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## A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE?

One of the charges against Hon. R. H. Roberts, preferred by the pulp and the press and by his accusers at the seat of National government, is that he is "a fugitive from justice." That is part of the scheme concocted in this city, of which we learned particulars many months ago. On another page of this paper will be found a statement made by a reliable gentleman, which exposes the plot and also the animus that inspired it.

It is well known here that the charge preferred against Mr. Roberts was made in the Salt Lake Tribune more than a year ago, accompanied by threats as to what would be done if the voters of this State did not give their support to the candidate for the office of Representative in Congress and support his opponent. The people of Utah did not choose to be dictated to in their political affairs, and that newspaper nor did they have said to their threats. Indeed, the course of that paper followed materially to meet the successful candidate and to defeat his adversary.

As soon as the result was ascertained, the same paper opened its columns for the purpose of assisting the clergy of different sects here to brow beat the voters of this State did not give their support to the candidate for the office of Representative in Congress and support his opponent. The people of Utah did not choose to be dictated to in their political affairs, and that newspaper nor did they have said to their threats. Indeed, the course of that paper followed materially to meet the successful candidate and to defeat his adversary.

The departure of Mr. Roberts was duly announced in the columns of the Salt Lake Herald. No immediate action was taken by his defenders. Not until his arrival in New York was the machinery which had been prepared set in motion. Then a complaint was made out in this city from hearsay and belief which, when inquired into by the prosecuting attorney of the county where it was presented, proved to be entirely insufficient to give any prospect of a conviction before a competent court. That step was therefore a failure. Next a new complaint, charging a different offense, was filed, which even if supported by proof, would constitute a simple misdemeanor.

All this, observe, was done while it was known that the accused was in the extreme East. The charge, then, that he is "a fugitive from justice" is utterly false, and was intended by the pious people who are at the back of the prosecution, to still further deceive and inflame the people of the United States, and urge them on to the act of folly and wrong committed at the opening of Congress by their Representatives at their behest.

Under the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Utah, the Governor is authorized to demand the extradition of a person charged with a high crime "who shall flee from justice." This presupposes that at least a criminal charge has been made against the fugitive, in some part of the State, from which he fled to escape. But as we have shown in this case, no such legal accusation was attempted until the intended victim of the scheme was thousands of miles away.

The infamy of the whole conspiracy against the Representative from Utah will not be properly comprehended until its full particulars, with the names of the individuals who concocted it and aided in bringing it to a practical issue, are disclosed to the light of day. The time will come when its complete history will be unfolded. At present suffice it to say that whether Hon. R. H. Roberts obtains or fails to obtain justice in the Congress of the United States, or is convicted or acquitted of the misdemeanor with which he is now charged, and which is not a bar against voting or holding office in any event, that gentleman is not a fugitive from justice in any legal or commonsense view of the term.

## SETTLE WITH TURKEY.

President McKinley, in his message to Congress, called attention to the fact that our relations are satisfactory with all foreign powers, except Turkey, the latter country having failed to settle for the losses sustained by American citizens during the riots and massacres in Asia Minor and elsewhere, a few years ago, and also subsequent to that time. It is well known that Mohammedans as a rule consider themselves in every way superior to "Christians." Their ignorance of the other world, particularly in districts removed from the coast cities, which are frequented by travelers, is also very dense. As a consequence, foreigners are often annoyed by Turkish officials in various ways. It is not at all probable that the Sultan himself encourages his subordinates to discriminate against American citizens, but it is easily understood that one

man is virtually powerless to see to it that the government is properly administered throughout the vast empire, as long as of necessity government officials must be given, in many instances, to bigoted ignorance which imagines themselves the lords of the universe. It is also easily understood that the Turkish government, with its poor financial resources, must postpone as much as possible claims for damages by foreign governments on account of the numerous blunders committed by petty officials.

