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SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 26, 1900.

AN INTOLERANT SPIRIT.

We have received a clipping from a paper published in Independence, Oregon, called The West Side, in which appears an account of the visit of "Mormons" to the city. This refers to Elders B. W. Winward, of Whitney, Idaho, and Peter Nielsen, of Cleveland, Idaho. Friends of these gentlemen sent us the extract requesting that we would pay some attention to it. It is on that account that we do so.

The editor of The West Side mentions a call made upon him by the two Elders, and when he learned who and what they were, he had no desire to hold conversation with them or hear their side of the "Mormon" question. He says:

"These worthies (?) informed us that they were 'ministers of the Church of Christ, usually known as Latter-day Saints.' That settled it with us. Our business with them ended then and there, even before it began, and we so informed them. We have noticed in the public prints of the day that when these wretched fanatics on society make their appearance in the Southern States they are notified to leave immediately, and if they refuse or neglect to depart without ceremony, are promptly swung to the first limb that will hold them.

"If the southern people would confine all their lynchings to these miserable excrecences upon the religious world—these worse than leprosy wolves in sheep's clothing—the civilized world would find less fault with their hangings."

"We unhesitatingly advise the community to kick these lecherous outlaws out of their houses."

This is followed, of course, with some of the stereotyped newspaper denunciations of the "The twin relics of barbarism," which are as much out of place today as would be an attack upon the other so-called "twin relics"—slavery in the South. For the ignorance displayed by the writer of the paragraphs we have quoted, he may probably be excused. For the spirit manifested in his remarks, he must be held responsible, and if any lawless results therefrom he should be held accountable.

The misunderstanding that prevails concerning the Elders of the Church who are laboring in the mission field, and of the doctrines which they are promulgating, is largely due to the efforts of anti-"Mormon" preachers and writers, who have diligently distributed literature published for the purpose of blinding the eyes of the public and stirring up prejudice, to the extent of closing the ears of the people so that the Elders shall have no opportunity of declaring their message.

The bigotry and blood-thirstiness exhibited by the editor of The West Side, however, are something deeper and more to be deplored than his lack of correct information on the subject about which he writes. He was not willing to hear what the two visitors, who respectfully desired a hearing, had to say for themselves and their cause. He admits, in fact, he boasts, that his business with them "ended even before it began."

It is said to be the story of a courtship, with no moral in it as an excuse for its presentation to the public, and so offensive was it considered, that the police interfered. Olga Netherole was taken to the Tombs police court, charged with having violated the penal code, relating to matters offending public morals. Her manager, Marcus Mayer, and the leading man, Hamilton Revelle, were arraigned with the actress.

In the meantime the play goes on to crowded houses. It is asserted that the notoriety given the play by the newspapers has had the effect opposite to that which was intended. It has swelled the receipts of the theater more than any other kind of advertisement could have done. This fact suggests that, unless the prosecution of indecent authors and actors and the suppression of their products are done without the accompanying flare of trumpets through the public press, such steps in the interest of morality are taken in vain. The less is said about such things, the better. The more publicity given to sin and shame, the more contaminating is its influence. Hundreds of New Yorkers, after having read the local items, relating to the play and the arrest of the players, and then the double-column, black type editorials of the daily journals, would naturally hasten to the theater, just to see "what the nasty thing looks like." Human nature is such. You cannot open the sewers of modern society without filling the premises with the intolerable odor.

The American stage is much abused. Crimes of almost all kinds are constantly exhibited there. Deception, hypocrisy, falsehood are made light of, and society laughs, or applauds. But the forgetfulness of self-respect has not gone quite so far yet as to suffer the same society to remain unmoved, when one of its besetting sins is exposed—when one of its sore ulcers is touched. This is, after all, a favorable sign. There is a possibility of reform, as long as a sense of shame remains. As long as society can color up on seeing its defects in a looking glass, no one need despair.

Let the good work go on. Let the stage be swept clean of all the productions that evidently tend to clothe villainy in the glories of heroism, and in-

"STOP THAT COUGH."

We do not intend, by that exclamation, to advocate any of the different remedies offered against that irritation of the throat which is very common at this season of the year. We do, however, wish to give a little advice to people in public assemblies, who frequently indulge in unnecessary coughing while a speaker is addressing the audience or approaching the pulpit.

