

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, - MAY 7, 1901.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor:
Salt Lake City, Utah, May 6, 1901.—Your paper this evening contained an editorial on "Mormonism" in which you refer to a sermon I delivered Sunday evening at the First M. E. church. You base your comment and criticism upon my sermon but upon a hearsay report of that sermon.

If you had taken the trouble to find out what I did say, you would doubtless have found it not worthy of reply, especially as you disclaim any desire to enter into discussion on the question. But because you relied upon an incorrect report you have lashed your columns with a misrepresentation. I did not say that "the Mormon theory of salvation is that faith in the Prophet Joseph as well as the Book of Mormon, besides faith in Christ, is essential to salvation."

What I did say was:
1st. The Mormon God is not the God of the Bible.

2nd. The Mormon theory of salvation is unchristian and unbelief.
In proof of the latter proposition I made numerous quotations from Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, for example, where Joseph Smith declared "Being born again comes by the spirit of God through ordinances" and where Brigham Young said, "Every spirit that confesses that Joseph Smith is a prophet, that he lived and died a prophet and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God and every spirit that does not is of Anti-Christ."

In opposition to this position I quoted from Paul in Eph. 2: 8, 9, and Romans 10: 1-13.

You say that you do not desire to discuss the matter in your columns and so I will forbear comment or further quotation and will simply ask you to publish this communication by way of correction.

Very sincerely yours,
ALFRED H. HENRY.

We give space to the above letter from Rev. A. H. Henry, in reply to an article that appeared in the Deseret News on Monday evening. The gentleman complains that we based our comment and criticism upon "a hearsay report of his sermon." We based it upon the report published in the Salt Lake Tribune of the same day. Perhaps we are somewhat to blame for taking that report as correct. We supposed the Tribune would not misrepresent the language of an orthodox preacher, no matter how much the remarks of a "Mormon" Elder might be garbled and distorted. And we have seen no complaint from the gentleman as to any report of his sermons that has appeared in that paper.

According to his own showing, the dispute, if any, lies between him and the Tribune. He declares he did not say what that paper reports him to have said. Our comments were made on that report, and if it is not accurate the fault is not ours. We think he is right, perhaps, in remarking that "if we had taken the trouble to find out what he did say, we would doubtless have found it not worthy of reply." Really, we are of the opinion that this fits the whole case, and that our mistake was in taking any notice, at all, of the attempts of a religious opponent to tell the "Mormons" what they believe.

The struggles of modern theologians to "find out God" and to explain something they do not understand, and which they admit is "incomprehensible," are pitiable to witness. And the endeavors of would-be critics to explain advanced doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, before mastering its first principles, remind one of a boy trying to demonstrate to his companions the most difficult problems of Euclid, before he has learned its fundamental axioms. Of course it is not worth while wasting time with such experts.

We have to repeat, once more, the announcement very frequently made, that the written standards of our faith are the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price. The dissertations, sermons and various works that have been published, contain the views of those whose names are thereunto attached, and who are individually responsible for them. The principles enunciated in the standards we have named, are harmonious and are accepted by the Church as verily true and divine.

The "Mormon" God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of Jesus Christ, to whom He prayed, from whom He came to earth, and to whom He went after leaving the earth, of whom He was "the express image and likeness." That is the Eternal Being whom the "Mormons" worship. He is the God of the Bible. What He has revealed concerning the Godhead is precious, rational and consistent. The notions of modern theology concerning Deity are as different from the manifestations of His personality described in the Bible, as empty space is from peopled worlds.

However, we do not wish to bandy words with anyone who chooses to believe in and worship immateriality, or even a wooden image. That is his or her affair. Neither do we care to discuss our conception of the Eternal Father of the spirits of all men, with one who takes pleasure in descending on something of which he knows nothing. If a preacher of another faith thinks he can explain "Mormonism" better than its authorized exponents, he is

welcome to go ahead and expound. And if any "Mormon" thinks he can gain light or pleasure by listening to such efforts he is welcome to take it all in. It was only because some worthy but uninformed people might be misled by the statement concerning our belief as to what is essential to salvation, that we took any notice of the report that we touched upon in the article of Monday evening.

THE SPECULATION FAD.

The notes of warning sounded by the Deseret News against rushing into the madhouse of wild speculation, that is whirling many people in this country to what may prove their financial destruction, have been applauded by thoughtful business men here and elsewhere. We notice an allusion to our caution, by one alleged objector, as "the gloomy views of an afternoon organ."

The paper that publishes this expression, however, speaks editorially of "the wonderful Wall street stock rage," and says, "To an outsider it looks like a grand, national financial drunk."