Still this country cannot afford to be too easy going in such matters in that part of the world. The Stars and Stripes should be made to be as much respected as the Union Jack and the Tetele. It would not be bad to send an imposing American squadron to the eastern parts of the Mediterranean, with instruction to pay a friendly visit to some of the most important ports, and incidentally to add emphasis to a renewed demand for the payment of all reasonable claims. This would raise our flag and nation immensely in the estimation of the Ottoman government, and undoubtedly all the cashes and galleons of the realm would receive instructions to respect the Stars and stripes.

The matter is of some importance for the reason that this Republic has now some Mohammedan subjects to take care of. In all probability the Sultan of Sulu recognizes in some way the authorities established at the Turkish capital, and for that reason the power and influence of our government should be known throughout the Mohammedan world. That may save a rebellion when later the work of reformation is to commence among the subjects of the Sultan of Sulu.

## IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The serious defeat of the British by the Orange Free State Boers at Stormberg, as reported from London, is a check upon the advance for the relief of General Methuen at Mafeking river, and the eventual invasion of the Free State Republic. Once more a British force has walked into a trap cleverly laid and as cleverly concealed, with the most disastrous results. As usual, it is feared that the first reported list of dead and wounded will be materially increased by later reports. It is also feared that the enemy obtained possession of valuable guns and other equipment.

General Methuen is now forced to remain in his camp at Mafeking river. The Boers under General Cronje are intrenching themselves strongly on the opposite side, at Spryfontein, where they apparently will dispute his advance toward Kimberley, and the longer the battle at this point can be delayed, the stronger must be the attacking force, and the more sanguinary will be the conflict.

But the most serious consequence of the engagement at Stormberg is its possible effect upon the Boers in that part of Cape colony. Many of them are thought to be hesitating as to what side to take in the conflict. These may decide to go on the warpath against the British, and the empire would then have a rebellion to meet, in addition to a regular war of no small proportions.

In addition to the discouraging news of Gen. Gatacre's misfortune at Stormberg the report is now current that some of the colored tribes are taking up arms against the Boers. This has been predicted and dreaded from the beginning of the war. It has been feared by those who know something of the savagery and carnage that would most likely ensue. The hopes at first entertained of a speedy termination of the war appear to be fading away as the conflict proceeds, and visions of a long campaign with appalling loss of life and destruction of property arise on all sides. The British seem to be forced to advance slowly and in comparatively small columns. The Boers appear to be able to meet them separately and to cripple them.

## IMPURE MILK.

At a time when dealers in milk think they can consistently demand a higher price for their article, a contribution to the Medical Record on the subject of scarlet fever is of special interest, for the reason that it shows an unmistakable connection between that disease and bad milk.

The author of the article in the Record is Mr. Harry O. Hall, of the Surgeon General's office in Washington, and he has culled many of his facts and figures from works not obtainable outside the office. The following conclusions seem to be well established:

"First.—That while scarlet fever occurs in epidemic form in all countries where cow's milk forms a staple article of food, especially among children, it does not occur in countries where cow's milk is not used as a food or where children are raised on mother's milk only.

"Second.—That in Japan and China, where cow's milk is not used as a food, scarlet fever is unknown or very rare. In 20 cities and towns in which epidemics of scarlet fever have occurred, none in Japan, China and Korea appears.

"Third.—That in India, where cow's milk is used as a food, but where, as in Japan, children are nursed until three, four and even six years of age, scarlet fever is rare if not unknown.

"Fourth.—That in countries where goat's milk and horse's milk are used as a food, scarlet fever is unknown.

"Fifth.—That epidemics of scarlet fever in London are directly to the use of milk from certain cows affected with the test-and-udder disease, and that milk had not been infected by coming in contact with the disease in man.

"Sixth.—That certain diseases in the lower animals are co-existent with, or proceed or follow, similar epidemics in the human race.