During the services in the Tabernacle on Sunday many of the congregation were greatly annoyed at the chorus of coughs, that sometimes almost drowned the speaker's voice. It is noticeable that when one or two persons afflicted with a cold set the example, it is followed by a great many others, who would perhaps remain perfectly quiet but for the start that is given, but as soon as the sounds are heard, they follow until a series of barks disturb the ear and it is some time before the paroxysm subsides.

This cause of annoyance is capable of control. That is the point we wish to present to the notice of our friends. Coughing is catching. It seems almost like an epidemic. But when the inclination is felt to imitate the sound made by others, in a large number of instances it can be suppressed by a determined effort, and if the mind is diverted from it and centered upon the speaking, or praying, or singing in progress, the noise can be avoided.

How often it occurs that during the utterance of a prayer in public, there will be complete silence except from the voice that is raised in devotion, then, as soon as the "Amen" is uttered, coughing will commence and become general throughout the congregation. This shows that it can be and often is brought under control, and in many instances it can be kept down altogether. If people will make up their minds not to indulge in this public coughing unless actually obliged to give way to it, that source of disturbance will become comparatively unnoticeable.

DEWEY AND THE CANAL.

The American people will listen with due respect to Admiral Dewey whenever he speaks on national questions, particularly those pertaining in any way to naval affairs. Who has proved himself to have more practical experience and more sound sense than he on such questions? It is therefore of general interest to learn his views on the Nicaragua canal. He is said to have spoken as follows on the question whether the canal should be fortified or not:

"Fortifications? Why, of course not. As I understand it, the canal is to be and should be a neutralized commercial pathway between the two great oceans. To fortify it would simply result in making it a battle ground in case of war. Fortifications would be enormously expensive and ought not to be erected. Our fleet will be a sufficient guarantee of the neutrality and safety of the canal in time of war as well as in peace."

That is to say the Admiral does not believe it necessary for this country to go to the expense of building costly fortifications, for the purpose of securing the neutrality of that proposed highway of commerce. He thinks the money would be better appropriated for ships, as those would be a sufficient guaranty of the safety of the canal.

On the question of the right of this country to control the canal, the paragraph quoted is silent. Admiral Dewey undoubtedly takes the American position that if the canal is to be built by American capital, it should be controlled by the American government. If this control can be absolute and secured without costly fortifications, it is all the better. This country is about to build a large navy, and it can be put to no better use than to defend one of the greatest business enterprises in which this country ever engaged.

AN ACTRESS ARRESTED.

New York is not a little agitated about an immoral play produced at one of the theaters. Olga Netherole playing the principal part. The play is Clyde Fitch's adaptation of Daudet's "Sapho."

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vest brutality with all the virtues of the moral code. Let it be swept clean of all the "shows" to which a young man cannot with propriety take a girl whom he loves and respects. Let the theaters of the land become what they ought to be, great educational institutions, in art, in manners, in morals, in patriotism and humanity.

KRUGER AND THE PSALMS.

One of the remarkable features of the Boer campaign is the use President Kruger makes of sacred writ for the purpose of stirring his troops to enthusiastic patriotism. In this respect he resembles the hero of the Thirty Years' war, Gustavus Adolphus, or Cromwell. Thus, in one of his messages to his generals, he says: "Read Psalm, 33."

In this Psalm the inspired poet calls upon the righteous to render thanks unto the Almighty, because He is just, good and true, and because He is the sovereign ruler of the universe. He emphasizes this sovereignty as an encouragement to trust implicitly in the Lord. Reference to this piece of Hebrew poetry may well be regarded as an indirect reply of the Transvaal president to the claim of the British government to sovereignty. Oom Paul evidently belongs to the rapidly disappearing Pietistic school of worshippers, who used to believe implicitly that God Omnipotent rules mundane affairs in accordance with His divine plans and purposes.

The Psalm referred to reads in part as follows:

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom He has chosen for His inheritance. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host; a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety; neither shall He deliver any by His great strength."

"Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield." Men fighting with the understanding conveyed in these lines are very much in the frame of mind in which David went to the encounter with the Philistine giant. They are relying upon a higher power than their own, and if faith is a power, it cannot but be manifest in mighty deeds. Paul Kruger is a wonderful character in this age, and his war is one of the most remarkable in history.

