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SALT LAKE CITY, AUGUST 29, 1906

REFORM IS DEMANDED.

We have had occasion now and then during recent years that have passed, to admonish members of the City Council as to their demeanor as public officers. Language has been used in the council chamber in the highest degree reprehensible. It has brought reproach upon this municipality, and caused visitors to query as to what kind of people live here and choose such vulgar and hot-headed persons to transact public business. But the history of the past reads before the record of the present. Read the reports of council proceedings on Monday night for a sample of the scurrility that disgraces those assemblies. That which is published is had enough, but some expressions by councilmen were too vile to print. If the excited individuals who uttered them are not ashamed of the epithets and disgusting allusions used on that occasion, they are pretty low down in the human category.

Gentlemen of the council, can you not attend to business without rancor and personal recrimination? Can you find no words to express your dissent, or even anger against misrepresentation, but those of the most depraved mankind? Do you think they add anything to the force of your arguments or denunciations? Of course it is hard to bear falsification and unjust attacks, but cannot they be met with replies that will bear the light of reason and the gleam of cold type? If you are commonly profane or vulgar in speech, can't you be decent when in public service and council meeting? No member need wear a little cap we have presented unless it fits him, but where it happens it is meant to be put on.

After all, the fault at bottom is with the citizens who elect such men to positions of trust, responsibility and the discussion of civic affairs. If they like that stripe of officials, they must put up with their ways and their words. But if they want gentlemanly conduct in public, they must choose those who are gentlemen in private, and if they desire efficiency in official life they must make choice of real, honorable, capable persons in business life. When, Oh when, shall we seek for and place in power "good men and wise men," no matter what may be their party or their creed!

THE SLANDERER ABROAD.

By letters from Scandinavia we learn of the peregrinations and preachings of one Rev. James Thompson of the Presbyterian church at Ogden, Utah, who is misrepresenting Utah and the "Mormons" in the Kingdom of Denmark. He is traveling there, it appears, under the auspices of the "India Mission," an appendage to the Lutheran church, which holds doctrines diametrically opposed to some of the fundamentals of the Presbyterian faith. But that does not matter to either, so long as the "Mormons" are the object of attack.

Our informants state that the Presbyterian preacher has not a single good word to say of Utah, but speaks in a shameful way concerning this State and especially about "Mormonism." At a meeting in a large hall at Aarhus, recently, he was not aware that several citizens of Utah were present, so felt entirely free to abuse the Latter-day Saints and berate affairs here generally. He asserted that the only God the "Mormons" worship is Father Adam. He claimed that the present public school system in Utah was instituted by Presbyterian missionaries, and that the State had them to thank for its introduction. He declared that justice was not to be had in Utah for anybody but "Mormons," for all the courts were controlled by "the Mormon hierarchy," with other and similar falsehoods, for the purpose of prejudicing his hearers against Utah and the "Mormon" Church.

The Utah men present, at the close of the meeting propounded a number of pointed questions, much to his confusion, but he maintained that his assertions were true. He was then invited to meet Joseph L. Peterson of Utah in some public hall to compare his statements with authenticated facts, and his religion with "Mormonism," taking the Bible as the standard of authority. This was declined by Mr. Thompson, and by his associates, Messrs. Frimont, Miller and Munck, as they considered that "no good could come out of 'Mormonism.'"

We should think that, by this time, people abroad would become wary of the religious adventurers who travel about with their sponge ready to suck up all they can wheedle out of their hearers, by telling terrible tales about Utah and the "Mormons," the falsity of which could be so easily established if facts were desired instead of fiction. But there are many ministers of different denominations who are glad of the help of such persons as Thompson, in their efforts to thwart the work of "Mormon" missionaries. They fight shy of meeting them on Bible ground, but are ever ready to listen to and repeat the stories told by the slanderer abroad.

As to our Father Adam, we believe he will stand at the head of our race as his posterity forever, and that he will have dominion over the earth as given to him "in the beginning," having been redeemed from "the fall" by the atonement of Christ. But we worship the Being whom he worshipped and who gave to him the

commandment that he disobeyed. This is understood by the distorters of the truth who seek to prejudice the public against us and our faith, but they choose to take advantage of some incidental remark so as to pervert the doctrine.

