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WHY NOT BE FAIR?

Some of the Idaho country papers are displaying animosity toward the people in the southeastern counties of that State, because they are members of the "Mormon" Church and their influence in political affairs is feared. There is no sufficient reason for this, but reason does not cut much of a figure in anti-Mormon prejudice. There is a disposition, too, to distort and misconstrue anything that is published in papers that do not follow in the wake of those detractors that imagine they are helping the party they train with, by traducing the "Mormon" citizens of Idaho.

For example, there is the Payette Independent taking up a remark made by the Paris Post, as to the probable effect of the revival of the shameful test oath that has been wiped off the statutes of that State. The Post showed that the intention of the plot was for the re-enactment of that test, is to disfranchise every "Mormon" citizen. The Payette paper continues that to mean that "good American citizens" in giving "their first and highest allegiance to the country which gives them protection and the right of suffrage," then proceeds to state what the oath signifies, but does not squarely show what it is. That may be Payette Independent kind of journalism but it is not just or decent.

As the Deseret News explained recently in reference to the same test-oath, which Senator Dubois tried to incorporate in the bill for the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as States in the Union, it was not designed for any such purpose as that intimated by the Independent, but to exclude from the franchise every person who believes in "celestial marriage." This means marriage for time and eternity. The "Mormons" believe in that kind of matrimony. The framers of the un-American test oath knew that, and so worded it that it would deprive every "Mormon" from voting, that is every one who believes in that kind of wedlock. The pretence that this was designed against polygamy is vain. Thousands of Latter-day Saints or "Mormons" have been married according to that principle who never entered into polygamy.

It is that provision against which the Paris Post objects, and not against any law or oath or obligation that requires their first allegiance to their country. The "Mormons" have exhibited quite as much genuine patriotism, in peace and in war, as have any of their accusers. In matters of faith all citizens of this country are free to believe that which appeals to their reason, no matter how they may be viewed by other people. The nation has nothing to do with such matters, nor has the State the right to interfere with them. The notion that laws may be enacted against belief in a religious tenet which involves nothing that can be claimed as inimical to the public peace or welfare, is worthy only of the dark ages.

Idaho papers would do much better to take up such questions as relate to the maintenance of their respective political principles and parties, than to get down into the old, dirty ruts of anti-Mormonism. The great need in that State just now is to rid it of plotters against the liberties of a large body of its citizens, to unite contending factions, and to promote harmony and order and good-will for the permanent benefit of all its law-abiding inhabitants.

THE "CRITICAL THEOLOGY."

The Chicago Advance, a Congressional religious magazine, recently had an article on a subject which has been touched upon in these columns. There is a clear line of demarcation between the doctrine of divine revelation to man and the theory that religion is merely the growth of human thought, developing through the ages on the principle of evolution, as the term is used in reference to the advancement and transmutation of species from the lowest forms of animated nature up to intellectual man. The advocates of the latter theory claim to be scientific and highly critical. Faith is an object of superstitious ridicule among many of them, and yet it requires a far greater stretch of credulity to accept their notions than to believe in the existence of a Supreme Creator who reveals His word and will. The Advance reasons on this subject in the following manner:

"It is here that the critical theology falls down. It has so hopelessly entangled itself in destructive principles that it cannot get on. It has used methods to eliminate the supernatural from the Old Testament which leave it no place to stand among the miracles and other supernatural phenomena and elements of the New Testament. But if a man cannot make his peace with the New Testament, how is he going to preach the gospel? He is in a predicament. There is in the life of the day no more uncomfortable or pitiable position than that of the man who has accepted such critical theories that they undo him when he opens the Bible and tries to preach a positive sermon. This was the fatal weakness of the Unitarian movement which split Massachusetts Congregationalism. The men who went into this movement did so with the same kind of declaration about the supernatural and outcropping of belief, and about progress and emancipation from error that we hear now, and they confidently proclaimed an early and complete triumph of their views. But in time such men as Channing were bewailing their failure, and why did they

fail? Because they had nothing positive to proclaim. In conclusion, we may say that the only men who seem able to preach and work logically, consistently, and effectively are the men who keep near to the great fundamentals of faith as revealed in the Word of God. They are not compelled to slip their theology in at the back door while their audiences steadily vanish through their front door."

