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MISSIONARIES AND TACT.

The Payette, Idaho, Independent of December 16 devotes over a column to an attack on the Desert News. As usual, it is, as far as we can see, without the slightest provocation.

Some time ago we quoted a prominent Japanese statesman who, in a very friendly spirit stated that Christian missionaries with whom he had come in contact, had exhibited a remarkable lack of tact. He related some instances as an illustration of this, and we reproduced some of these instances. We added some comments to the effect that just as nations send trained men to perform the diplomatic service, so it is necessary for churches to commission only competent men to act as their representatives in the mission field.

The Payette Independent considers this a valid reason for a bitter assault upon the "Mormon" Church and "Mormon" missionaries. Our contemporary thinks it strange that we should find fault with missionaries of any church for their lack of tact, and goes on to say that the missionaries of the "Mormon" Church stand foremost in this regard. It charges that our missionaries not only lack tact, but that they sometimes force their religious views on people who do not want to hear them. It further alleges, that there are cases, where the lack of tact on the part of the "Mormon" missionary has even become a crime.

Reasonable readers will, of course, ask for proof of such broad statements. They will naturally ask whether a single instance can be produced in which a "Mormon" missionary has forced himself upon any one unwilling to listen to him, or committed any indiscretion of this kind, or to say a crime. Our contemporary anticipates this natural question, and answers it by relating a genuine Munchausen story, connected by an anti-"Mormon" publication, about a certain Colorado man who was found living with two sisters. The Independent repeats the tale that "this man had taken his second wife at the urgent advice of a 'Mormon' missionary, who had converted the man and the two women to his faith and had made them believe that in polygamy they would find favor in their adopted Church and grace in the eyes of the Almighty." That is the Independent's proof of criminal indiscretion on the part of "Mormon" missionaries!

Fortunately, there is not a word of truth in that story, and if our contemporary has no better evidence, its case is hopelessly lost. The man referred to had not taken a second wife at all, and such relations as he had sustained with the unfortunate victim of his lust, were not at the advice of "Mormon" missionaries. He never was converted to the "Mormon" faith, and he did not even know what the "Mormon" faith is. The man, when his attention was called to the fabrications of the anti-"Mormon" publication concerning him, denounced them as being untrue in some particulars and wilfully distorted in others. He did state that he had hunted up a "Mormon" Elder and asked him to perform a marriage ceremony, and that the Elder had told him that it was impossible to comply with his request. Was that criminal indiscretion on the part of the Elder? We refer our contemporary to the Desert News of October 31 for a full report.

The case of this fellow is entirely different from the conception of it formed by the Independent. He had heard, he said, that polygamy was practiced in Utah, but not from "Mormon" Elders, or "Mormon" publications. He had evidently taken the false reports circulated about Utah by her enemies, for granted, as so many do, and misled by those reports he thought he could live in this State unmolested, in the relations he had assumed. In other words, the many false reports about Utah, and not indiscretion on the part of a "Mormon" Elder, are responsible for the case referred to. The Desert News has done its best to place Utah in a correct light before the world, by exposing, time and again, the malicious falsehoods published by enemies, but notwithstanding these efforts, it is evident that the falsehoods sometimes bear fruit, and this is one of them. We hope our contemporary in Idaho will be able to see, that in this instance it has absolutely no foundation for its attack upon us.

The Independent, on reading our article on lack of tact in the missionary field, evidently jumped at the wrong conclusion, that the "News" made an attack on the missionaries of other churches. There is, however, not a sentence in the entire article to justify that conclusion. We spoke of lack of tact in missionaries in general, and had no intention of singling out those of other churches, and compare them with those of the Latter-day Saints. On the contrary, we felt quite certain that the missionaries of our own Church would

be interested in the friendly criticism of the Japanese statesman, and we reproduced it for their benefit, as well as for that of other missionaries. Every one engaged in missionary work, whether at home or abroad, needs tact, but those sent to so-called pagan countries certainly need it in even higher degree than those working nearer home.

A NOTABLE RAILROAD EVENT.

With the placing in service of the limited train between Chicago and Los Angeles, Salt Lake now takes rank with the foremost cities of the country having no less than four limited trains, electric-lighted throughout and fitted with all the modern comforts, passing through daily. It cost, in round figures, \$1,000,000 to supply the eight complete trains for this service, and while the Chicago & Northwestern, the Union Pacific, Oregon Short Line and the Salt Lake Route anticipate ample returns from the investment the new service comes in the nature of a Christmas gift from the railroad companies involved, to "The City of Opportunities."

Yesterday the new train traversed a portion of the route over which the pioneers painfully wended their way in 1847. The time made by the vanguard of civilization was possibly four miles an hour. Yesterday, at least one of the descendants of these pilgrims rode over the same trail in a palatial car which accomplished the hour's journey in a little over three minutes!

