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CHURCH RULE AND STATE LAW.

Sometimes very vehement advocates of strict conformity to law regardless of circumstances and consequences, forget their extreme views when ardently espousing a cause that they deem of paramount importance. This is illustrated in the pronouncement promulgated by the Bishop of Rochester at the recent Church Congress. He declared his readiness to "inhibit" any clergyman who might marry guilty persons in divorce cases. The fierce opponents of divorce on what they erroneously imagine are scriptural grounds, emphatically denounce the remarriage of divorcees; and the learned Bishop seems to be imbued with the same kind of spirit. But the Law Journal calls the prelate down from that hobby, by charging him with disrespect to the Legislative authority of the State and to the law which it enacted in 1857, and proclaims his anathema a mere "brutum fulmen." That statute provides that no clergyman shall be liable to "any suit, penalty or censure," for solemnizing such a marriage as the Bishop prohibits. So it is the civil law and the ecclesiastical edict for it. The prelate may "inhibit" in word, but the law protects the inhibited parson in deed, and the Churchman will have to yield to the power of the State. He will also have food for reflection over the wisdom of too much zeal for the theory that he has so vigorously supported, and for the application of the query about "the mote and the beam."

A SENSIBLE CONCLUSION.

The Daily Missoulian, published at Missoula, Mont., in its issue of December 1, has a very sensible editorial on the effort which is being made to exclude Senator Reed Smoot from his seat. It sweeps away the subtleties that have been resorted to by his opponents, and brings the question down to this point: "The opposition to Smoot is based wholly and solely on the fact that he is a polygamist." Also that though some people think the "Mormons" of Utah should be disfranchised, the fact remains that they have not been disfranchised, but still enjoy the right of suffrage, and it was by the legal voters of Utah that the Legislature which elected him to the Senate was chosen. If that body had been an illegal body, the Missoulian concedes that the election of Senator Smoot would be void. It goes on to say:

"But it is not Smoot they are after; it is the Church. The way to go about that, it seems to us, would be to disfranchise all Mormons. That wouldn't be fair, but that would be the way to get at it. Seldom a day passes that there isn't some new scheme planned to oust Smoot. His presence in the Senate is the cause of widespread hysteria among women, and just why it should prevail is one of those things no fellow can find out."

The Missoulian quotes a dispatch from Salt Lake of considerable length, the substance of which is to the effect that the Senator is to be retained in his seat by the influence of the railroads and the sugar trust, which is simply one more canard added to the tirades that have been hurled against the gentlemen, and is not likely to be regarded by sensible people with any great degree of reliance, and the Missoulian argues in this wise:

"Even if this is true, which is doubtful, what has that to do with the case? The Senate is the sole judge of the election and qualification of its members, and it is not probable that it will throw Smoot out on account of his religion, even if it is as bad as it is said to be, and if he is with the 'railroad gang,' as it is called, why should he be fired for that and Forsaker and others be left in?"

That paper recently took up the nonsense uttered by Mrs. Frederick Schaff, in regard to the danger that she alleged she was in from the "Mormons" while spending a few days in Salt Lake City, and the reported threats of assassination against one poor misguided individual, whom she "never expected to see again." After citing a number of foolish remarks from the eminent lady, the Missoulian closes its article with this paragraph:

"For a woman, just afraid to open her mouth, Mrs. Schaff managed to emit considerable of an interview. It is news to this state that the Mormons control Montana, and if Mrs. Schaff's other information is of the same kind, all of it comes under the head of hot air. No doubt she is a good woman, but so was the woman who caused the recent massacre of missionaries in China."

There are a great many thinking people who, after all the hurly-burly that has been raised by the preachers and the religious ladies, spurred on by persons inspired by native and disappointed ambition, have reached similar conclusions to those arrived at by the Missoulian, and before the case is concluded their numbers will be considerably augmented. There would be but little in-

terest excited throughout the country were it not for the efforts of the classes here mentioned. In business circles and among the general population of the Eastern States there is little or no agitation on the subject, and for the efforts indicated, and they are largely inspired by ignorance or intolerance.

WORK BEFORE CONGRESS.

A number of important questions are before Congress, now in session, and the legislators will have to economize on time, if they mean to pay due attention to all of them. Such matters as the railroad rate question, the Panama canal reports, the Cuban situation, statehood bills, immigration regulations, etc., cannot be decided in a hurry. They all demand the most careful consideration. Perhaps the most important issue of these is the railroad rate question, on account of the principles it involves. The proceedings will be watched with close interest throughout the country.

