient measures will have to be adopted to remedy these undoubted evils in town and country. But is sewerage the best and most available method? We seriously doubt it. In the first place, a system of underground sewerage to drain Salt Lake City, with its large main drains and smaller connecting pipes or conduits, would involve an expense that those who talk airily about sewerage, as though it merely comprehended the digging of a few ditches, little dream of. Think of the area of this city and of the miles and miles of sewers that would be necessary for an efficient drainage system? And before you commence to build sewers you must designate the place of discharge. Where is the place to empty the filthy streams from this vast area? Will you shoot them into the Jordan? Will the farmers along its banks have nothing to say on this question? Further. Reports from many cities with an ample and expensive sewerage system, show a terrible mortality which is attributed to sewer gas, and the sewers are blamed for the same thing that here is charged to a lack of sewerage.

It is the easiest thing in the world to find fault. The biggest fool often does the most grumbling. It is a common thing to blame public officials for evils over which they have no control. We are suffering from a sickly season, the effects of which are to be seen all over the country. The conditions of the period are evidently abnormal and unfavorable to general health. Undoubtedly these are aggravated by sanitary evils which may be remedied to a great extent. There can be more cleanliness in houses and their surroundings. Stagnant pools may be drained and the hollows in which they form be filled up. Offensive matter can be covered with earth and deodorized. Regulations might be enforced by civic authority which would materially aid in the suppression of nuisances of the character pointed out.

There is an ordinance in relation to offensive substances and nuisances that amply provides for this. That ordinance should be rigidly enforced. But there are few people who care to take upon themselves the business of informer. There should be, in our opinion, an Inspector of Nuisances who, with his deputies or assistants, would be required to examine into the sanitary condition of the city in all its Wards and divisions, and see that all offensive and decaying matter is removed or covered up with dry earth, and carry out the provisions of the ordinance framed for the protection of the public health. It may be said that the Marshal has this authority. But his duties are sufficiently onerous in other directions. His assistants too are the police of the city, who have sufficient service to perform as preservers of the peace without traveling all over town to abate nuisances. During the summer season an inspector and as many deputies as is needful could be employed to great public advantage, in seeing that the city is kept free from those accumulations which are dangerous to health and offensive to the senses.

The extension of the water works for culinary purposes will, we believe, accomplish much towards removing the cause of disease in this city. The completion of the canal will, we have every reason to believe, place much more irrigating water at the command of the people, and give opportunity for an enlarged use of City Creek for exclu-

sively household purposes. We have no doubt that the substitution of City Creek water for well water, would make a great change for the better in the health of the people in the lower Wards.

Purer water, then, with an enforced sanitary system of the kind we have named, will, in our opinion, prove efficacious and be more feasible of adoption at present than underground sewerage, with its vast expense, difficulty of disposition and doubtful benefits. And with all the care and caution that may be exercised, the methods which science and experience may suggest, and the sanitary regulations that may be enforced, there are and will be occult influences at work unfavorable to health and life, and proceeding from causes unknown and to a great extent uncontrollable by mortal power, which will lay low the children of men and bring sorrow and distress to the inhabitants of the earth. And the Saints need not expect to escape, because they have been warned by these things in advance. Yet by observing the Word of Wisdom; studying the laws of life and health; keeping open the channel of faith by which access is had to the throne of grace; being cleanly in person, home and surroundings; and living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; they will be preserved from much of the evil that is coming upon this generation. And when sickness seizes them they should remember the injunction of the Lord to be found in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants page 173:

"And whosoever among you are sick, and have not faith to be healed, but believe, shall be nourished with all tenderness, with herbs and mild food, and that not by the hand of an enemy."

"And the Elders of the Church, two or more, shall be called, and shall pray for and lay their hands upon them in my name; and if they die they shall die unto me, and if they live they shall live unto me."

Connected with this they should also bear in mind that although God hath ordained "all wholesome herbs for the constitution, nature and use of man," that they are to be used "with prudence and thanksgiving," with "judgment and skill," and not as some thoughtless people seem to imagine, without regard to the organism and condition of the patient, and the adaptation of the remedy to the disease. Faith in God is not incompatible with common sense and knowledge of the human system, its ailments and necessities, and the Savior's injunction concerning scripture, "Whoso readeth, let him understand," is worthy of the regard of all sensible people.

