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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 9, 1908.

TRUE AMERICANISM.

The President's interpretation of the meaning of American liberty is, we think, absolutely correct. Yet we have in Salt Lake City a band of men in control of a party calling itself "American," whose only open purpose—referring to that band—is warfare upon the members of a religious organization.

Nothing less truly American has been known in the political history of this Nation than the attempt to build up a party that has only this un-American tenet of intolerance. In his letter concerning Mr. Taft's religious belief, President Roosevelt declares that the matter of religion is purely Mr. Taft's "own private concern," and it is a matter between him and his Maker, a matter for his own conscience; and to require it to be made public under penalty of political discrimination is to negative the first principles of our government.

This is broad ground. It should be a forcible reminder to anti-religious bigots here that in waging a political battle on the issue of opposition to any candidate because of his religious affiliations, they are doing that which is the most un-American thing known to the Constitution and to the theory of this government.

The inevitable result of inquiring into a candidate's religious belief before voting for him would, in the opinion of the President, amount to "an abandonment of our real freedom of conscience." He even thinks it would be "a reversion to the dreadful conditions of religious dissension which in so many lands have proved fatal to true liberty, to true religion and fatal to advance in civilization."

The President puts the case with similar force in another paragraph: "To discriminate against a thoroughly upright citizen because he belongs to some particular church, or because, like Abraham Lincoln, he has not avowed his allegiance to any church, is an outrage against the very principles of American liberty. You are entitled to know whether a man seeking your suffrages is a man of clean and upright life, honorable in all his dealings with his fellows, and fit by qualification and purpose to do well in the great office for which he is a candidate; but you are not entitled to know matters which lie purely between himself and his Maker. If it is proper legitimate to oppose a man for being a Unitarian, as was John Quincy Adams, for instance, and the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, at the present moment chaplain of the senate, and an American whose life all good Americans are proud of—then it would be equally proper to support or oppose a man because of views on justification by faith, or the method of administering the sacrament, or the gospel of salvation by works. If you once enter on such a career, there is absolutely no limit at which you can legitimately stop."

It is refreshing to hear from the head of the nation the true American doctrine of religious liberty explained with such force and clearness.

THE RUBONIC PLAGUE.

Collier's Weekly of Nov. 7, contains an article on "Danger from Plague," by C. P. Conolly. The burden of it is that our country is seriously menaced by the spread of the so-called bubonic plague, and that the situation calls for an earnest effort against that scourge.

The plague is the name given to a disease that in its severe form has carried away millions of human beings. It was first heard from as ravaging Northern Africa. In the sixth century of our era it passed from Egypt to Constantinople where 10,000 persons were carried away in one day. In the 14th century it swept the Old World under the name of the "black death." Nearly all Europe was infected. In some parts of the continent two-thirds of the population died, and it is probable that twenty-five million people were carried away in all. In the 15th century the plague recurred in nearly all parts of Europe, and also in the 16th century. Thousands were carried off daily in London, Paris, Moscow, and other cities.

In the 17th century a decline in the prevalence of the disease is observable, though in Naples it carried off 20,000 persons in a few months in the year 1656, and though London was again visited in 1664-65, when 68,500 victims were carried off, out of a total population of only 460,000. During the 18th century Constantinople was swept by the plague, and it spread along the Danube, and appeared in many parts of the world. At present it has spread to newly populated centers. We can trace it from China in 1894, to Manila, Honolulu, San Francisco, Seattle, and, as Mr. Conolly says, it is traveling by slow stages up the eastern coast of South and Central America, leaving a trail of infected cities, 800 deaths here, 500 deaths there, and so on. It was the same plague of which history has kept ominous tally, "the plague that decimated the tribes of Biblical times; that has ravaged the several countries of Africa, Asia, and Europe from time immemorial; that is said by Livy to have destroyed a million people in one visitation two hundred years before Christ, and that swept Europe in the

fourteenth century, taking off twenty-five million people."

Scientists now know that the deadly disease generally is conveyed to human beings through the bite of fleas that have fed on infected rats. The discovery of the plague germ is credited to a Japanese doctor. And the agency of the rat-insect in the propagation of the disease has since been fully demonstrated. The germs, however, does not confine themselves to the blood of rats. They may live in the life fluid of squirrels and other rodents for years. This is one of the latest important discoveries as regards the plague.

Concerning the epidemic in San Francisco, the contributor to Collier's says:

"The plague was introduced into San Francisco, in 1900—its first appearance in this country—from the Orient. The first case was in May, 1900. About six months later it appeared in Glasgow, Scotland. In San Francisco in four years they had 125 cases. Every summer and winter a few cases developed, just as everywhere else in the first stage. There was public indignation at first because of the announcement by the medical authorities of the presence of plague. Dr. Kinyon of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service was arrested and enjoined from taking preventive measures of any kind at the time. The diagnosis of the physicians was disputed by the newspapers. It was confined to Chinatown in the vicinity of from twenty to forty blocks during those four years, where the last case occurred on February 29, 1904."

