

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 8, 1900.

## UNION TO SUPPRESS EVIL.

To the Editor:

The story now running in your Saturday edition—"The Crucifixion of Philip Strong"—and its companion story "In His Steps," by the same author, can scarcely be read by saint or sinner without arousing interest in applied Christianity.

Fire-side discussion of the theme in relation to conditions in our city developed various theories and opinions upon the following query:

"Why is it that in a city like this, with one half the people ardent adherents of one Church and at least an additional one-fifth members or supporters of other churches—the Christ principle being of all alike the dominant principle—no union of forces is effected for suppressing the grosser evils that not only those churches, but the general public decay and condemn?"

It would be interesting to see the matter discussed by those best acquainted in the premises.

The question propounded in the foregoing letter is pertinent to conditions in this city. While we do not admit that the evils referred to therein are of such magnitude as some people would have the world believe, or that they are great in comparison with those prevailing in most of the cities of this country, we regard them as of sufficient proportions to cause serious inquiry as to the reason why they are permitted to prevail.

There have been influences at work for their suppression for many years. Other influences, however, have counteracted the efforts in that direction, and have raised obstacles which were not easy to remove. The execution of laws and ordinances in the interest of morality and temperance, has always been hindered by certain elements in the community, and even the courts in past times lent their aid against the measures that were adopted to stamp out social evils.

But the question as to the union of the religious institutions in the city and the State, for the purpose mentioned, receives its answer in the attitude of the various sects, toward the Church which is stated to have for its adherents half the population. The history of Utah demonstrates the fact that those religious bodies have combined to attack the so-called "Mormon" Church, and used such influences as they possessed against it. Their purpose, as exhibited in their actions, has been all along to cripple and if possible destroy it from the earth. So the likelihood of a union between them and it appears to be one of the remotest of possibilities.

Another thing to be considered is, that the only real unity of effort exhibited by those different sects has been in the direction here indicated. It has not been exercised against the evils which our correspondent thinks ought to be suppressed. It has been worked up and formulated for the purpose of crushing out something that the "dominant" Church once incorporated in its system of faith and practice. They have had neither sight nor smell for the "grosser evils," which are described in theory by all churches and reformatory societies. They passed them by, not to say as "necessary evils," perhaps, but as something to be ignored if not silently tolerated.

This antagonism which has been fostered among those sectaries against the Church that has the strongest following in this State, has been of the bitterest character. It has been indulged in to the extent of monstrous exaggerations of fact, and of resort to the grossest kind of fiction. Its purpose has been to arouse the animosities of the public throughout the country against the Church through the efforts of which, in this once desert region, it was made possible for those enemies to come here at all. The unity proposed, therefore, between those sectarian institutions and the Church which they desire to destroy, does not appear at present very likely to be achieved.

Practical Christianity, as applied to the grosser evils of modern society, will no doubt be discussed in many circles. In consequence of the publication of the stories referred to by our correspondent, good will grow out of such expressions of opinion as will naturally be evoked thereby. What Jesus would do under circumstances that now exist, cannot be determined by the opinions of people who debate the question. We have but little on record as to that which He actually did and said when He walked upon the soil of Palestine. The times, the country, the conditions here are all different from those of His day and that land.

The doctrine He taught and the spirit He manifested may be guides to us, it is true. For us to be. It would not do, perhaps, for us to apply the language He used against the hypocrites, the humbugs, and religious frauds who posed as the popular preachers and teachers of religion. The Pharisees of the nineteenth century are no less worthy of His denunciation than those of the first.

If He were here now, He would have

as small a chance for His life among the orthodox as He had when He raised His voice in condemnation of the "Whited sepulchers," who made long prayers to be seen and heard of men, who compassed sea and land to make proselytes, with the result which He explained in such vigorous terms. He viewed even the harlots, the publicans and the sinners, as less deserving of condemnation than the frauds who preached against them in theory, but did nothing for their welfare in practice.

Salt Lake City contains sufficient evil to engage the attention of all who are desirous of establishing and maintaining social purity, and general order and peace. It is not so bad, however, as many "Christian" cities where "Mormonism" finds no foothold. In Utah towns, where modern civilization, so-called, has not gained considerable influence, those evils that are complained of here find no congenial soil in which to grow. We do not say they are without sin. Perfection is not to be found on this globe, nor will it be until He comes whose right it is to reign.