That there is wisdom in warning our young men against becoming involved in this financial inebriety, will be admitted by conservative folks everywhere. That there will come a time of sobering up, with sorrow and regret for the ruin that has been wrought, is as sure as that we shall reap that which we sow, and that effect follows cause.

In the latest financial review by Henry Clewes, of the famous New York banking house, there are some striking references to the "unprecedented excitement" of the stock market, particulars of which have come from day to day in our press dispatches. The report, after giving figures as to sales and the advance in prices of stocks, says:

"With the increasing operations, prices have continued to advance, notwithstanding the late disposition to realize. This extraordinary movement is creating a future for buying which ignores all prudence and is constantly bringing back into the market those who had realized and re-realized from a conviction that prices had risen dangerously high. Nobody pretends to explain why the movement continues so persistently upward."

It further explains that:
"In speculative booms, there is no pretense of keeping values within legitimate limits, and when conservative principles of valuation have been abandoned, there is no saying to what lengths overvaluation may be carried. No one regards railroad stocks as being as good an investment as railroad bonds, and yet the former are selling as high as the latter, and in some cases higher. The simple explanation of this incongruity is that the market is under the impulse of an unparalleled furor; and operators buy or sell from no consideration of intrinsic merit, but solely from their idea as to how long the excitement is likely to continue. At present, there appears to be little apprehension that the sanguine impulse of speculation has reached its culmination, and because there is still a crowd ready to buy at advancing prices, it is assumed to be safe to keep on buying."

One remarkable statement in the report is, that it is not the New York speculators who have principally contributed to this extraordinary furor. They are in the main cautious. But the most sanguine and "courageous" buyers are from the West and the South. While many of the regular dealers in the East are "distrustful of the present range of prices," there is a disposition on the part of the distant possessors of surplus funds, to "stake their accumulations without stint, in anticipation of future national expansion."

As we have previously stated, we do not wish to hinder the investment of capital, large or small, in legitimate enterprises. We merely caution our friends against becoming involved in the mad rush of irrational speculation, which is keeping financial circles in a foam, and young men against risking their savings, and especially borrowed funds, in unsafe ventures that will bring more ruin than riches to the majority. Fads are the order of the day. The fad of wild-cat speculations is one of the most dangerous as well as of the most foolish of them all.

REVERSES DO COME.

President McKinley has, during his tour of the country, said many notable things, and perhaps the saying that at present deserves most attention is this, which is almost a solemn warning: "What we want to do now is to be prudent in our prosperity, save while we can and be strong if the storms should come; and they do now and then. Whatever comes, let us be fortified by the practice of economy while we are all so well employed."

This was part of an address made at Charlottesville, Virginia. The great trouble with many is that in times of prosperity, when work is plenty and wages fair, they do not think of providing for a time of stringency. They live up to the limit of their income, and even overreach it, contracting debts that become a heavy burden. They do not save while they can and consequently suffer when the "hard" times come.

Just now a spirit of speculation is rampant. The papers contain accounts of large amounts of money "made" on stock exchanges, and the readers are apt to forget that what a few have "made" in this way, has been lost by others, or will be lost, and that the consequence will be a reaction, sooner or later. They are apt to forget that much of the dealing in stocks is nothing but gambling. It does not increase the wealth of the country; it merely shifts the money from one to another, and often leaves the majority of the players in a condition of financial ruin. Of course those who are promoting sound business enterprises on a sound basis are in no immediate danger. But those who in wild speculations risk what they ought to save, need the reminder that reverses "do come sometimes."

SUNDAY OPENING.

The managers of the Buffalo exposition have concluded to keep the grounds open part of the Sunday, that is, all but the Midway and other features of amusement. In this way they have endeavored to compromise between the two factions, one of which favors Sunday closing, and the other Sunday opening. By this arrangement the show will be closed on Sundays until 1 p. m., and then visitors will be admitted.

The Sunday question is quite a problem in some sections of the country, and it always crops up in connection with the great expositions. On one side it is urged that those places should not be closed to the laboring men who have no other time than Sundays to receive the instruction conveyed by the exhibitions. On the other hand it is urged that Sunday is set apart for religious purposes, and that nothing should be permitted to interfere with either public services or private devotion. There may be some selfishness in both these lines of argument. Managers of expositions naturally desire to see large crowds gather as many days in the week as possible, in order that the financial results may reach the greatest possible limit, and ministers of churches naturally are opposed to counter-attractions that may empty many pews in the churches.