RELIGIOUS TEACHING CANNOT BE INTERDICTED.

"It is hardly to be expected that the anti-polygamy law passed by the Georgia Senate, last week, will accomplish much. The Mormons who, during the last two or three years have sent many missionaries into the South and West, do not, of course, advise their converts to contract polygamous marriages in 'the States.' There is much in the Mormon religion besides the revelation allowing plural marriages, and it is not competent for the legislature of Georgia or any other State to interdict religious teachings."

The above is from the Providence (R. I.) Star, and shows that the nature of the anti-"Mormon" law in Georgia is as we have intimated in this paper—not to prevent "Mormon" preaching in the State, but to interdict inducement to practice bigamy or polygamy. This, as suggested by the Star, and as we have shown in this paper, will not affect our missionary labors in Georgia, because our Elders are not sent anywhere to induce people to practise any particular mode or system of marriage. Their duty is to preach the fundamental principles of the gospel and bear testimony of the opening up of the latter-day dispensation.

No doubt, should the bill be signed by the Governor, some difficulties will arise in consequence, and bigoted preachers of so-called "Christian" sects will seek to take advantage of it in preventing free speech on the part of "Mormon" advocates, but the true tenor of the law will soon become known; and it will be found that the enemies of the work of God can do nothing against it, but only for it.

The Latter-day Saints have as much right to preach and defend the doctrines that form their creed as any other religious body in the United States, and as the Star declares, it is not competent for any State to interdict religious teaching. It is amusing yet sad to see the impotent attempts of professing "Christians" to stop the preaching of principles which Christ himself enunciated, and to put down by force arguments and testimonies that cannot be conquered by reason or Scripture.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Republicans made a clean sweep in San Francisco, after all.

Most people would not know they had a parrot if it were not for the President's trouble.

The President has increased his chances of recovery one half. He has now only three doctors.

Among the returning Elders who left Liverpool on the 3d inst., is Joseph Wadley, released on account of ill health.

The Millennial Star announces the appointment of Henry W. Brown, from Utah, as Traveling Elder in the London Conference.

Yesterday so cool in this city was one of the hottest days of the season in the East, thermometer marking from 98° to 102° in the shade.

Another train robbery. See dispatches. American brigands exceed in daring and immunity from capture the storied banditti of southern Europe.

England has had too much rain, the United States too little. There is not much "compensation," in this, for the crops have suffered in both instances.

The forest fires of Michigan, New Jersey, etc., are among the great calamities of the latter times and have spread terrible destruction to life and property.

New York City annually consumes 31,000,000 pounds of fish, of which cod comes, rises about 6,000,000; blue fish nearly 5,000,000 and mackerel 3,500,000. The value of this supply is about \$3,300,000.

Fig trees in Smyrna are propagated by means of slips, which should have as many buds as possible. The fig harvest lasts about six weeks—July and August—England gets the best, America the poorest.

A jewelry salesman in New York has been arrested for falsely warranting his goods "eighteen carats fine." If this policy is carried out generally, there will not be prisons enough to hold the warranters.

It is reported that a movement has been set on foot by a woman's society to get positions for ladies as conductors on railroads. The great objection appears to be the well known fact that a woman's train is always behind.

The health of the President seems to be favorably affected by discharges. He has now discharged the lady homeopath, Mrs. Edson. He seems to be improving at an encouraging rate. Bliss reigns in the sick room at Long Branch, and health comes in from the surges of the sea.

The Louisville Post, commenting on the recent find of Egyptian relics, says: "If Potiphar's wife and a few other curiosities of antiquities could be placed on exhibition, the Khedive of Egypt could open one of the most profitable museums in the world." Quite right. Anything suggestive of impurity, or any person living or dead connected with a scandal, will attract the present generation quicker than a magnet draws a needle.

The Charleston, S. C., Courier's exposition of the willingness of southern young women to work in factories and elsewhere is interesting, as showing, in a marked degree, a revolution in feeling. The Columbus and Augusta factories in Georgia, and the Greenburgh and Spartanburgh factories in South Carolina, in addition to numerous Virginia tobacco factories, are largely worked by young women, who are declared to be "as industrious as any set of girls in New England or elsewhere."

Dr. Guillaume, of the French navy, in a recent paper on typhoid fever, speaks of the great benefit which has been derived from the use of coffee. He has found that no sooner have the patients taken a few table-