A later outbreak was also traced to a dairy farm. In Japan and India the disease is very rare, because children are reared on artificial lactation. During one epidemic of scarletina, Mr. Hall says, it was proved that out of 545 cases of the disease, 432 occurred among a population of about 1,500 persons using milk from a certain suspected dairy, while only 63 cases occurred out of a population of 15,000, where milk from other dairies was used. In one family three children fed on the milk from a certain cow were taken sick, while another child fed on milk from another animal escaped. There is no doubt, it is said, that tuberculosis and scarletina can in this way be transferred from the cow to human beings. Authorities are quoted on this point:

"It has been clearly demonstrated that milk may of itself be diseased as the product of a diseased animal. For example, tuberculosis, as is well known, is transmissible from quadruped to man. So is tuberculosis. During recent years several outbreaks of scarlet fever and diphtheria have been due to milk supply."

The annual milk consumption is enormous, and too much attention cannot be given to the absolute purity of this source of food. With the rise in price the public might consistently demand an improved quality and some guarantee that they are not buying a mixture of milk and water seasoned with tuberculosis and scarletina microbes.

## SMOKED COFFEE.

Coffee drinkers should notice the pleasant fact that the plague ship, that some time ago landed in New York, has a valuable cargo of coffee from Brazil, and that, according to New York papers, State Health Officer Day has decided that it may be landed.

The president of the city board of health opposes this decision, and if he is sustained, the coffee will not be landed in the city of New York, but the State officer having decided it harmless, there can be no objection to unloading it in some other place in that State.

The coffee, it seems, has been thoroughly smoked with sulphur, and the knowledge of that circumstance should act as an appetizer for it. Coffee smoked with sulphur would presumably be a healthy one on the market.

It is not probable, though, that if ever it reaches the public, it will be advertised as a plague ship brand. It will come under some other mark.

How would it be for coffee drinkers to quit indulging in view of the fact that they are almost certain to get, at some time or another, a portion of the cargo about which New York health authorities appear to entertain a difference of opinion? The New York World gives this advice: "Why not dump the coffee on Swinburn Island and roast the beans before sending them to the city? Roasting will effectually disinfect them. They might be ground on the island also and neatly done up in packages marked 'Bubonic Brand.'"

But dealers are not likely to act on such a practical suggestion.

## TRAMPLING RIGHT AND JUSTICE

Under this caption the New York World of Dec. 6 comments as follows on the action of the House in the case of the Utah Congressman-elect:

"The House of Representatives yesterday violated the Constitution of the United States by refusing to receive a lawfully elected representative of the people. The personality of Roberts and the question whether he should have been permitted to retain his seat do not enter into the matter. The House has transgressed the right of representative government, the supreme law of the Republic.

"In the same spirit of lawlessness the Speaker of the House went on to appoint as the committee to sit on Roberts's judges nine men who had voted against admitting him, and to appoint as chairman of that committee, a director of its 'judicial' proceedings, Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, the man who stood up in the House as Roberts's accuser!"

The trampling of a fundamental principle of right was followed by the trampling of a fundamental principle of justice.

The crimes charged against Roberts are atrocious to the moral sense of the American people. But what is the relative importance of Roberts's alleged polygamy practices, his alleged violations of the moral sensibilities of civilization, in comparison with such reckless lawlessness as this?

"If in a moment of great national peril the representatives of the people were to violate fundamental principles under stress of necessity, they might have a plea in justification of their grave offenses. But when the representatives of the people are guilty of such reckless disregard and disrespect for right and justice under no greater stress than a craven panic."

A dangerous precedent has been established, a dangerous precedent which the rights of an accused person has been made. No feeling about Roberts should obscure these facts of rapidly growing respect for personal and constitutional rights from the public view."

The Springfield Republican thinks the action of the House will generally be commended, but admits that Mr. Roberts has a strong case. That paper says in part:

"Mr. Roberts of Utah has found that only 20 members of the House would even go so far as to vote in favor of allowing him to take the oath on the ground that he should be admitted to Congress. Mr. Roberts certainly has a very fair legal case at that point in the contest over his admission to Congress. Mr. Roberts, who was elected by a large majority of the people, would not say that the Utah members were guilty of the charges against him; hence, the House, in refusing to permit him to be sworn in, has acted simply on charges that are not yet proved. It is safe to say that such extreme action would not have been taken, had the case not aroused the country to a remarkable degree. Judging by the immense majority against Mr. Roberts yesterday, he could easily be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the House, and on that account the course of his opponents may have been unnecessary."