President Roosevelt, a short time ago, briefly stated his views on the subject when he replied to the representations of the railroad men's delegates. He said:

"All I want in any rate legislation is to give the government an efficient supervisory power which shall be exercised scrupulously to prevent injustice to the railroads as to prevent their doing injustice to the public. Our endeavor is to see that these big railroad men and big shippers who are not responsive to the demands of justice are required to do what their fellows who are responsive to the demands of justice would be glad to do of their own accord."

In his message to Congress he stated the same propositions at greater length, and, while recommending legislation in the direction suggested, warned against any measure of hostility against the railroads.

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

Father Gapon, the Russian clergyman who in the first stage of the revolution led peaceful citizens to the palace gates, in hope of obtaining a hearing in behalf of the people, but who was met with a shower of bullets, was not heard of for a long time, but now he again appears on the scene, counseling to peace and order. His intention seems to be to aid the government in the execution of the promised reform measures, and restore tranquility. This is what Russia now needs. She needs, first of all, conservative men with influence enough to make the frantic mob listen to reason.

Unless this speedily takes place, and the wild waves of disorder are stilled, the country will be brought to the verge of ruin. Advice from St. Petersburg states that the financial prospects are already now very dark and gloomy. Trade is paralyzed. The revenue from Baku has vanished. Odessa's big grain trade is, at a standstill. Corn, which should be on the way there is rotting, moldering in wagons along the roadside, for the engines were taken for war purposes. In the coal-yielding district of the Donets Valley all is devastation and desolation.

More serious than all else are the peasant riots that have broken out in 28 provinces and are steadily spreading. The moujiks have got it into their heads, it is said, that they will not pay taxes and will punish the government. They are pillaging and looting, while the owners have hastily fled. As a background to this picture of chaos such as no country has known, stand the howling, bloodthirsty, revolutionary conspirators, organizing on a vast scale, so that when the prearranged signal is given they will rise in the millions like one man and paralyze the entire course of life from one end of the country to the other. Such are the conditions, as seen by eye-witnesses.

A Berlin rumor has it that the Czar has been the object of a murderous attack by one of the grand dukes. This rumor has not been confirmed, but there is no doubt that the Czar has every reason to fear for his personal safety during the present commotion. And, all because he did not in time listen to the respectful petitions of his subjects. Only a few months ago, he might have given the country a parliament and a constitution and established himself in the hearts of his countrymen as the greatest and noblest of emperors. But it is a question whether the opportunity is not forever gone.

WHAT TO EAT.

Well-to-do people in London have taken to a diet of nuts, as a means of curing many physical ailments, and prolonging life. "Lord Charles Beresford," says Vanity Fair, "has for some time been a vegetarian and now Lady Charles Beresford has adopted the same form of diet and lives principally on nuts." The nuts are served hot or cold, and constitute the principal course of many a lordly mansion nowadays. "If the unemployed only knew," says a convert to the new food, "they could live luxuriously on two or three pence a day on the finest food in the world and it could be varied so much that there would be no monotony of dishes."

It is really astonishing how many different ideas there are about correct living. With the experience of thousands of years, mankind should by this time have arrived at something like mathematical certainty regarding what to eat and drink; but that is far from the fact. Some tell us we eat too much meat; others, that we consume too much vegetable food, and not enough rich meat. Followers of Hyron Tyler think we should not cook the food. Thomas Edison has discovered that we eat too much. Some warn us against drinking too much water, and others claim that we do not drink enough. Some consider milk the most perfect food to be found in all nature, while others fear it as a medium through which diseases are disseminated. And similarly the opinions differ on every substance that is used for nourishment of the body. He who should follow the suggestions of every wise man on the subject of diet, would starve to death. It is, no doubt, true that man has much to learn with regard to eating

and drinking, as well as breathing, sleeping, and living in general. Only as a rare exception is a human being found with perfect health. What is the cause? Wild animals live much longer, in proportion to the period of their development, than domesticated animals, and civilized man. Among them sickness is the exception and health the rule. If man's life was in proportion to the period of growth, he should live from 150 to 200 years. But the average is only from 35 to 40 years. That there must be some cause for this is clear enough, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that if we were living in better harmony with nature, the discord manifested in numerous ailments and untimely death, would not exist.

The Mosaic law contains a number of rules of correct living, that could be studied to great advantage even in this advanced age, and the Word of Wisdom given in this dispensation is another perfect law, in broad outlines, on hygiene.

The Czar has the biggest sea of troubles of any man in the world.

It is much easier to abolish football at the end of the season than at the beginning.

The Hawaiian planters propose to go to the Azores for laborers. Why not go to the Ant?

As Inspector of balloon service presumably Colonel Cody will ride Pegasus while on duty.

Oyama has made a triumphal entry into Tokio. Kuropatkin once expected to do the same thing.

Senator Tillman will fairly revel in pitching into the life insurance companies with his pitchfork.