The age of useful discoveries is not past. A message from Kimberley says mulesh is superior to horseflesh for food.

The salmon packers' combine appears to have a hermetically sealed trust that consumers will not break open this year.

From the accounts of the fighting around Ladysmith it would appear that the Boers no longer hold the latch to the trap-door.

These rains in the valley mean snow in the mountains and both mean irrigation for the fields and that signifies wealth to the State.

Venezuela cannot pay its lawyers' fees. Revolutions should die out there soon, if there is so little cash in reach of government officials.

Politics is not the only dangerous amusement in Kentucky. Three persons were fatally shot at a dance on Saturday night.

For five days past, Gen. Cronje's surrender has been "hourly expected." Yet he persists in his attempt to carry out the Boer program of disappointing public expectation.

Parisians were lucky on Sunday morning not to have a death list to report at a fire there, out of 150 people injured by oil explosions during the progress of the conflagration.

The determined refusal of Gen. White to surrender is described as heroic, while a similar course on the part of Gen. Cronje is classed as criminal. It all depends which side of the fence the observer is on.

When Gen. Cronje was bombarding Kimberley, the people there were glad to take shelter in holes in the ground, commonly known as bomb-cells. Now Cronje's men have recourse to a similar shelter—a case of tables quickly turned.

The prolonged resistance of the Boers under Gen. Cronje to Lord Roberts' army is not alone because of their objection to surrender, but has another motive in their holding-out, being an aid to the Transvaal forces at Ladysmith.

The extradition treaty being negotiated between this country and the Chilean government, is expected to inaugurate a cold day for criminals who take the well-worn route from the United States to the South American republic.

Lord Salisbury has expressed regret for interference with an American vessel, and has promised greater caution in the future. This means a sharp rebuke and warning to over-official under-officers who are running the government close to danger lines.

The battle between Yaquis and Indians, at Potam, near Guaymas, has a startling feature in that 400 Yaquis put up a very stiff fight against nearly double their number of Mexicans, and inflicted on the latter losses aggregating more than half the number of their own force.

There is just a fear that Boer reverses may have an effect on Cape Colony that success did not produce, i. e., to cause a general colonial uprising. In addition to the intimation to that effect in the dispatches from Capetown is the action of Colonials with Gen. Brabant taking advantage of the expiration of their three months' term of enlistment. Fifty per cent of Brabant's force has left him already.

Capt. Slocum's official report on British military tactics at the Tugela and Modder rivers is withheld by the Washington war department because of its criticisms. Capt. Slocum's high standing as an experienced officer gives weight to the justice of his criticisms, and their withholding shows that they are severe. Yet they cannot be much more so than those of British soldiers who have written of their superiors at the places named as "schoolboy officers."

PUERTO RICO.

San Francisco Chronicle.
There is no safer man to follow where the question of protection is involved, than President McKinley. He won his fame as its champion, and he is still its most ardent defender. The whole question of protection is involved in the Porto Rican bill now before Congress, and we look to our Congressmen to make sure that no part of the doctrine shall be sacrificed. There must be free trade between all American citizens on the mainland or on the islands, and a protective tariff, absolutely uniform between them and all foreigners.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.
The Supreme Court may settle at an early date the question whether the Constitution extends of its own force over the dependencies. A suit has already been begun by some Boston importers of merchandise to recover duties paid on Porto Rican products. Their claim is that Porto Rico is part of the "United States," in the sense in which that definition is used in the clause requiring all excises, duties and imports to be "uniform throughout the United States." The customs authorities yesterday decided unanimously against the importers, and it is understood that the matter will be forthwith appealed to the Federal courts.

New York World.
The plain provision of the Constitution that "all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" was cited in support of the President's recommendation. Whether or not trade follows the flag, the Constitution certainly does. Chief Justice Marshall declared that the Constitution "extends to all places over which the government extends."

New York Mail and Express.
What a puerile policy it is for a nation like this, prosperous, enterprising and commercially strong beyond comparison, to hold a tariff club over these people whom we have forced under our flag—and say to them, in effect, you are one of us only so far as it is to our advantage to permit you to be, whenever there is the slightest prospect that you will get as much out of trading with us as we will out of you—when ever that line is reached it is to be the line of separation between us as a common country! That was Spain's selfish policy in Puerto Rico. Is it to be ours?