The second outbreak occurred after the earthquake and fire. It was discovered on May 27, 1907, in the case of a sailor in the Government Marine Hospital in San Francisco. He had been on the tug Wizard in the bay. He was living in a sailors' boarding-house on Stewart Street, and was brought to the hospital sick. On the 12th of August five cases were discovered, the first since May. The cases multiplied while the authorities fussed and fumed. The old Schmidt board of health was in charge. It passed resolutions, transcribed them in a book, but remained otherwise inert. San Francisco politics got mixed up with the plague, and anti-plague measures, of course, got the worst of it for a while. Fourteen cases in all occurred in August, 15 in September, 40 in October, about 20 in November, and 10 in December; up to Jan. 30, 1908, 150 all told, with 77 deaths. The disease was not violent. It was a recrudescence or re-awakening of the earlier germ, left undestroyed. Some believe it emanated from the country, among the ground squirrels. The most commonly accepted theory is that the first succeeding the earthquake scattered the rats and caused the infection to become widespread. In any event, it was scattered all over the city. While the first outbreak in 1900 was confined to Chinatown and to the Chinese and Japanese, the second outbreak was almost exclusively among the white population. Out of the 150 cases there were eight Chinese, and three of these cases, at least, were traced to the homes of the whites where the Chinese were employed. Two others of the eight Chinese sickened in Oakland. The death-rate in San Francisco in both epidemics was uniformly a little less than fifty-three per cent. The Chinese and Japanese, however, were less susceptible to the disease."

San Francisco finally was aroused to the danger that threatened and entered upon a campaign of cleanliness. Money was spent in destroying refuse and making buildings rat-proof. Careful land joined in the crusade to its own benefit. The necessity of rapidly abated and the percentage of deaths from ordinary diseases decreased when back yards were cleaned up and the refuse destroyed. In the year ending July 1, 1907, preceding the plague outbreak, the mortality of Oakland had been approximately 2,100. In the year ending July 1, 1908, the total mortality from all causes was 1,886. The total mortality from preventable diseases in 1907 was 760; in 1908, 560. And, further, a few sanitary measures had been in operation nine months, the merchants were losing only about twenty-five per cent of what they had previously lost in many perishable commodities.

With such results gained, Mr. Conolly well says: "Pay no attention to the up and down conservative who ridicules the scientific discoveries of recent years which look to the health of the nations. These discoveries are worth more in the sum of human happiness than, for instance, the modern uses of electricity and the flight of airship or automobile. Laws should be framed in the exposed cities, compelling the foundation of every building to be constructed in such a manner that rats cannot harbor or breed or feed about them. . . . The disease should be built out of existence. Every city has its back yard, as San Francisco found she had when she looked for it. A disregard of everybody and everything not in the ring has for too long come to be the settled policy of our municipal bodies. The 'Machine' usually has little time to entertain science or sanitation. It is too busy with practical politics."

CARELESS REPORTING.

It seems to be difficult for the average reporter to summarize a sermon. A local contemporary, not prone to inaccuracies of this sort, gives to its account a discourse delivered last Sunday in the Tabernacle this startling heading: "Communism with Spirits!" and the write-up that follows this suggestive head-line makes of a subordinate and merely illustrative incident almost the only report of what was said. Such a report tends to misinform and to mislead the public. It is perfectly proper for any newspaper to devote only such space to any subject as its management decides upon; but in attempting to convey in a few lines what a speaker has taken an hour in delivering, it is the duty of the reporter to state with care the gist of the discourse or the real basis of the argument.

The speaker in the Tabernacle treated of the actuality, nearness, and reality of the resurrection and of the future life. In the course of his remarks he related a statement of the late President Wilford Woodruff to the effect that President Brigham Young, then dead, had appeared to him and explained certain things which he desired to know concerning the work in the St. George Temple.

We suppose that every fair newspaper management instructs its reporters to be careful in summarizing remarks from the pulpit, so that they may not put in a false light anything that was said. The fact that the remarks of "Mormon" speakers are so frequently mis-reported shows that it is a matter of some difficulty to be fair and accurate in this matter.

In the present instance the report gives the impression that some sort of

spiritualistic medium was discoursing in the Tabernacle, and that "Mormonism" is closely akin to "Spiritualism."

And now the shouting is over.

Money talks far more than moneyed men do.

As a world power electricity stands at the very head.

It looks odd to see a football coach riding in an auto.

There are lots of cheap men but few cheap coats these days.

Full many a cabinet slate is born to blush unseen and be broken.

The American Tobacco company can put that decision in its pipe and smoke it.

Those who take up with a fad usually are very much taken up with themselves.

After March 4, 1909, Judge Taft will set the standard of weight and measures.

Speaker Cannon hasn't spoken since election. Is his joy too great for utterance?

The brotherhood of man is always a little bit shaky for some time after an election.

Sometimes it is hard to distinguish between light refreshments and appetizers.

For some reason a bankrupt's petition is never drawn up in broken English.

"For 'em though vanquished he could argue still"—the organ of the Pseudo-American party.

If tubs are to stand they should stand on their own bottoms. But why should they stand at all?

It is said that Morse makes a model prisoner. He never would if he had made a model banker.