But aside from all such considerations, the Lord's day should be kept in the spirit in which it was instituted, and that for the one sufficient reason that no nation that aims at a high standard of morality, can afford to lose the Sabbath. It is an institution for the benefit of man entirely. Somebody has suggested that one-half of Saturday be made a national holiday, and if that idea were carried out, there would be no need of giving any part of Sunday up to amusements and recreation. Possibly the churches would not be better frequented than they are, but there would be less excuse for absence from the services. Under present circumstances the pan-American managers have done perhaps the best they could, to compromise between the two sides to this controversy. In all probability they have set a precedent that will be copied by other expositions.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Dr. Hugo Wickstrom, of Ostersund, Sweden, one of the prominent journalists of that country, paid the "News" a fraternal visit this morning. He is on a tour around the world and arrived in this city last night from San Francisco. He has for years been at the head of the Jemtlandsposten, and conducted that journal with great ability. During his trip around the world he corresponds with twelve newspapers. His time in this country will be devoted, he says, to a study of American conditions, as thoroughly as circumstances will permit.

The "News" is glad to see Dr. Wickstrom among the visitors of this far-famed city and State. If he had time to stay here a few days, or more, he would find a number of his countrymen here, many of whom have materially assisted in transforming the wilderness into the garden it is today, and some of whom have risen to important positions both in the Church and the State. We wish he could see them in their homes in these valleys, and learn their sentiments, from their own lips. There is a great deal of prejudice in Sweden, toward American institutions in general and Utah conditions particularly. The Swedish press, as a rule, has shared in this prejudice. We hope Dr. Wickstrom may carry a different impression with him, after having witnessed the progress in evidence everywhere, and which cannot escape even the tourist who hastens through the State. We hope he will find his brief stay here pleasant, and that his journey through the country may be agreeable in every respect.

The tent caterpillar has made its appearance again. It is now appropriate to sing "Tenting on the old camp ground."

A Massachusetts paper says that honorary degrees are "simply rubbish." The Massachusetts paper is wrong. They are "sheepskins."

When he reaches California the President will be able to answer the question, "Kewest thou the land where orange blossoms grow?"

Each day on the stock exchange sees some leading stock open wide. And some day will see those who buy at that wide opening "busted" wide open.

Much free advice is given Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller. Advice is given them, not because it is cheap, but because they are able to supply all their own wants.

Gen. Bell says the climate of the Philippines is the finest in the world. Such talk may give rise to the suspicion that the general is interested in a land and colonization scheme.

The sultan of Turkey, it is rumored, has shot dead a physician who gave him pain. It would seem that Turkish brutality sometimes takes on the form of poetic justice.

New York City school principals object to having a negro principle the musical instruction in their schools. Harmony may not fill their souls but they surely are not color blind.

Mrs. Nation's companions in jail are tired of their confinement and are seeking to get out on bonds. At best they are catechisms and seem not to have in them the stuff of which martyrs are made.

"Slang should be discouraged, because it impoverishes language, freeing its users from the necessity of choosing words accurately," says the N. Y. Evening Post. It also cautions those who use it to choose badly, beguilingly slovenly ways of thinking and worse ones of expression.

When President McKinley reaches Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University will confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. It is objected that this degree should be reserved for those who have great learning. But when the President reaches Cambridge he will have made a tour of the country, and is not that of itself a liberal education?

Banker Van Doran told the New York Presbyterian union that ministers take too long a summer vacation, sometimes extending to three and four months. He showed how business men and the laboring class have to work all the time. His exception was well taken. The clergymen of most denominations are largely a privileged class. Their labors are not hard as a rule and there is no seemingly good reason why their summer vacations should be so long. But it is a matter between them and their congregation, and if the latter do not complain surely no one else has a right to. A great trouble is that most working men, no matter what their vocation, get too little vacation.

President McKinley would receive Mr. Kruger as a "distinguished foreigner" should the latter visit this country. And why should he not? Mr. Kruger has drawn to himself a large part of the world's attention during the last two years. But there is little likelihood that the great Boer leader will ever set his foot on the soil of the United States.

The interest bearing public debt is now \$955,359,330, bringing it once again below the billion dollar mark. In 1888 it dipped below that mark and kept below it until 1899 when the war with Spain sent it beyond. The lowest the public debt has been since the civil war was in 1892, when it was \$485,029,330. The country is still behind that figure \$410,321,050. But the debt is climbing down instead of up and this is matter of congratulation.

THE CUBAN SITUATION.

San Francisco Chronicle.
The Cuban commissioners appear to have received no encouragement from the President in regard to a reduction of duties on sugar and tobacco. In the nature of things they could not, for duties on foreign merchandise are determined by Congress, but it is evident that such a course will be favored by an element in the Eastern and Southern States, whose influence must not be underestimated. In the first place the so-called "reciprocity" scheme is in line with the policy of the free traders, who stand ready to abolish all protective duties, and, if they cannot abolish all, then such as they are able to get rid of. In the second place the important interest in all Atlantic cities, and the shipping interests, favor anything which will promote international movements of commodities.

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