DESERET EVENING NEWS.

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AND EVERY EVENING

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS CO.

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Saturday, September 12, 1891.

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE?

AN EASTERN journal, discussing the "Mormon" question, remarks:

"It is not wise to ignore the fact that against wind and tide and under the most discouraging circumstances Mormonism has steadily advanced as a force. The philosophy of this is probably not obscure, but the reasons assigned have generally been insufficient. If we assume that Mormons have an implicit belief in their peculiar creed and civil policy and are simply men in dead earnest, what has happened was bound to happen."

The fact that "Mormonism" is "a force" will scarcely be felt or recognized by the whole world. That the "Mormons" have "implicit faith in their creed" and that they are "in dead earnest," is admitted by all candid people who know anything about them. The vast majority of the people in both hemispheres, however, have never been earnestly informed as to the creed of the "Mormons" or as to their true character. Ask the ordinary man of the world or member of a Christian church, or even an editor or a preacher, or but "Mormonism" is, and he will most likely answer "polygamy," and the common idea of a "Mormon" is that he is a "poly-gamist," or one who has loose ideas of the marriage relation.

This ignorance is fostered from two causes: General indifference as to specific religious tenets, and prejudices interpenetrations from the pulpit and the press by which the public mind is darkened and prejudiced. Everybody is interested in projects by which money can be made; comparatively very few care anything about questions of religious belief. And as to "Mormonism" there is scarcely a book published or a lecture delivered or an article written by a non-"Mormon," which does not contain either the most egregious errors of the most malignant falsehoods.

There will come a time when the world will wake up to the fact that there is something in "Mormonism" that they have not understood and that it is of value. It will have been demonstrated that it is peculiar apart from polygamy, and powerful in religious principle and as a social force. The cessation of plural marriages will help to bring this conviction to the public mind, when it is seen that the "Mormon" system advances and accomplishes its work, in spite of its submission to the laws forbidding the practice which was imposed to be its distinguishing feature. Then it will be possible for its votaries to present its claims to public attention, and its doctrines and spirit and effects will be made conspicuous.

The difficulty now is that people imagine they know all about "Mormonism," while they have not the faintest conception of its many peculiarities and beauties. Putting entirely aside its doctrine as to the marriage relation, it has so many differences with commonly taught religious ideas, that it is worthy the thought and investigation of the theologian, the philosopher, the social scientist and the politician.

That it is indeed "a force" which has not been comprehended, everybody who knows anything of what it has accomplished, ought to be able to discern. And that its believers are and have been "in dead earnest" is witnessed by their whole history. If they have not proven their earnestness and sincerity, by their lives, their sacrifices, their sufferings, their unselfish efforts in its behalf, then no votaries of any faith ever gave such evidence.

However, there will not be much change of public opinion or of public indifference on this question, until the idea obtains that there may be something in "Mormonism," after all, that is of vital consequence. Now it is taken for granted that it is "a delusion" or a "fraud," without looking into it. But this will not always be the manner of its treatment. And there will come a demand for its literature, its exponents, its evidences and facts, and faith in force and the character of its converts will be perceived. Then the honest and true, the patriotic and devout among all classes and nations will rejoice in its light and take pleasure in its teachings and influence.

"Mormonism" is neither more nor less than a new Divine dispensation, embodying the Gospel and Church of Jesus Christ as committed to man by Jesus of Nazareth and His Apostles, and bearing the same Spirit and authority in which they ministered. It has the key to "all truth," it brings man into communion with his Maker, it organizes, directs and sanctifies humanity, and will prepare the way for the everlasting dominion of righteousness on the whole earth. It is a creed, a system, a force that has come from above, and it will not be destroyed or overcome by anything below. The world has seen but its beginning, and that is measurably circumscribed from their view. Its future will be greater than we care to attempt to depict, but it is certain to be magnificent and mighty as truth is to triumph over error, and as the Kingdom of Christ is to prevail over the powers of this world. Why do not thoughtful and earnest men and women make thorough investigation of its claims and history, its principles and promises?

STATE REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE.

THE objection that the United States Senate is not a representative body is again revived. It is shown that the smallest State in the Union has the same number of representatives in the upper House of Congress as the largest, and it is argued that this is an "inequality" at variance with the genius of our system of government. The remedy proposed is to elect Senators as Representatives are elected, namely by popular vote of the various States instead of by their legislatures and in proportion to their respective populations.