Omaha World-Herald.
The "tobacco infant" and the "sugar infant" are plenty big enough to bluff Uncle Sam, but they prove to be helpless in the face of the wicked and gigantic island of Puerto Rico. These protected "infants" can do the Jekyll-Hyde act in a manner calculated to hurt the artistic feelings of Dick Mansfield, in history.

Boston Transcript.
While it may be true, as the President holds, that Congress has plenary power over the islands, that fact carries the great responsibility of informing such power with discretion and tempering it with justice and humanity. We cannot afford to have duplicates of the starving reconcentrado pictures coming up here to illustrate the condition of things in Porto Rico. The governor general of that island writes from San Juan: "Free trade with the home government I regard as a necessity for Porto Rico." Some of our strongest Republican papers, like the Baltimore American and the Providence Journal, are not only feeling, but expressing, alarm at the outlook.

Chicago Times-Herald.
Meantime it is enough for Porto Rico to have free access to our ports. The New York Sun, which was staunch for protection even when it was known as a Democratic newspaper, is sound when it says: "The United States tariff that now stands against her should be abolished." This is the true way to stimulate the island's industries, increase its wealth and so to enable it to raise its own revenues.

Chicago Record.
Congress should follow its "plain duty" as indicated by the President and abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico. The vital welfare of the islanders should not be sacrificed to the sugar and tobacco interests of the United States.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Collier's Weekly for February 17 contains a special article by Senator Blackburn, on the political war in Kentucky. Lieutenant Summers has an illustrated article on Arctic Weather on the Atlantic, and Edwin Emerson Jr. tells in a most interesting way all about New York's Fire Fighters. Frederick Palmer has a story about American soldiers rescued from Filipinos. One of the pictures is the double-page drawing in this number by De Thulstrup, of the famous capture of Spion Kop by the British during the battle of the Tugela—New York.

Among the features of the current number of Harper's Weekly are a number of pictures from photographs and sketches by the Weekly's artist at the front, showing both the British and Boer troops on the march, fortifying kopjes, and resting after the battle. An article of interest at this time is the study of the social and political causes of the "The Truth about Transvaal," by John Glimmer Speed. A double-page special supplement, illustrated with many photographs of General Lawton's funeral in the Philippines, and a double page picture in color of "A Winter's Night in Broadway" are also included in this number—New York.

Some of the special features of the current number of Harper's Bazar are: "Ruth," by Professor R. G. Moulton, of Chicago University. This is the first of a series of "Women of the Bible." "Susan Jane's Valentine," is a short story by Mary Wilkins; "Women of the Wagnerian Libretti," and "Can We Elevate the Stage?" are other subjects interestingly treated on—New York.

The February number of The Successful American opens with a brief paper on "The Cuban Cable Controversy." Then follows what purports to be "The Truth about Transvaal," by John Glimmer Speed. A double-page special supplement, illustrated with many photographs of General Lawton's funeral in the Philippines, and a double page picture in color of "A Winter's Night in Broadway" are also included in this number—New York.

The February number of The National Geographic Magazine is an interesting article on Some Geographic Features of Southern Patagonia with a Discussion of Their Origin, by J. B. Hatcher. This article is illustrated. Another paper deals with "Kite Work of the Weather Bureau," and another has "Practical Exercises in Geography" for subject. It is an interesting number—Washington.

The March number of Appleton's Popular Science Monthly contains much of general interest. The first place is given to "Paper on 'The Transplantation of a Race' in which the author, Prof. N. S. Shaler, deals with the negro problem. "Modern City Roadways" is an illustrated article on a subject which deserves much attention. Rev. Samuel G. Smith writes about "Criminal Criminals," but does not approve of the modern tendency to regard man as an irresponsible being. "A Century of Geology" by Prof. Le Conte is concluded in this number. Prof. Norman Robinson contributes an interesting paper on "Salmonanders," and William Baxter writes about trolley cars. "A Survival of Mediaeval Credulity" is an interesting discussion on the secret society question. Other subjects treated on are "Ribbon Lightning," "Cross-Education," "The Morbid Sense of Inquiry," and "Early Experiments in Air Flight."—D. Appleton & Co. 5th Ave., New York.

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