Where sage brush grew and the coyote and wolf roared 55 years ago, yesterday the limited glided at 50 miles an hour among fertile fields, prosperous hamlets and evidences of advanced civilization.

Salt Lake is largely indebted to the railroads for her prosperity and ever increasing population. They have brought the capital of the Beehive state nearer to the outside world. From year to year the distance has shrunk until, under the new schedule inaugurated yesterday, it is possible for a business man of this city to leave his desk on Saturday afternoon and be in time to transact business in Chicago on Monday morning, an achievement which would have been scouted as an idle dream 50 years ago.

With her physical and climatic attractions, splendid railroad service and the prospect of more lines being built into Utah, Salt Lake's future is an exceedingly bright one and thanks to the enterprise of the great captains of industry, multitudes of strangers are given ocular demonstrations daily of the many possibilities of the great State of Utah.

INSURANCE INVESTIGATION.

The insurance investigation which is now drawing to a close has developed so many lamentable features concerning the business methods of the large companies, that it is positively refreshing to find instances in which even the closest scrutiny has failed to detect any irregularity. One such instance is that furnished by the company of which Mr. Ide is president. The Brooklyn Eagle and other papers comment on this fact. The Eagle says:

"It sounds like a fairy tale. The president of an insurance company has escaped unscathed. It appears that the affairs of the Home Life have been administered after such a fashion that the witness sat in a sort of easy chair, with neither trepidation nor embarrassment. Naturally, he was regarded as a curiosity. As it seemed too good to be true, the chairman consulted with the examiner-in-chief, protesting that it would be almost a reflection upon the committee to let the witness go without a sign of distress, but Mr. Hughes threw up the case as hopeless. However, after so many hits he could afford a miss. Unquestionably, if he was searching for a model of a measuring rod for other companies, he found it in George E. Ide's management of the Home Life."

As we have noticed before, there is no need of alarm on the part of any policy-holders, for even the most recklessly conducted company seems to be perfectly solvent, and the shuffling up which they have been subjected to should result in some substantial benefit to the public. But though nothing has developed, as far as we know, to justify any uneasiness, it is none the less pleasant to find honesty in the conduct of at least one large concern that has been held up to public view.

POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

The London World raises the question whether the recent election of a king in Norway does not prove that republican ideas of government are waning. Another question follows from this: Whether even the United States will not some time go back to the monarchical systems of the Old World. "Close students," the paper says, "of some recent developments of American public character and sentiment, would probably be the last to deny that a popular vote on the question might not have an issue similar to that upon which the people of Norway are unreservedly to be congratulated."

In the first place it should be observed that the vote in Norway was not on whether the people preferred a republic to a monarchy. That question was not submitted, for reasons best known to those on the inside of the management of the coup d'etat. The only question submitted was whether or not the people would accept the Danish prince as king. The plebiscite, therefore, proved absolutely nothing as to the strength, or weakness, of the republican sentiment in the country. Even strong republicans voted for the prince.

In the second place, it can be truthfully said that there are no signs of a development of the American sentiment in favor of a monarchy, notwithstanding the reference to "close students" as authority. The country is enjoying prosperity; it has influence; it is a world power, under the form of government established by the fathers, and the American sentiment is to "let well enough alone."

It is true enough that the arrogance of wealth may some time go so far, as to suggest the permanent seizure of the White House, in order to place there some individual representing the worshippers of the golden calf. That is

within the boundaries of things possible. Wealth has in some instances seized influential positions, and fought like fury for their possession, as if they belonged to it, naturally, instead of being the people's, to bestow, or withdraw, as they deem proper. When the antics of wealth are considered, it must be admitted that an imperialist agitation is not, at some future time, impossible. What Napoleon accomplished by military skill, and statesmanship, some magnate here may hope to gain by the free use of gold.

But even then, our government institutions will be preserved, through the sacrifices of those who remain faithful to the God-given trust. And among these, the Latter-day Saints will always be found, in the future, as in the past. We reiterate, there is no visible tendency away from the popular form of government in this country, except the sporadic cases of conspiracy against the people by those who command the influence of wealth, so the subject does not call for serious contemplation at this time.

Santa Claus knows no such thing as tainted money.

Publicity cannot be expected to cure secret agreements.

It's kind of a relief to have the Russian telegraph wires cut.

The rule of eulogy of the Senate is "De Mortuis nil nisi bonum."

A limited train never runs against the statute of limitation.

Many a legislative body thinks it's dignified when it's only dandified.

If possible, China proposes to save herself from her friends—the Japanese.

A general strike has begun in Russia. Presumably it is for home and country.

Secretary Bonaparte has met the Constitution and the fate of the Guerriere is his.

The rioting in Shanghai indicates that the Chinese are in favor of foreign exclusion.

The revolution in Russia spreads so rapidly that there is some danger of it overflowing into contiguous territory.

Postmaster-General Cortelyou would abolish the franking privilege. He doesn't believe in being frank to a fault.