A "SANE" FOURTH.

Warnings against the reckless celebration of the nation's great holiday are timely, and needed. The children will play with fire, notwithstanding the numerous accidents to themselves and others.

An Ohio official calls attention to the fact that during the past five years an annual average of 36 fires has been caused in his state alone by the fire-cracker method of celebration, and advises property owners to clean up the rubbish around their premises and then to keep their eyes open on the Fourth. This is good advice, but it covers only one part of the dangers of the Fourth. It has been found that more accidents, and many of them fatal, occur annually throughout the country on that day, owing to the fire-cracker, than those due to some battles of the past. This is absurd. It is insanity to permit the yearly sacrifice of hundreds of lives in the very embrace of a modern Moloch, even if the celebration is in honor of one of the grandest events of history.

We believe that day deserves the distinction of being marked as a day of days. The commemoration is one in which the entire world might properly join. The children should have its significance impressed upon them with all solemnity and dignity, as well as joy and proper freedom from restraint. But the celebration should not become a farce. It should not be an occasion of slaughter and riot. Only a "sane" celebration is worthy of the day and the event.

MUCK-RAKING NEEDED.

If the conditions existing in the underworld of New York society are thoroughly investigated, as is now said to be the intention of those interested in the New York Roof Garden murder case, very sensational facts will, undoubtedly, be brought to light. According to rumors, and what occasionally leaks out and becomes public, the doings of the habitués of that inferno should be enough to make Mothers' congresses tremble for the future of the American home. It is said that both the prosecution and the defense has detectives engaged on the work of muck-raking, and they will certainly not be idle for lack of material.

The career of Thaw is partly known to the public. As a young man, out of college, his principal occupation was to squander money. Fifty-dollar dinners were not unusual to him. Five years ago he caused a sensation in Paris by giving a dinner that cost him \$50,000. Twenty-five actresses and demi-mondaines were his guests—among them Cleo de Merode, to whom the king of Belgium is said to have succumbed. Sousa's Band, led by the march king himself, played the music for a stipend of \$1,500.

Thaw and Miss Nesbitt toured Europe together in automobiles. In London they registered as "man and wife," but in New York, on the return from Europe, they were ejected from several hotels. Finally they were married at Pittsburgh, then went to New York and lived sumptuously.

As for the victim of the tragedy, it seems that, instead of being wealthy, as was generally supposed from his mode of living, he was hopelessly in debt. Though married it does not appear that he had a "home." He lived, it seems, in the atmosphere of clubs, and had an extensive acquaintance among stage people. Such facts are indication enough of the nature of the disclosures that are threatened by the investigations that have been started.

One of the strange incidents of the affair occurred immediately after the shooting. A number of women crowded around Thaw and eagerly shook his hand, expressing sympathy for him. The policeman had to drive them away. What is the peculiar fascination about a person who has slain a fellow-being?

There is some strange contradiction in human nature. Both men and women have bouquets for those of the opposite sex whose hands are stained with blood, and philosophy fails to explain the true reason. It is a pity that it should be so. For, as long as criminals can pose as heroes, many will choose that road to notoriety.

ANOTHER CANAL?

If the plans and schemes of Colombian capitalists materialize, though of that there is little prospect, Uncle Sam will have to hurry up the work on the Panama canal, or the Colombians will have a canal of their own, and a sea level canal at that, before the Panama ditch is much more than half done. Rumor has it that Colombian business men are talking of organizing a company for the purpose of constructing an inter-oceanic canal through the Darien isthmus. It is claimed that this can be done in six years at a cost of only \$70,000,000.

The proposition is to dig a ditch, 21 miles long, between the Atrato and Truanda rivers, one of which empties into the Atlantic and the other in the Pacific.