This has so often been met and disposed of that it seems almost unnecessary to argue the point anew. But some papers are confounding that the larger States ought, by reason of their great population, to have a bigger representation in the United States Senate and propose to let every State, as now, send two senators to Congress, but allow the larger States additional senators at the rate of one to a million or part of a million of population, when it exceeds one million persons.

It will be seen at a glance that this proposition is as much out of harmony with the principle that regulates sectional representation as the scheme to place the Senate on the same popular plane as the House. And it is not likely that the smaller States will ever consent to being swamped by the larger, as they would be if this plan were to prevail. The Constitution would have to be amended to alter the present system in any way, and even if Congress were to approve of it, in all probability it would be rejected by a sufficient number of the States to defeat it.

This idea of popular representation in the Senate is foreign to the purpose of the organization of that body. The people are represented directly in the House. The States, as sovereign commonwealths, are each represented in the Senate. Thus all the people take part in making the laws, and all the States take part also in the same legislation. It matters not whether a State be large or small in area or in numbers, it is an organized sovereignty and as such is to be represented in the Senate.

Any departure from this principle is unacceptable to the theory on which the Congress was established, and to the Constitution from which Congress draws its life and receives its powers. It will not right so to stands and needs no tinkering of the kind proposed.

SAMPLE OF IDAHO'S.

IT has come to light that the keepers of the Idaho State prison have been indulging the inmates in a fight to a finish prize match. The brutal affair took place over five weeks ago and information has until recently been suppressed. It appears that boxing of the less savage style has been a pastime among the prisoners for a long time, the warden making it a special feature of prison regime. We presume that gentleman, if asked for an explanation on the subject would say that he perceived in it the double exclusion of at once giving exercise to the inmates and amusement to the guards. Whether the warden himself derived any "fun" from the exhibitions is left for inference. In any event he and his subordinates on this particular occasion combined in arranging the preliminaries, and were there to see that proper decorum was observed. The prisoners were also there in a body and bet their money and articles of their own manufacture on the result. All the prison officials were there, and Young Elack Roberts, son of Prison Commissioner Roberts, was "bottle holder."

"The fight," says the report, "was a particularly savage affair. One of the convicts engaged was pounded till covered with blood and almost unable to stand."

It is said that somebody is clamoring for an investigation, but it is unlikely that one will be had. The condition of public opinion that has made such a violation of good order possible will not be greatly disturbed by the disgrace of it. The "tender foot" citizen who never saw such a spectacle in public office before might as well calm himself and call the affair, like most of his neighbors will do, a little pleasantry of Warden Mackey, which any of the good fellows in office might have indulged in under the circumstances.

WOMEN IN THE OHIO SCHOOLS.

THE superintendent of the public schools of Toledo appears bent on making for himself a record while in office. His first official announcement was to the effect that laty principles would not be longer tolerated under his jurisdiction. He now comes forward with the decree, (of which he is personally the author), from the school board, to the effect that married women should not be eligible as teachers.

It is difficult to understand the reason for these sensible upon fair intelligence. They are believed to be attributable to politics. It is suspected that if women teachers were of more importance at the polls than they are they would claim much more of the respect and favors of the Toledo band of schoolmen. If the schools of Toledo are not, as they seem now to be regarded by the school board, an essential part of the political machine, then they are for the purpose of educating the children of that city; and education does not mean simply to stuff their tender with the symbols of books, but to teach them to be governed and how to govern themselves. And wherever the unmarried woman is by condition or experience, superior for such a duty to the mother of a family, all things else being equal, we do not understand. If the school board assumes, in their decree, that married women are so preoccupied with domestic duties that they cannot perform the full duties of teachers, the assumption is so insulted as to be absurd as unwarranted as to assume them other wise incapable, and looks like a pretext to excuse an act of tyranny. To prohibit the employment of teachers capable through any cause whatsoever to perform a teacher's duty fully and capably is proper. But to attempt the reform beyond its legitimate effect, by giving it a class application, is not in line with human rights or true progress.

THE FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

THE *Mail and Express* of New York says that the Fifty-second Congress will contain a larger number of new men in the House than any other Congress for years past. A clear majority of the coming Representatives have never been in Washington before in any official capacity. Of the 332 members, there are only 137 who were in the last House. However, of the 194 new members, nineteen have seen previous service in Congress. The next House, then, will be composed of 176 absolutely new members and 137 members who have had Congressional experience.