The Woodland, Cal. Daily Democrat, of Dec. 6, devotes an extended editorial to the subject, of which these are extracts:

"The treatment of Congressman Roberts has been one of the most flagrant outrages ever committed under the cloak of morality. He certainly is no worse and is very likely much better than nine out of every ten congressmen who are trying to deprive him of his seat."

John G. Abbott, a Republican who at one time represented an Ohio district in Congress, and who knows Roberts intimately, describes him as "a pure man and one of the most able men in all this country. He is as eloquent as Foraker and an able politician. He is a man of high character, brought forth. That is a certificate of character to which not many members of Congress are entitled."

"So far as the legal aspect of the case

is concerned, there is no question but that Roberts is entitled to his seat. He was elected by the people of Utah, in properly conducted and honest contests his seat. That is not all. He has renounced polygamy and was a member of the Constitutional Convention which prohibited the further practice of polygamy in Utah. But he does not believe that it would be right for a man who, in accordance with the practice of his religion and under the sanction of his religion, had married three wives, to cast them all off save one, and under the circumstances it seems to us that all fair-minded and reasonable people ought to agree with him. He has committed no offense against the law, because the Constitution of the United States expressly prohibits Congress from enacting ex post facto laws.

"We are as much opposed to polygamy as anybody, but we believe that Roberts having married three women with the sanction of both the law and the Church is legally and morally bound to protect their good names. How can he deliberately cloud their lives? How can he afford to proclaim that two of those women whom he married in good faith occupy the same relations as prostitutes and children born to them are bastards? How can he brand two of his wives as wantons and put the seal of illegitimacy upon the lives of their children? For him to do this in order to obtain office would, in our opinion, be the foulest phase of human degradation. For him to accept this subject as the price necessary to purchase his political rights would subject him to the deepest damnation ever touched by any creature."

"The Washington code of morals has not heretofore been considered so exacting that men caught with a devil's hook baited with a pretty sunbonnet are not considered eligible to membership in Congress. When Congressman Breckinridge committed assault and battery on the seventh commandment, with the aid of Madame Bonnet, there was no objection to driving him out of Congress. He is now the candidate of the Republican party and a few belting Democrats in Kentucky, and is still suggested, will make this session memorable to having a polygamist as a colleague."

"The whole agitation originated with yellow journalism engaged in promoting a fake advertising scheme. It has been aided by well-meaning Miss Nancies, whose bunnies of morality are unnecessarily inflating the passions of men who have been lulled in their denunciations of Roberts are notorious rakes."

"The chances are a thousand to one that Roberts is a cleaner and purer life than half the men who will vote to turn him out of Congress."

The following is from the Baltimore Sun:

But the mode of proceeding said to be contemplated by the Republican majority is open to objection on other grounds. It contemplates, it is true, an investigation into the facts of the case. But meanwhile, in advance of trial and conviction, it deprives Mr. Roberts of his seat and the State of its representative. It sanctions a practice which, if followed as a precedent, may prove prolific of injustice. The famous New Jersey case in 1885 illustrates to what length party feeling may be carried when the organization of the House depends upon the admission or exclusion of certain members regularly accredited and commissioned from their constituents, upon the roll and the right to be sworn in and participate in the organization.

Gen. White's attempt to cut off the Boer retreat at Popworth Hill seems to be a cut backward.

The response to each British defeat in South Africa is a demand for more troops from England. There is no sign of giving up.

About the only way to settle the Sampson-Schley controversy is to let it drop. But politicians will hardly do it.

These Minnesotans who intend sending a black bear to Admiral Dewey as a Christmas present are fortunate in being out of gunshot range of the admiral.

The New York World wants to know why Democrats are out of all the leading offices in the North. For the same reason that Republicans are out in the South. Short on votes.