But if the religion which modern sectaries wish to obliterate from the earth held sway in these mountain valleys, those social evils would be reduced to the smallest possible minimum, and secular laws would be found sufficient to stamp them out almost to complete extinction. As to the larger cities of Utah, where those evils are to be found, every practical measure for the suppression of vice and crime that can be lawfully adopted, will receive the support of this paper and the great body of the people whom it represents.

## "RESCUE" WORK.

The ladies who are interested in the so-called Rescue Home work in this city seem to experience much difficulty in keeping up the interest in that particular branch of philanthropy. And yet one would think the object should appeal strongly to all who desire the prevalence of morality in the community. It is not very expensive work. That is, as compared to foreign missionary labor, for instance, much of which is worse than useless, it does not require a great deal of outlay. The ladies who are endeavoring to rescue the fallen from a life of shame, should not be left by a generous "Christian" public to struggle alone, while contributions are freely made for less worthy purposes.

The "rescue" work requires earnest personal devotion coupled with patience and fine tact. The persons sought to be reached, do not as a rule realize their need of "rescue." It has to be made plain to them. If ever missionary work is needed, it is among the Magdalenes of the great cities, and if reports are true, this city's population is no exception to the rule.

One reason, probably, why so little interest is manifested in the work is the fact that the results appear so discouraging. It so often happens that unfortunate who at times appear penitent and willing to grasp the hand that is held out to them, go back to their old life, repeatedly. People are apt to judge from such experiences that their kind efforts are failures. This does not follow, however. If the labor is carried on in the right spirit, and is inspired by the love that goes to seek and to save that which is lost, it will not be in vain. Like bread cast upon water, it often returns after many days, and sometimes in places where it is least expected.

## PETTIGREW'S PREDICAMENT.

Senator Pettigrew has been openly denounced as a traitor. Some of his brother senators have in a public debate branded him as an aider and abettor of the Filipino rebels; they have accused him of an attempt to place upon the records of the Senate a document made up of falsehood and slander. Those are serious charges. For the sake of the dignity of the Senate, they should be proved, or blotted out from the records.

Senator Pettigrew, it seems, sought to have incorporated in the records of the Senate a document purporting to be the statement of Aguinaldo as to the causes of the rebellion of which he is the leader. The document alleges that Admiral Dewey and Gen. Otis acted in bad faith, although both of these officers have contradicted such allegations made on behalf of Aguinaldo. The senator's attempt to have this paper made a part of the record aroused the ire of other senators, and the accusations followed.

Senator Pettigrew has been tendered the advice of resigning his seat and returning to South Dakota, there to demand vindication at the hands of his constituents. If he is re-elected after the episode in the Senate, it is supposed that he has but interpreted correctly the sentiments of the people, but in that case, does not the question naturally arise, whether the people in any part of the country has a right to send an alleged "traitor" to the Senate. The question is important and might be passed on by a joint commission of worn-out ministers and disgruntled politicians.

## PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

President McKinley's suggestion to hold a pan-American congress in the City of Mexico takes well with the representatives of the South American republics. The best interests of the countries of the two continents certainly demand closer affiliations than those formerly prevailing. With the retreat of Spain from this hemisphere, and the present status of European politics, the countries of Central and South America should find it to their advantage to draw nearer the United States both commercially and otherwise.

There has been some talk of a trans-American railroad. There should be a pan-American bank, a common commercial nomenclature, and in time a uniform monetary system, and uniform weights and measures. Pan-American congresses would certainly tend to further the interests of all the American republics, and strengthen the bonds of friendship that should exist among the nations of this western hemisphere. Pan-American congresses are among the signs of the time.

## THE NEWS FROM NATAL.

From the dispatches that have been permitted to escape the South African censors, it is clear that Gen. Buller is making another, and apparently more successful, attempt to reach Ladysmith and relieve the beleaguered force under Gen. White. The progress is as yet as slow as it was during the first advance that ended with Spion Kop, but it seems that the Boers have been forced to retreat this time, and that the British are determined to hold the hills they have taken.

Gen. Buller, it seems, executed a fine strategic movement. The real point of attack was so effectually masked by feints on other points, that when the charge was made, the Boers were taken by surprise and retreated before the English. The British generals are evidently learning strategy in this war.