The main depth of these two rivers, along the sections to be used, is said to be from thirty-five to forty feet. There will be twenty-one miles of excavation and a gigantic tunnel two and three-quarters of a mile long. The Colombian government is said to take a deep interest in this project. It is thought a loan of \$35,000,000 can be made in European markets. The soldiers of Colombia, and other South American republics that may become interested in the plan, will be set to digging and be paid at the rate established for the regular service, which is not very much, and in this way it is hoped to keep the cost within the estimate. It goes without saying that Colombia is interested as a measure of retaliation, because of the secession of Panama, in 1903, at the alleged instigation of men in the United States service, and if Europe is as jealous of American prestige as is supposed by some, the needed money may be forthcoming. Then the ques-

tion naturally would arise, can the United States permit Colombia, or any other country, to build a canal parallel to the Panama ditch at so short a distance from it? Would that not be an "unfriendly" act?

The question, it is said, will come up at the Pan-American congress at Rio de Janeiro. If it does, the Colombians will no doubt be dissuaded from attempting an enterprise that, in addition to financial and engineering difficulties would bring about far-reaching political complications.

THOSE SCHOOL RIOTS.

Further particulars concerning the school riots in New York, to which reference was made in these columns a few days ago, show the power of falsehood upon persons who are unable to discriminate between the truth and error. It seems that hospital physicians had decided to visit the school and perform a slight operation upon children suffering from adenoids. This, it is asserted, caused jealousy among certain practitioners who thought their particular field of business had been invaded.

The school authorities now have learned that shortly after the visit of the hospital physicians, men went around the East Side saying that a massacre of pupils was being planned by city authorities, and that when there was proof that it was to be carried out word would be spread. This word was spread one morning, and it went from one end of the congested region to the other, causing frantic mothers to run screaming from the tenements and dash to the schools. Men and boys joined in the rush, and a few minutes before 11 o'clock mobs of women were storming the schools. The outpouring of thousands of pupils, all ignorant of the cause of the trouble and bewildered and terrorized, added much to the confusion which had already brought police reserves from all the near-by stations.

The riot, which at one time threatened to result in murder, is a striking illustration of the power of falsehood. At this time the New York school authorities were the object of the fictitious stories, the absurdity of which were denser than the darkness of Egypt, and yet it caused a commotion that lasted for days. It is no wonder, then, if sometimes good, honorable men and benevolent institutions are, through persistent misrepresentations by slanders, in the vivid imagination of simple-minded, non-critical individuals made to assume the form and possess the qualities of monsters. Such is the power of falsehood. But it is only temporary. Truth prevails finally, every time.

"Emotional insanity" is the plea of the next best thing.

These July days are as perfect as any June ever turned out.

Count Witte seems to be assuming the role of Marius.

Henceforth Thaw's life will be a White-necked swan.

Mr. Hearst can't for the life of him see what people see in Bryan.

Saturday afternoon the house of representatives was the house of mirth.

It's rather in Evelyn Nesbit's favor that she isn't a Gibson girl, though she has been in the chorus.

Asphalt pavements are expensive but they are not a failure. It is just as well to be honest in the matter.

The donna is more than an elephant on the czar's hands. It is an old man of the sea on his back.

The prospective great expense in distributing the relief fund in San Francisco portends a huge scandal.

Eustace Miles claims to have invented a food which will double a man's ability to work. No tramp will touch it.

Congressman Mann declares that our coffee is adulterated with sawdust. There are lots worse things than sawdust.

The San Francisco fire is said to have caused a shortage in firecrackers. There is no loss without some small gain.

Uncle Sam is going to call on Venezuela to settle up some old claims. Here is a case where Castro cannot invoke the Monroe doctrine.

"The subway was made on the 'cut and cover' principle," says the New York Sun. From all one hears about it it seems to have been cut on the bias.

The American Farm Products trust has been formed. It says it will raise the price to the farmers and cheapen it to the consumers. This is a good trust, so distant.

The finance committee of the Red Cross San Francisco relief committee has appointed a "rehabilitation committee." What kind of a committee is that? Something in the whitewash line?

Ex-Senator Burien's attorneys are very emphatic in their statement that their client does not want an executive pardon. With pardons as with nominations, it is well not to refuse them until they are offered.