The statement about the public schools of Utah seems to be a concerted story by Presbyterian preachers, as it is the same as that promulgated by a noted falsifier at the late Presbyterian convention in this city. It is utterly untrue, for the school system of this State and of the Territory preceding it was modeled after the public school system of several States, the best features of each being selected, and it had no reference to and made no copy from any sectarian or denominational school under the sun. Nor was it of non-"Mormon" origin as claimed by some persons. It was framed by a member of the Legislature from Tooele county who was a "Mormon" in faith. There were non-"Mormons" engaged in its passage, and it has been amended from time to time as occasion and experience required, but its free tuition features were adopted, as we have stated, and they were a growth from the old public school system of local origin as to "free schools" which was in vogue from the earliest days of Utah. Religious teaching is barred from our public schools but not from Presbyterian or other sectarian establishments.

The villainy of Thompson's assertion about the courts of Utah and the absence of justice to anybody but "Mormons," is so gross as to stamp its author with the same brand that blackens the brows of other slanderers of the same cult, and will stand to their shame in the day of final judgment. It is so untrue and malicious as to arouse the indignation of every man and woman living in this State. However, while such falsehoods serve to inflame the minds of many people against the Latter-day Saints, at the same time they provoke inquiry and result in investigation by fair-minded persons that results in the spread of truth and consequent conversions to the great latter-day work commonly called "Mormonism." And this has been the case in Scandinavia, we are happy to state, as reported by the Elders laboring in that country.

When the Deseret News replies to or notices the attacks of those wilful liars who make it their business to malign us and burlesque our faith, some writer of the same tribe complains that we are assailing Presbyterianism and abusing its ministers because they differ from us in religious belief. Readers of the "News" know very well that we never open a tilt with our opponents but simply stand on the defense. This we intend to do, as long as we have the power. And we do not attack a creed when we expose some of its supporters in their defamation of our leaders and our faith. It is not abuse of those perverts of the truth to show up their character and reputation. If we were to repeat the denunciations by the Savior of their prototypes we might be open to faultfinding by their associates. But we have not called them, as Jesus did, "Ye hypocrites," "Ye whited sepulchres," "Ye generation of vipers," "Ye children of your father the devil," who was a liar from the beginning," nor asked them "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" But they are to be classed in the same category and will merit the same condemnation.

Of course, beings of that stripe take to be unvelled to the gaze of the world. They would like to have their lies pass current for truth, and they resent the refutation of their malignant falsehood. Why do they not attend to their own business and preach their own tenets? The newer assailants of the Saints receive the plaudits and apologies of the has-beens, whom the "News" proved to be liars in years gone by, and who have never repented of their wickedness or made reparation for their demonstrated iniquity. But this paper will pursue its course of exposure of their falsehoods, or of ignoring their attacks, as it elects, and they may rest assured that whether at home or abroad, their crusade of slander will fail of its purpose and their acts and their doings will stand against them when they face the great white throne. And they will find that Eternal Judgment will not be affected by any plea of predestination before the foundation of the world to everlasting glory in spite of their evil words and works. Fill up the measure of your cup, ye false-witnesses and defamers, your doom is ready when ye have finished!

RUSSIA'S ENEMIES.

The stand taken by the Russian premier, Stolypin, against the too violent repression of terrorism in the country, proves him to be a wise statesman. And it is all the more to his credit, since he was wounded in the recent attempt upon his life, on which occasion his daughter, among many others, was fearfully mangled and killed, and one of his sons injured. Notwithstanding this terrible experience with terrorists, Stolypin is said to have warned against a policy that would drive the entire people into revolt, and one of the official organs reflects his views, it is thought, when it expresses the hope that the government will not be frightened into abandoning the reform program. This is wise counsel. If the government acts upon it, terrorism will not prevail.

It has been said that the anarchists who attack society with bombs and other implements of murder, are the worst foes of Russia. They are the enemies of liberty, because they often place in the path of her progress the mangled bodies of innocent victims of diabolical plots. This was the case in the attempt upon the life of the Premier, when a great number of persons, among whom were women and children, were hurled into eternity. But back of these fiends stand the equally conspicuous characters who have the power to grant the reasonable demands of the people but who refuse to do so, because it would curtail to some extent their power and lessen their opportunities to enrich themselves out of the toil of the masses, who therefore must be kept in servitude. Such individuals are the worst enemies of the country.