It can be easily understood that everything will be done to succeed this time in reaching Ladysmith. If there is another failure, the city must surrender, notwithstanding the brave stand of its defender that it can hold out for some time yet. On the other hand, if the Boers are defeated at this point, the British have a base of operations against Pretoria, which, with open communications to Durban and Cape Town, must be of the greatest value. Undoubtedly the next few days will bring news of more than usual importance.

Simultaneously with the advance towards Ladysmith, a forward movement seems to have been commenced all along the line. This means that the Boers are no longer in a position to hurry their mobile troops from one threatened point to another. They must meet the foe along an extended line of battle and take chances on being overwhelmed by superior numbers.

## A DIVORCE LAW.

There has been some agitation recently for uniform divorce laws in this country; the existing conditions being almost universally regarded as a blot upon American civilization. But Congress is slow to deal with an evil that threatens to undermine the American home—the foundation of the state.

Congressman Ray, of New York, however, has introduced a divorce bill in the House, covering the District of Columbia and the Territories. It is intended to meet, to some extent, the demand for some stringent matrimonial regulations.

This bill provides that the marriage relation, as a rule, may be dissolved only when one of the parties has been unfaithful, and in such case the offending party cannot remarry, unless the other party is willing to resume the interrupted relations. The innocent party, however, is at liberty to remarry when the divorce is obtained.

The bill further provides that a marriage contract can be declared void when the marriage was contracted while either of the parties thereto had a former wife or husband living, unless the former marriage had been lawfully dissolved; when it was contracted during the lunacy of either party, or was procured by fraud or coercion; when either party was matrimonially incapacitated at the time, or when either of the parties had not arrived at the age of legal consent to the contract of marriage, but in such cases only at the suit of the party not capable of consenting.

The bill also provides that the district attorney shall be entered in every case under this act for the defense to prevent collusion and to protect public morals.

Probably the only way to obtain uniform divorce laws throughout the Union is to commence with territory over which the United States has exclusive jurisdiction. If a law were enacted that could be considered a perfect model, its provisions might be copied by one State after another, until uniformity had been secured.

## OUR PENSION LIST.

The pension burden now carried by the United States is \$145,000,000. Germany has \$15,425,000; France, \$26,310,000; and England, \$12,730,000, or a total for the three countries of \$54,465,000. That is to say, the United States with a mission of peace, liberty and knowledge to the world pays in war pensions about ninety million dollars more annually than the three European powers always prepared for war.

Ours is a great country. It is destined to excel in agriculture, in manufacture and also in shipping, and all peaceful pursuits. But it cannot afford to import the luxuries of militarism. Uncle Sam's standing army must continue to remain on the pension list. No country can afford to support two standing armies.

The snowslide season has begun. Colorado comes along with the first reported victim in the mountain States, in a snowslide near Leadville.

Such terrible heat as is reported from Buenos Ayres is almost a justification for grave diggers refusing to work for the pittance called wages there.

The coming congressional campaign will have its amusing as well as its serious side. Some recent events also indicate the possibility of a ridiculous aspect.

Germany must be experiencing a terrible sneeze just now. Think of 60,000 influenza victims in the city of Munich alone, and the crop of pneumonia victims that must follow.

Missouri and Illinois have had a fierce wind. Salt Lake had a big blow the other evening, but it seems to have been a gentle zephyr compared to the other event, thanks to the "everlasting hills."

There is not so much exultation over the wool market as there was a short time ago. A falling off of a million pounds in sales between January this year and January 1899 is the cause.

Japan is getting fairly well civilized; but further improvement is necessary to prevent a recurrence of the frightful catastrophe reported from there, in which thirty-one factory girls were burned to death.

Gen. Otis is to be recalled from the Philippines, and a civil commission is

to take control in about ninety days. This is tangible evidence that the rebellion is over, and gives reason to expect that guerrilla tactics will be lessened quickly.

Alaska's sudden growth requires county, town and school organizations for the safety of the people, and it appears as if Congress could not give these too quickly for the good of the Territory.

Bubonic plague is reported to be gaining headway at Manila. If the disease should obtain firm foothold the effects would be terrible. The mortality of the plague is well illustrated by Hong-kong's experience; out of 1,455 cases in that city in 1899, only 58 recovered.