WOMAN IN THE CASE.

Portland Oregonian.
Mrs. Thaw had a past, and the nature of her past was so shockingly scandalous that polite society shut its door in her face. The Thaws were not admitted to play bridge with the smart set. They were coldly excluded from monkey dinners. The aristocracy failed to bow when their automobiles met in the park. Blooming brides happily married to their tenth husbands passed Mrs. Thaw with a stare of virtuous disapproval. Society can pardon any number of diversions, but at platonic friendship it draws the line, and Mrs. Thaw, before her marriage, had enjoyed a platonic friendship with Mr. White. Nor had she any certificate from the courts to show that this relation had terminated before her marriage began. Mr. Thaw had, therefore, clearly a double case of offense against Mr. White. On the one hand lay the possibility that the platonic friendship was running right along parallel, as it were, with the marriage of his Evelyn.

On the other hand lay the fact that White, in thinking he might be of all sin, was nevertheless responsible for her exclusion from polite society.

FREE FISHHOOKS THE NEXT.

Boston Transcript.
One of the foremost opponents of the free seed distribution recently proposed a national appropriation for the annual distribution of fishhooks and tackle to the people of our coasts and along the great lakes as a means of making the greenest popular with fishermen. He argues that these hardy men do their share toward the support of the government in adding to the material wealth of the nation; that their calling is extra hazardous; that it is a school for the navy and that they have a vote. Doubtless thousands of signers could be secured for such a petition to Congress. Perhaps the way to kill the free seed faced with by leading it down with logical related local gratuities, the total of which would be sufficient to arouse public sentiment in favor of throwing them all over.

ORIGIN OF GRASS WIDOW.

"She is a grass widow," said the professor, nodding in the direction of a lady with yellow hair.
"A grass widow? Oh, professor, I didn't think you would say slang."
"Grass widow is not slang," said the professor, stoutly. "It is, on the contrary, a very ancient and correct expression. It comes from the French *grasse* which originally meant a widow. Its meaning is 'widow by courtesy.'"
"There is nothing slangy or disrespectful in the term 'grass' widow. A widow may call herself that with propriety, and with propriety any one may call her that."

"NOT KNOWN."

Minneapolis Journal.
The World recently sent a cable message to William Jennings Bryan informing him that several Democratic state conventions had recently endorsed him as candidate for the presidency in 1908. The cable message was addressed to Mr. Bryan at Dresden, Germany, where it was supposed he would be, according to the itinerary he had mapped out. The cable message was returned to the World yesterday with this formal notice from the cable company: "Your cable message addressed to William Jennings Bryan, Dresden, not delivered. Party not known."

FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY.

Chicago Record-Herald.
For one day next week ostensibly, for several days in reality, we are going voluntarily to take unto ourselves the combined sufferings and perils of a battle, an earthquake, a conflagration and a riot, and call it fun. Our only excuse for it is that we only do it once a year. "Preparations" for that "fun" have already begun—see news columns and "accident" items. Last year the casualty lists of the Fourth of July, as compiled by the Journal of the American Medical association, showed 132 deaths, 194 cases of tetanus and 5,994 injuries. As compared with the preceding year there was a falling off of one in the list of the dead and of one in the tetanus cases. But the injuries increased by 2,960. Both years showed a great improvement, so far as fatalities went, over 1903, when the dead numbered 468 and the victims of tetanus 415. The injuries reported in 1903, however, were almost exactly the same number as in 1904.

JUST FOR FUN.

Getting It Right.

"Which is proper," asked little Robert, "the fiddler-headed or the red-headed?"
"It doesn't make any difference if she's old and homely," replied the child's father, "but if she's young and pretty 'fiddler-headed' is the way to say it."—Ex.

New Definition Offered.

"Father," said the small boy, "what is a pessimist?"
"A pessimist, my son, is a man who when the home team wins kicks because the score wasn't larger."—Washington Star.

Jays of Yesterday.