Three American commercial travelers have been detained at Queenstown, Ireland, on a suspicion of being Boer spies, but the American consul has secured their release. They must have looked awfully green.

It is explained that Gen. Gatacre's attack on Stormberg was a reconnaissance in force, to ascertain the strength of the Boers. Except that the latter were strong enough to win an emphatic victory, the reconnaissance did not seem to elicit the desired information.

A dispatch from London this afternoon says no great surprise would be felt there if the reverse to Gen. Gatacre's force resulted in Cape Colony becoming a base from end to end. Such a result would be appalling, if not surprising.

Aguinaldo's threat to murder American prisoners if his government is not recognized, is likely to amount to but little. Were he to commit such an act, it would insure his being hunted to the death, whereas without such bloodguiltiness on his part his life may be in little danger.

The Carbonade, Washington, mine horror is a soul-sickening catastrophe. Thirty-two men dead, more than a score of families deprived of their natural protectors, and all because of probable lack of care in the mine arrangements which the expenditure of a little money would have provided.

The Kansas City Star.

The President's recommendations are in line with the financial measures which have been prepared by the leaders of the dominant party in both houses of the national legislature, and the substantial harmony which thus exists between the executive and the legislative branches of the government makes it entirely probable that the present session of Congress will enact a currency reform law and settle the much discussed subject at least for as long a time as a majority of the people of the country shall be satisfied with the existing monetary standard.

San Francisco Call.

In reference to the Philippines an overlooked fact is recalled by the message. It says that the treaty of Paris provided that the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territory so ceded to the United States should be determined by the Congress of the United States. It will be seen that under this provision Congress is competent to give qualified and progressive independence to the people of those islands.

St Paul Pioneer Press.

The bill prepared by the Republican members of the Senate finance committee is in point of merit far behind that submitted yesterday by the House committee. Like the latter it establishes the gold standard, but unlike it does not require that all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States shall be redeemed and payable in gold coin. It goes in a roundabout way to the same end by providing that all outstanding bonds bearing interest at 3 and 4 per cent be refunded in thirty-year bonds bearing interest at 2 per cent.

Los Angeles Express.

In the decision of the United States Supreme court in the Adydsone pipe litigation, it has decided that restraint of merchandise to be delivered across State lines is restraint of interstate commerce. It is obvious that this decision is one of immense importance to the question of the regulation of trusts and combines. It is believed that it increases the powers of the general government over combinations.

Chicago Democrat.

That combines formed to destroy competition and to injure trade can be regulated by law has received demonstration. The argument that the law is ineffectual as a remedy for the evils of trusts has been destroyed and trust advocates will have to find some new line of defense.

Senator Clark, of Montana, who is forced to fight for his seat in the Senate, has among his opponents a minister named Warren. According to the Los Angeles Express, Mr. Clark says that upon one occasion he gave Warren a donation of \$100 for his church. From after-developments he asserts that it looks as though the minister appropriated that money to his own use, and that the church never got it. Naturally a minister of such ideas of right and wrong would take a leading part in a war for pure politics.

NOTES ON CONGRESS.  
Los Angeles Express.

The Fifty-sixth Congress of the United States, which convened today, has a chance to legislate wisely or unwisely upon some of the most momentous questions that have come before the national legislature for years. There are able and earnest men in Congress, fully alive to the responsibilities before it, and it must be the sincere wish of every good citizen that they will neither shrink any responsibility nor serve from the conscientious performance of their duty. If they act with an eye single to the national and personal honor and the true glory of the republic, they will deserve well of their countrymen.

Boston Transcript.

The Congress which assembles today promises to make a permanent place for itself in the history of the United States. Many important questions will be presented to it and even if it postpones consideration of some of them, the mere fact that they were presented, and that for the first time legislation was suggested, will make this session memorable. The late session of Congress assembled, it is true, months after the treaty of peace with Spain had been signed, and had been in session but a few days when the treaty of peace with Spain had been signed; but the war had been so recently concluded that there had been no real feeling in which to consider the colonial system. In fact, until after the Senate ratified the treaty of peace there was no saying whether we were to have any colonial system.