The old White Bridge is gone. We have nothing but good to say of it for it has carried us over safely hundreds of times.

The worst thing about a poor memory is that the unpleasant things are remembered while the agreeable ones are forgotten.

Not only has business been humming since last Tuesday, but the song birds have been singing and the humming birds humming.

When Judge Taft enters the White House as President, Mr. Private Secretary Loeb will be relieved of a great deal of responsibility.

The Standard Oil company will never be tried on Mr. Hearst's indictment of it, not even at the bar of public opinion.

There is this difference between a lover and a laborer. All the world loves a lover while the politician only loves a laborer during election times.

President Roosevelt chooses his scientific companion for his African expedition from Berkeley and not from Harvard. This is the most unkindest cut of all.

The Second U. S. circuit court has decided that the Tobacco trust is a trust. There is nothing more wholesome in law and politics than calling a spade a spade.

The Elkins-Abruzz engagement is getting to be a regular Ancient Mariner story, the feast being set, the guests met, the old man holding them with his glittering eye, while the public listens like a three years' child.

The Outlook company announces that Theodore Roosevelt, on March 5, 1909, will become a member of the editorial staff of The Outlook, and that this excellent periodical will thereafter be the exclusive channel for his writings on political, social, and industrial topics.

LOOKING TO NEW YORK.

New York Evening Post.

New York State is almost certain to be pivotal in this Presidential election. This is tacitly admitted by the way in which the names of the national candidates of both parties are preparing to put forth their greatest efforts here during the last week of the campaign. Either Chauncey Mack or Chairman Hitchcock is able to prove in public, that his man can win without New York; but neither of them privately thinks the thing can be done. In the case of Bryan, it would require a political miracle to do it. He would have to carry every doubtful state in the North, in addition to the solid South. The figures look superlatively a little more favorable to Mr. Taft; yet if he were to lose New York, the same forces would pretty surely take Ohio and Indiana and other states out of his column, and defeat him. As so many times before, then, all eyes will be on New York, on election day; and the early returns may show which side is going to carry the State and at the same time win the Presidency.

NEW KIND OF SECTIONALISM.

New York Tribune.

The forthcoming conference of New England governors—or more properly of New England states, since others than the governors will participate in it—will generally and with good reason be regarded as an outgrowth of the great national congress of governors which was assembled at Washington by the president earlier in the year. As such it will be commendable, and we may hope for its periodical or occasional repetition not only in New England, but in other parts of the country, as well as also repeated at the national gathering at Washington. The usefulness of such meetings is beyond dispute. This gathering may, however, also be regarded as a new and welcome development of a sort of sectionalism or of community of interests within a group of states. Sectionalism was generally been a bad word in our political vocabulary, but that has been because of a certain perversion of its meaning, or of the thing for which it stands. Sectionalism which arrays one group of states against another or against the rest of the nation is indeed a bad thing. It is a sectionalism of selfishness and of hatred. A sectionalism which would unite a homogeneous group of states in co-operation and common effort for their common betterment, and thus for the betterment

of the whole nation of which they form a part, is a very different thing from the other and is altogether commendable.

JUST FOR FUN.

"Tommy, how do you make a triangle?"
"Pull one side out of a square and glue the loose ends."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. Fondpar—Ask the doctor to come to my house immediately. My wife doesn't quite like the baby's looks.
Norah—He's out, sure, but don't yez worry—the homeliest babies sometimes grow up quite good looking!—Town and Country.

Sympathetic.

Young Wife (rather nervously)—Oh, cook, I must really speak to you. Your master is always complaining. One day it is the soup, the second day it is the fish, the third day it is the joint—in fact, it is always something or other.
Cook (with feeling)—Well, mum, I'm sorry for you. It must be quite awful to live with a gentleman of that sort.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The John McBride company are re-issuing the Utopia of Sir Thomas More, translated atresch by Valerian Paget into thorough-paced modern English, under the title "More's Millennium," with a view to opening the pages of one of the most wonderful bits of romantic and imaginative writing in English literature to the general reader of today. Prof. Churton Collins writes that as a romance and work of art it ranks in celebrity with "Pilgrim's Progress," "Robinson Crusoe," and "Gulliver's Travels." It is undoubtedly as entertaining, and it is the hope of the publishers that their modernization will make it as attractive as a novel to readers of current literature.—2 Rector St., New York.

"The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" is making his bow to the public again through the Children's Magazine, edited by Frances Hodgson Burnett, in a story told by L. Frank Baum in the November issue. What an earthquake did to our little friend Dorothy Gale and how the Wonderful Wizard joined her in another marvelous adventure, are dramatically told in Baum's graphic style which so appeals to the child listener and reader. Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, contributes to this issue an imaginative poem on "The Baby" which will appeal to the many thousands of people who love her child stories, and who are waiting impatiently for the beginning of her new serial story, the continuation of "The Good Yolk," which was so popular last year. The "Stencil Stories" are also an innovation, as every mother and teacher in the land should see them, for they instruct while amusing, and encourage many desirable traits in the child.—116 East Twenty-eight St., New York.

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