Prince Henry of Germany has been held up and robbed by Siamese bandits. From the way the German vice admiral "copped," Chinese territory he has been regarded by many as a bit of a bandit himself, and his latest experience must convince him that there are others.

Henry Labouchere has been mobbed in England because of his pro-Boer sentiments. He should have selected New York or Paris for the class of speeches he indulges in. With their late experiences, the British public are in no mood to receive a tongue-lashing for prosecuting the South African war.

The Boers have got Spion Kop and Gen. Buller the other kops, in the present battle. With this partial change in relative positions from the former fight, the public is deeply interested in finding out what change will occur in the result. The information is likely to come soon.

The remark of the London Times that "in critical times friendly relations with foreign states are only too easily disturbed," has a deep significance as applied to Germany, and indicates that England would not be surprised at trouble from that source as well as elsewhere, in the approaching crisis.

As was suspected yesterday, the Boer attack on Gen. Gatacre was merely a feint to cover a movement by which the Boers could insure their safe retreat in case of being beaten in battle by the British central column. Evidently the Transvaal forces have no desire to be "cooped up" either at Stormberg or Colesberg.

Dispatches tell of initial success in Gen. Buller's third attempt to reach Ladysmith, but the losses thus far reported show it is no holiday parade even now. The British public is justified in awaiting further events before concluding what the immediate result will be. At the present time the prospect is hopeful for British victory.

According to the British Medical Journal, the diphtheria anti-toxin treatment seems to have failed in making good its claims to being a specific remedy for the disease. The journal notes in a recent issue that in Paris, where the anti-toxin is everywhere used, the weekly mortality from diphtheria for 1899 has almost constantly exceeded that for 1898.

Dr. Leyds, who at present is representing Transvaal in Europe, is a character it is worth while keeping an eye on. He seems to be to Transvaal what Benjamin Franklin was to this country during the trouble between Great Britain and her American colonies. The aim of Dr. Leyds is to secure, if possible, an ally for the Transvaal republic. On his success, or failure, the length of the war in Africa may depend.

In explanation of a recent death of a boy in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa., from lockjaw following vaccination, the city bacteriologist says "a tetanus germ may have got into the vaccination sore, but not through the vaccination virus." Of course not; hence it must have been "with" or "by" the vaccination virus, instead of "through" it. The bacteriologist's explanation does not explain the way he thought to have it, but it was probably the best he could do with a bad job.

The amount of wood needed to supply paper for one day's issue of a large newspaper is thus calculated by Popular Science News:

"A cord of spruce wood is equal to 415 feet board measure, and this quantity of raw material will make half a ton of sulphite pulp, or one ton of ground wood pulp. Newspaper stock is made up with 26 per cent of sulphite pulp and 74 per cent of ground wood pulp. The best known spruce land, virgin growth, possesses a stand of about 7,000 feet to the acre. Twenty-two acres of this best spruce land will therefore contain 154,000 feet of timber. An average gang of loggers will cut this in about eight days. This entire quantity of wood turned in at any one of the large mills will be converted in a single day into about 250 tons of such pulp as goes to make up newspaper stock. This pulp will make about an equal weight in paper, which will supply a single large metropolitan newspaper just two days, so that newspapers as well as builders, have a practical interest in forestry."

## AS TO PUERTO RICO.

San Francisco Chronicle.  
A dispatch states that "the President is willing that a nominal duty shall be laid on imports from Puerto Rico." Washington dispatches are not always reliable in their statements as to the opinions of public men, and in this case we have the best possible evidence of the President's views in his recommendation that Puerto Rico be recognized as part of the United States and all duties on its products abolished. We shall require the evidence of his own signature before believing that he has abandoned a just and logical position.

Worcester Gazette.  
The general desire is to hold the Philippines, but not as a part of this country, and it would be very embarrassing to enact such legislation and then have the Supreme Court overturn it. The present situation of Puerto Rico is unfortunate for the island, but it offers the opportunity to test the constitutional right of the islands to claim to be a part of the United States, and for that reason the President has again reversed his Puerto Rican policy.

The Boston Herald.  
We cannot understand why, in regulating the political and industrial status of our outlying possessions, Puerto Rico should be treated in a manner materially different from the method adopted in the case of Hawaii. Puerto Rico is nearer to the United States than Hawaii is; its industries are more nearly what would be termed national industries than those of the Pacific archipelago. The products of Puerto Rico are

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