The Fifty-first Congress at the opening of the session was composed of 159 Republicans and 159 Democrats in the House, but at its close the figures were 176 Republicans and 153 Democrats. During the session eight Democrats were unseated and their places filled by Republicans.

The Fifty-second Congress, according to the New York World almanac, will have in the House 237 Democrats, 87 Republicans and 8 Farmers' Alliance men. Of the latter, Kansas sends five, Minnesota one, Nebraska one, and Georgia one. There are thirteen Farmers' Alliance men, but there are about twenty-two other members who, though Democrats, owe their seats to the Alliance. This will leave 215 straight Democrats in the next House of Representatives.

Some time ago The *Sun* and *Herald* gave subscribers a circular to each member of the incoming Congress, containing a series of questions which requested immediate reply. The questions had reference to a choice of Speaker, and for views on the Sub-Treasury bill, free coinage of silver, Blanchard's per cent. government loan bill, government control of telegraphs, reciprocity with Canada and South America, pension laws and tariff bills. Forty-three replies are already published, representing twenty-six States, but very few have answered the whole series in full.

On the question of free coinage thirty-eight replies are published. Seventeen Republicans and all the Democrats are opposed to it, while twelve Democrats and three Alliance men favor it.

For the Sub-Treasury plan there are five affirmatives, namely: One Republican, one Democrat, and three Alliance men, while there are thirty-four opposed to it—seventeen Democrats and seventeen Republicans.

For the Blanchard bill there are three yeas and thirty-six nays. For government control of the telegraph lines eighteen yeas and sixteen nays. For reciprocity with Canada twenty-four yeas and seven nays. For the present tariff nineteen yeas—all Republicans, and twenty-two nays—Democrats and Alliance men.

Among the replies then from Mr. Kem, Alliance member from the Third District of Nebraska, is perhaps the most striking. He favors government telegraphs, commercial union with Canada and all the world, service pensions, and tariff reform. But before all his projects could be accomplished he thinks that government should take possession of all gold and silver producing mines and lands in the United States, and that all rights and titles to such lands shall revert to the government by right of eminent domain, the government to pay for them a nominal sum.

Oliver, of the Third District of Kansas, is an advocate Sub-Treasury advocate. He is vice-president of the National Farmers' Alliance. He favors free coinage, the Blanchard bill so far as it goes, but wants it stronger, and government telegraph. In his argument for a Sub-Treasury he says that everything, whether gold, silver or paper, on which the government has stamped a certain value, should be legal tender for such value, and any citizen refusing to treat it as such should be adjudged guilty of crime, and treated as a counterfeiter.

On the whole it looks as if the political issues of the next Congress will be fought out on the old party lines. There may be some modification on the question of free silver, but the probability is that it will not be touched at all in the House at the next session. As to the Alliance scheme, they seem to be tumbling into this pit. Even the Democrats who favored many of them last year are now emphatically opposed to them.

SUICIDES OF CONVICTS IN PENITENTIARIES.

ACCORDING to the returns of the Eleventh Census, recieved to-day, 1890, there were in the penitentiaries of the United States 19,269 prisoners. Of these 18 were not sentenced, 2,340 were serving sentences of less than one year, 10,757 had been sentenced to imprisonment for definite terms of years, 2,066 for life, 12 during their minority, and 81 were under sentence of death, awaiting execution.

Where sentence for a definite term is pronounced, the most common one was found to be two years, following in respective order of prevalence were those of five, three, one, ten, four, seven and six years. There are reported 132 sentences of 50 years and over, 10 for 55 are for 60 years.

The average sentence of a male convict is 4 years and 285 days, and of a female convict 4 years and 211 days.

Of the total 18,273 prisoners in penitentiaries, 18,142 were males and 1,131 females. Of the females, the North Atlantic division had 371, the South Atlantic 202, North Central 525, South Central 230 and the Western division, which includes Utah, 40. Wyoming, Idaho and Alaska had no female prisoner. Montana had 4, Colorado 1, New Mexico 4, Arizona 1, Utah 1, Nevada 1, Washington, 1 Oregon 1, and California 21.

ECHOES FROM OHIO.