New York Mail and Express.

Gen. David H. Henderson, who succeeds Thomas H. Reed as Speaker of the House of Representatives, can confidently be expected to meet the best expectations. His long and varied experience in Congress, his conceded ability, his sound judgment, his popularity and his public-spirited ambition to do the best he can for his country and, therefore, for his party, combine to render the choice an admirable one. He will wield the gavel fairly, with the single aim of advancing the business of wholesome law-making.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, was evidently the real choice of the Democrats of the House for leader from the first ballot on Saturday. On the fifth David De Armond, of Missouri, and Richardson received the same number of votes, 42, in an earlier ballot than the first by one vote. But the Southern Representatives were determined to have the honor of the leadership, and the sixth ballot saw a break in the Democratic ranks. Although De Armond's vote went up to 47, the fact that Sulzer was in haste to make his peace with the new leader indicates that he never entertained a sincere hope of obtaining the honor for himself.

San Francisco Chronicle.

There is no question whatever that the people of the United States are a unit in the determination that they permit no pretext whatever will they permit themselves to be unfairly dealt with by a small number of rich and unscrupulous men. That is not a party question and all efforts to make it seem so are unpatriotic and will be futile, but as to the exact provisions of a law which object shall be to promote the employment of capital for useful purposes, while protecting the public from its efforts to oppress, those who know what is best for the country will be able to decide. Doubtless having views upon the subject, is evidently of the opinion that more light should be had before final action is taken and relies upon the long discussion in Congress to bring out the facts and their bearings upon the question at issue.

Springfield Republican.

Present tendencies are such as must further inflame the granger element against the combinations. The price of agricultural staples like wheat and corn are falling, the price of wheat now being close to where it was in the days of greatest agricultural depression prior to 1898. But prices for what the farmer has to buy are high and still advancing, and in nearly every case a trust is in greater or less control of the industry. Farm implements of every kind, the staples upon which are clothing, tallow, oil, and no end of articles entering into the consumption of the agriculturist, are quoted at much higher prices than for many years back, and wherever he looks through the long list he almost invariably can find a combination of corporations organized to monopolize production and control prices.

San Francisco Call.

To show the difficulty of dealing with such a subject it is necessary only to refer to the conditions upon which the increase in our foreign trade may be largely attributed. An inspection of the statistics shows that that increase has not been attended by a rise in prices. Throwing out the metals, which have risen all over the world equally, so that our metal production enjoys no advantage in respect of prices, our vast increased volume of exports has been at lower prices than were obtained on a less volume. This means that we have outtraded the world by underselling the world. In searching for the reason that has enabled us to do this there can be no doubt that it is mainly found in the economy of production due to the organization of scores of our leading industries. So we have on the one hand gratifying increase in our export trade, and on the other a painful obsolescence of labor at home. Reconciliation of the two conditions requires a long period of readjustment, resembling that which had to follow the general introduction of labor-saving machinery.

Arch Arena Boards for '99

The latest books. Subscriptions taken for all publications.

L. F. HAMMEL, 49 W. 2nd St.

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Boston Herald.

The action of the Supreme court, though we do not question that it was governed purely by the legal aspects of the case, broadly considered, has a political aspect also in its consequences, for it shows that the law, as it stands, is not ineffective against trusts, and it will naturally suggest to Congress that popular favor can be won by making its provisions more stringent and correcting any legal imperfections that have been developed in it. The country will regret that Senator Sherman is not in a position to take part in the improvement of his act.

Omaha World-Herald.

If men shall be permitted to monopolize all the concerns in one business line and then threaten to move the combined industry out of the State that protests against unfair restraints upon trade, it will be seen that such trusts will have a very effective weapon. When trusts are prohibited by Federal as well as State authority, then men will engage in business enterprises in such localities as are suited to the necessities of their business.

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