Consider the exploits of a man like Gen. Treptoff. His father, the biographers say, was a founding who step

by step worked himself up to a position of trust in the employ of Maravioff, the "hangman." As chief of police he made himself indispensable to the authorities, but accumulated in a few years a fortune of twelve million rubles, principally through taking bribes. He also obtained lucrative positions for his sons and aristocratic marriages for his daughters. The present Treptoff is a worthy son of his father. He commenced his career in the Horse guards, where he distinguished himself for extreme brutality toward inferiors. Flogging was to him a pastime. As chief of police at Moscow he exercised his power so murderously that he found it necessary to flee from the scene of his butcheries. General Treptoff became governor-general of St. Petersburg, chief of police and dictator, when the revolution broke out, notwithstanding his record of blood. He organized the infamous array called "The Black Hundreds," and opposed in every way possible the demands for liberty. Through his instigation rivers of blood have flowed in Russia, in the name of the Czar. Such men are the worst enemies of Russia. They are worse even than anarchists, though these have a bad record. But anarchism under the cover of law and authority is worse than the kind that appears openly in all its ugliness.

Then there is Pobedonosteff, a man who does not seem to belong to the present generation but to the dead past. He is the embodiment of the bigotry and tyranny of the dark ages and hates all "innovations" as the works of the evil one. He does not believe in education and is the avowed enemy of the press. Originally he was appointed to spy upon the clergy, but he has managed to rise to the high position of "procureur of the holy synod," and as such he has more influence than any one man in Russia. He teaches that if the Czar should yield to the demands of the people, he would be disloyal to Heaven. He claims that the best form of government is despotism, and argues that the duty of the Czar is to preserve unaltered and unaltered the customs, traditions and methods of administration as well as the policy of his ancestors.

To impair or discard any of them would, in his opinion, be sacrilege. To relinquish a particle of the autocracy would be blasphemy. It also would reflect upon the sacred memory of his father and grandfather and all his ancestors back to Peter the Great. At a meeting of the cabinet on the 15th of December last, when the plan for a duma was under consideration, he asserted that the Czar had no right to share the government with representatives of the people. God had endowed him with the power he possessed, and he must retain it or offend God. If the Czar should renounce the autocracy, religion and morality, he said, would suffer, the people would fall into sin and return to barbarism.

Men who preach such doctrines at the present time in Russia, are worse than anarchists. They are very largely responsible for the conditions favorable to anarchy. They have the power to make peace but refuse to be peace-makers.

Will Mr. Bryan outlast his welcome?

Cooler weather is resulting in warmer politics.

Today Nebraska feels as big as the Empire State.

Those Cuban insurgents are neither gaining fights nor sympathy.

Won't a bill of lading without any extra charges seem funny at first?

The Pacific squadron is to be strengthened. This should make it more pacific.

Joe Gans has been ordered to "lay off." Next Monday the order will be, "Lay on, Macduff."

Will the members of the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks refuse to handle non-union mail?

Cuba has been free eight years and now has a revolution. This goes Jefferson's theory three years better.

National Committeeman Roger Sullivan has gone to New York to welcome Mr. Bryan. Is it a case of gall or loyalty?

The policy of repression might do very well if the czar could only find someone to sit on the lid and keep it down.

Pino Guerra poses as the Cuban Camborne. "No compromise" with him meaning, "The guard never surrenders: it dies."

The open air treatment has restored Senator Dewey to health. There is nothing like fresh air and publicity for most ills of all kinds.

The president has reformed the spelling of three hundred words. When will he publish a list giving the reformed spelling of the other 124,769 words?

The children of the District of Columbia are to have their choice as to what spelling they will adopt. It is a matter in which children generally do as they please.

Mr. Hearst has just bought five huge automobiles for use in his campaign. Last year he made a very good run but evidently he intends to exceed the speed limit this year.

The anti-"Mormon" organ is as mad as a wet hen because those who show visitors through the Temple block grounds do not accept fees. Was there ever such unreasonableness?

If Farley, New York's great strike-breaker, cannot break the San Francisco carmen's strike, the United railroads might try an earthquake and see if that would break it.

One-third of a barrel of salt, according to the census reports, is each year consumed by the average person of the United States. Is there any wonder that the Americans are the salt of the earth?