Arizona and New Mexico, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, are in a state of expectancy and not states in the Union.

A dancing department is to be added to the University of Chicago. It cannot fail to add to the gaiety of the nations.

The ordinance requiring paved sidewalks to be cleared of snow is a precaution. The way in which it is obeyed is a caution.

Bishop Charles C. McCabe is being quoted as wishing that 20,000,000 copies of Senator Beveridge's new book could be printed. What's the name of the book?

A Los Angeles woman has promised her husband a decree of divorce for a Christmas gift. Perhaps she has promised herself a new husband for a New Year's present.

When the life insurance investigation shall have been closed and the report of the Armstrong committee have been made, it will leave a void in the news of the day that will be very hard to fill.

Japan is irritated because of China's slowness in negotiation. Of course it will be a much more difficult task to gobble up China than it was to gobble up Korea. Hence the irritation.

A Parisian soothsayer predicts that the year 1906 will be a year of horrors. "South America," it is declared, "will be contorted with political upheavals." Why don't soothsayers predict something soothing instead of things like this?

PASSING OF THE GREEN BAG.

Philadelphia Record.
The disappearance of the green bag from the streets of Philadelphia was noted by a student of the town. "These bags, which have traditionally been used by lawyers from time immemorial in which to carry papers and documents to and fro between court and office, were at one time to be seen in the hands of people of other callings and were, indeed, a feature of the streets," said this observer. "They were nearly all green and were used to carry what were called the carrier needed in his trade—books, drawings or anything and everything imaginable. Perhaps it was the air of intellectuality which they gave that rendered them popular, but they are really convenient, lending themselves to the shape of anything put inside of them."

IF WRONG, SAY SO.

Louisville Herald.
No man is always right. If you happen to be wrong, say so. Courage, indeed, it requires to make such a confession, but one is the better for it before the tribunal of his own soul and before the tribunal of his fellows. No one but the fool thinks he is always right. The wise man is ever on guard lest he go wrong. There was that British mayor, for instance, who could not go wrong. He had a mania for buying works of art, and obtaining on one occasion a choice china figure, insisted that it was "John Knox signing Magna Charta." No arguing, of course, with such a fellow of wisdom.

A BRAVE MAN.

Boston Herald.
In the trial of Cadet Meriwether at the Naval Academy, he testifying in his own defense, told the court-martial that he had his choice between fighting Cadet Branch, who was killed, or being left "in the same position as another classmate with whom no one has anything to do." This other cadet, with whom no one has anything to do, is said to be one who either declined a challenge to fight, or refused to recognize the provocation to send out. For having a Christian conscience he lives

at the naval school in a state of social ostracism. This is not the worst of the matter; probably he will go through life, if he continues in the navy, an ostracized man because he has chosen not to be a duelist. Well, we have to say of him that he appears to be the bravest man in his class. We would trust him sooner in an emergency where the highest moral courage was required to do his duty than any one of those who refuse him their recognition. He would do what duty required more certainly without thinking whether he would be applauded and medaled for it.

THE DRAMA REVIVING?

New York Mail.
"One great play," Mrs. Fiske thinks, "may serve to save the theater." The question, then, is simply to get the play or rather the series of great plays. It may be that the time is drawing nearer when our theaters may cease to be "show houses" and become theaters again. Every element exists for the revivification of significant drama—except the drama itself. Costly playhouses are multiplied, the theater-going audience is increasing in number and a new strain of discriminating criticism has appeared in the public. A unique reputation is to be won in playwrighting.

AN INTERESTING EVENT.

New York Office.
The engagement of Miss Alice Roosevelt to Representative Nicholas Longworth will excite pleasurable interest from furthest Passamaquoddy to the imperial palace in Peking. If all the feminine world loves a lover, in America it particularly loves on White House weddings, which are few and far between. The romantic and somewhat spectacular courtship of the President's daughter has taken place under the very eyes of the nation, so to speak, and it has looked on with approval. Buoyant youth, kindred tastes, an evident compatibility of temperament and wealth combine to give an unusually favorable augury of happiness to the union.

A SUBMARINE CRUISER.

Harper's Weekly.
The French navy is still maintaining an active interest in submarine vessels and an entirely new type of craft is soon to be constructed at Cherbourg, which, on account of its large size, will be known as a "submarine cruiser." It is 182 feet in length and 15 feet beam, being driven by electric motors when under the water and by gasoline engines at the surface. There are two electric motors which operate two propellers and eight horizontal rudders, while current is to be supplied by double sets of accumulators. Water-tight compartments will be fitted along the sides of the vessel for over two-thirds of its length, while fuel tanks are to be placed in the center, one on each side.

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A \$8.00 Coat for.....\$5.33	A \$11.00 Coat for.....\$7.33
A \$7.00 Coat for.....\$4.65	A \$12.00 Coat for.....\$8.00
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