Pater (at 2 a. m.)—Oh, drat the child! Mamma—You must expect babies to cry when they begin teething.
Pater—This one's been crying ever since he began teething.—Boston Transcript.

Better Than 23.

Wise—I confess I've changed my mind about 13 at table.
Hoodew—Ah, found it unlucky, eh?
Wise—Yes, I got stuck for the check.—Philadelphia Press.

Flancon Hypnotized.

"That fellow Pecksniff certainly has got his dance hypnotized. She thinks he's too good for this world."
"And she's right. The proper place for him is in a certain locality in the next world."—Catholic Standard.

Museum's Blue Monday.

"Where's the box constrictor forty feet long that you've got painted on the sign out in front?" demanded the visitor at the dime museum.
"This is wash day, and we're using him for a clothesline," explained the Circassian beauty.—Chicago Tribune.

Frau Wagner has snubbed a singer who appeared in this country as Kundry. The Frau takes that American production of "Parsifal" as seriously as did the American people.—Buffalo Express.

"The American people is slow," says Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman. Cheer up, Charlotte. A little more experienced in dodging autos and we'll be some speedier.—Denver Republican.

"Why won't you marry Matilda?" "Because she's a woman with a past."
"Why, I never heard anything against her. What's your objection to her past?" "There's too much of it."—Translated for Tokes from Le Rire.

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JESSE JAMES
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Thursday, "Deadwood Dick."

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At 8 p. m. Sharp.
Tickets on Sale at Halliday and Schramm's Drug stores. 25c and 50c.

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Suits and Dresses Half Price

This is the Most Remarkable Offer of the Season. Shirt Waist Suits, Lingerie Suits, and Fine Swiss and Net Dresses.

THIS IS INDEED A REMARKABLE SALE. Hundreds of up-to-date fashionable Suits. An immense showing. Workmanship and finish the finest. The best value offered this season. If you doubt it, come and see. Will be sold Monday and Tuesday at..... HALF PRICE
SHIRT WAIST SUITS of Striped and Figured Lawns, White and Colored Linens, Pink and Blue French Chambrays and Dotted Swisses. Prices range from \$4.50 to \$15.00.
LINGERIE SUITS of fine Handkerchief Linens, embroidered and trimmed with lace insertion and medallions. Prices range from..... \$20.00 to \$36.00.
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The Latest in MILLINERY

For the last week we have been showing the Vesta Tilley hat. It is the very latest, and is all the rage in New York.

We are displaying them in the window, but if you have not examined them during the past week, call and we will be pleased to show them to you.

MILLINERY 25 to 50% OFF.

ALL MILLINERY, excepting blacks and whites, including the popular Phipps, Gage and other standard models will be sold at..... HALF PRICE.
The most fashionable blacks and whites, quite stylish, and will be worn much during the summer months.
..... 25 PER CENT OFF.

25% Off Parasols

THE LADY WHO ADMIRES BEAUTY and novelty in a fine parasol should not fail to visit us Monday and Tuesday. Our line of handsome parasols has that much sought for charm that adds gracefulness and elegance. You will need one for the Fourth, and on Monday and Tuesday we will sell them at..... 25 PER CENT OFF.

SPECIAL

WASH GOODS TABLE—This Table is loaded with an assortment of Wash Fabrics to be sold at..... ONE-HALF THE REGULAR PRICE.
Pick out what you want and save 50c on the dollar.

25% Off Dress Goods

MONDAY AND TUESDAY we make a special offer on Dress Goods, including Cream Dress Goods, Serges, Panamas, Batistes, Henriettas, Albatross, Alpaca, Brilliantines, Etc., Etc. For two days..... 25 PER CENT OFF.

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What porch is complete without one? Cool and comfortable, and is also an attractive ornament to the porch. If you want a good, strong hammock cheap, Monday and Tuesday we will sell them for..... 25 PER CENT OFF.

In addition we will sell all Cotton Summer Dress Goods, White Lawns, Linons, Auto Suitings, Fancy Silk, Mulls, Infants' Bonnets, Cushion Covers, Centerpieces, Etc., from..... 25 PER CENT TO 50 PER CENT OFF.

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