A scandal is said to be threatened in connection with the introduction of reindeer into Alaska, the interesting and apparently successful government enterprise of which so much has been

heard the past two years. Rev. Dr. Selden Jackson, who originated the idea of domesticating the reindeer in our far northern territory, is alleged to have lent part of the government herd to the Presbyterian mission. Dr. Jackson being a prominent Presbyterian himself, and it is further alleged that the offspring of the "loaned" reindeer are being sold back to the government to the value of \$8.00 a year," says the Springfield Republican. Who would have believed it? All we can say is, "Deer! deer! deer!"

TUNNELS.

London Engineer.

The completion of the Simpson Tunnel, twelve and a quarter miles in length, at a cost of \$1,100,000, and at an average rate of two miles a year, has induced Mr. Lewis M. Haupt to publish in the Journal of the Franklin Institute some comparative notes on other great tunnels. The Hoosac tunnel, in Massachusetts, five miles in length, was begun in 1854 and completed in 1875, with an average progress of 3.5 feet per day. The Mont Cenis tunnel, eight miles in length, was begun in 1857 and completed in 1871, with an average progress of eight feet per day. The Suez tunnel, in Nevada, four miles in length, was begun in 1869 and completed in 1875, with an average progress of 10.24 feet per day. The St. Gothard tunnel—1572-81—nine and a quarter miles in length, was driven at the rate of 14.8 feet per day. The Arbore tunnel—1880-84—6.33 miles in length was driven at the rate of 27.3 feet per day.

GOLF AND THE LIVER.

London Graphic.

Golf is the greatest of all games. It is the only recreation that is at one and the same time healthful and a complete preoccupation without being unduly physically exhaustive. But I am profoundly convinced that it is far better for a man's liver that he should play a poor game than a good one. I know from personal experience that it is far better for the liver to play a really bad game. Nothing stirs up the liver like the irritations, the excitements and the paroxysms of a really bad game.

AN AMERICAN RESORT.

Worcester Gazette.

Bermuda is to become more than ever a paradise for tourists from the United States and Canada during the winter months. It is reported that owing to the curtailing of British colonial defense expenditures, the little island beyond the Gulf stream has been deprived of its chief source of revenue and profit. As an alternative, the islanders have turned to the tourist and propose to make their island so attractive to winter guests that where one tourist blossoms now, ten may soon be seen in all the glory of white duck and tennis shoes.

BIGGEST RAILROAD BUILDER.

Boston Transcript.

Senator Clark of Montana is probably the largest individual railroad builder in the world. He is now operating the new line from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, said to have been built from his income, and is at work on another line 225 miles long from Las Vegas, N. M., to Tonopah, Nev.

JUST FOR FUN.

The English Plural.

At an examination of teachers the other day, the candidates were invited to give the plurals of certain English words, and the replies were surprising. Most of the candidates—of whom nearly 100 sat—achieved the plurals of "basis," "potato," "hippopotamus," and "basis," though such eccentricities as "baisses," "busis," "potos," "hippopotami," "hippopotama," "hippopotamus," "baisses," "baisses," and "busis," turned up in some of the papers. "Mandamus" yielded some queer forms, including "mandama," "mandanes," "maximus," "maximal," "maximil," and even "maxim" and "maxims" were among the plurals assigned to "maximum." One candidate only succeeded in dealing accurately with "genus." The favorite plural was "genii," while "genuses," "geni," and "genium" all had their advocates. But of all the words set "vortex" proved most prolific of novel forms. Its plural was affirmed to be vortii, vortii, vortae, vorties, vortice, vortix, vortice, vortices and vortices! What all of these examinations disclose is the marvellous amount of inventiveness that exists in our midst!—Westminster Gazette.

Dyer—"Poor Higbee has got to start life anew." By—"What's the matter?" Dyer—"He has just returned from his vacation."—Judge.

Kate—"Is it true that Grace and Jack had a quarrel last night?" Nell—"No, a falling out. The hummock rope broke and let them down together."—Somerville Journal.

"By the way, sir," asked the waiter, "how would you like to have your breakfast?" "Very much, indeed," replied the mild man, who had been patiently waiting for 20 minutes.—Philadelphia Press.

"George, I'm going to take a brief vacation. What's wrong?" "Why, I wrote that Jerry Kestonian, C. N. Saunders, has a head that is none too large for the brain that fills it." "Well?" "The intelligent compositor has changed 'brain' into 'brant'."—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

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