At any rate Secretary Shaw did not begin his report of the deficit by saying, "I have the pleasure to report."

The fight over appropriations for the Panama canal promises to be quite as bitter as was the fight over the selection of a transisthmian route.

Senator Lodge's bill creating a maximum and minimum tariff may be a preparation for that war that General Chaffee predicted would come.

Wisconsin proposes to have a life insurance investigation. It will be but a very tame affair compared with what the New York investigation has been.

The new postoffice is said to be very inconvenient for the employees. It certainly is very inconvenient for papers that are not able to get their exchanges.

When they get around to it, the Russian people will have the biggest Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution of any one in all the world.

"Henry James has discovered the Hudson river at last," says the New York Sun. Now if he will only discover the remains of Henry Hudson his fame will be made secure.

John A. McCall says he has no intention of resigning from the New York Life. Richard A. McCurdy had no intention of resigning from the Mutual, but he did. Time changes all things.

Norway is so pleased with the dissolution of the union with Sweden that she has just celebrated the half anniversary of the event. Perhaps a half anniversary celebration is better than none; certainly it is unique.

Mr. Rockefeller is going to give the Standard Oil company a Christmas dinner. Is it to be something after the style of James Hazen Hyde's dinner to M. Cambon, to be followed by much the same consequences?

Ex-Champion Jim Corbett has been elected a director of a Long Island bank, and the New York papers think it a rather funny thing to put an ex-pugilist on a bank directorate. They ignore, or perhaps are not aware, that long before he was a pugilist he was a bank teller. He returns to his first love, only in a higher position.

FOOTBALL DISCUSSED.

Providence Journal.
Absolutely incomprehensible as it may seem to the others, the fact is probably not much less than 65,000,000 of people in this country who have not the slightest scintilla of interest in any of today's football games.

Louisville Herald.
Parents are now, in sending boys to college, confronted by serious problems. Will the boy fall into the hands of those big and ugly brutes that seem to lord it over younger and weaker students, to be pounded into an early grave? Will he be sent to the athletic arena, resolved to do up some other fellow, and get done up himself for his pains? Will he come home a cripple? Will he, instead of a man of refinement, develop into a well-dressed beast?

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Football under any rules will be what is called a rough game, though it is easily possible to eliminate the gratuitous and deliberate brutality that is one of its most offensive features. There can be little doubt that this will be accomplished, and that specifically, for the only possible alternative is the abolishment of a game that is too good to lose altogether.

Chicago Record-Herald.
Brutality is a crying evil, but it is not the only serious evil of football as played. Professionalism should go, too, and with it the immoral and ungentlemanly practices of professionalism. Gambling by students on the results of contests has not unreasonably given with the introduction of low standards and dishonorable methods. All these abuses must be reformed altogether, and only their elimination will save football.

Portland Oregonian.
Among the circumstances which incline the hearts of the American people, not to thankfulness exactly, but rather to potential nursing, the current football news ranks up well with life insurance and what Judge Grosvenor calls "the game of grab." It is an interesting comment on our ways of thinking and feeling in this land of enlightenment and Christian civilization that of our two recreations most enthusiastically pursued, one aims at emptying our neighbor's purse and the other at breaking his bones, and both,

we must admit, succeed admirably. Our grafters wax fat and our football heroes go down with shattered tibias and fractured clavicles like mighty piles before a devouring cyclone.

Springfield Republican.
There are changes in the playing rules that can be made to advantage, no doubt, but it is unnecessary to discuss them. Dr. Carl Williams, head of the board of coaches of the University of Pennsylvania, is entirely correct in saying that "the only way to eliminate all possibility of injury is so to frame the rules as to prevent physical contact of the players; in other words, practically to abandon football."

In keeping football in the list of college sports, the possibility, even the probability, of injuries must be accepted, however the rules may be framed. Hence, so long as it remains, let it be placed on an exceptional basis—red-tagged and absolutely purged of its commercial aspect.

Maj. Higginson in Boston Transcript.
A college graduate of 18 years ago, who was also an experienced and successful football player, said to me: "It is idle to change the rules of the game and to expect as a consequence a decent game. Until the captains and coaches teach their men that no brutality (hidden or unhidden), no gouging of eyes, pulling of ears, wrenching of fingers or wrists, striking of heads or faces by closed or open hands, will be allowed, we shall not see decent games. Such conduct is entirely unnecessary to the game, and yet it is practiced daily. But the men must be taught this lesson in practice games, and not hear it for the first time at the contest." Does not every intelligent or dull man know this? And yet, knowing it, even saying it, often have we the sense to demand fair behavior? Men reply, that in asking this conduct, we are expecting too much. Very good; our reply should be, "Deliver us from temptation!"

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