THE New York *Post* asks:

"Why is Mr. McKinley dropping the tariff issue and making his campaign on the silver question? Why maybe, while the millionaire and boomp are preaching Republicanism, to shout the name and fling Mr. Cleveland's name against free silver and commending its most crude or all for Republican honors? Can the upside of a high tariff win votes for it in Ohio by commending the unpopularity of the Democratic opponent of that tariff?"

To this the *Enquirer* replies as follows:

"Why can't you tell the truth? When Mr. McKinley opened his campaign at Zanesville, August 22, his speech made the last a half of the long columns of the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette, and less than two columns were devoted to the silver question. In every one of the speeches since the consideration given to the two subjects has been in about the same proportion. Mr. McKinley is right in keeping the Democrats since that in Mr. Cleveland's spellbinding back."

WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION.

ACCORDING to the figures of the Eleventh Census, the population of Washington was in 1890, 349,390. In 1880, when a Territorial organization existed, the population was 75,116. This shows an increase of 365 per cent. during the decade.

Since 1889, nine new counties have been formed. This interferes with giving the exact figures according to counties in 1890 and 1880.

In 1890 the largest body of urban population in Washington was found at Walla Walla, which had a population of 9,083. Seattle was next with 42,837. In 1880 Seattle had 3,533. This shows an increase of 1,112 per cent. during the decade. Tacoma in 1890 had 36,006, in 1880 3,098. Spokane Falls in 1890 had 37,473, in 1880 10,922.

Washington has twenty cities and towns having each 1,000 or more inhabitants.

NEWS IN A NUT SHELL.

The fugitive slave bill passed Sept. 12, 1850.

Guizot, the French historian, died Sept. 12, 1874.

Sobieski defeated the Turks at Vienna, Sept. 12, 1683.

The fruit crop in Italy is said to be enormous this year.

Jenny Lind gave her first concert in New York September 12, 1850.

Richard M. Hoe, inventor of the improved printing press, was born Sept. 12, 1812.

The British governor of Massachusetts attempted to bribe John Adams, Sept. 12, 1776.

Exports of silver in July were $1,980,724, against $2,942,347 last year for the same month.

It is reported that Chinamen are coming into the United States in thousands by way of British Columbia, Northwest Territory and Canada.

The receipts of grain at Chicago for the week ending September 5th, 1891, were 11,400,000 bushels, more than double those of 1890 for the corresponding week.

Captain Eva Booth, daughter of General Booth, of Salvation Army fame, is one of the most promising officers in that vast religious army. She is said to be very handsome and is a great success in making new recruits.

In Austria it has been found that the slanting of letters in writing causes curvature of the spine, due to the position assumed at the table or desk, and empirical council has recommended that upright letters be cultivated in schools.

The Lebanon Courier-Journal says that white collars and white cuffs are good so far as they go, but what, isn't a man rather incomplete without something white at the bottom of his pantaloons? Will not some enterprising dude give us a sample of a man with a proper amount of linen?

Advices from Rome are to the effect that the provincial debts of Italy amount to $3,000,000,000, or $100 for each man, woman and child in the kingdom, while the national debt is fully $4,000,000,000. Is it any wonder that Hannon's subjects are anxious to get out of such a debt burdened country?

J. C. Heywood, the Pope's new chamberlain, is a Harvard graduate of 1876. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1878. Mr. Heywood has written a number of poems of merit. Harvard has given him the degrees of LL. D and A. M. The position he holds is not an ecclesiastical one.

A Los Angeles paper says: there are sixty slaves in that city whose owners hold bills of sales of their bodies, and deal in them as horses and cattle are bought and sold. The slaves are Chinese women, who dare not attempt to escape, as such an attempt would mean death. They range in price anywhere from $300 to $2,000, according to their age and beauty.

Some of the sons of famous fathers are demonstrating the falsity of the historic star on the children of great men. The latest of them to achieve prominence is Francis Darwin, a son of the great apostle of evolution. He is becoming famous for his researches in biology, and was recently elected president of the biological section of the big Demographic Congress in London.

The Maine coast dwellers have peculiar remedies of their own for all sorts of diseases, and among them that prescribes as a cure for cancer by an ancient mariner of Harpswell is the quaintest. Tide and sail declares that a poultice made from a piece of the belly of a No. 2 mackerel will draw any cancer out by the roots. A No. 1 mackerel, he says, is too fat and a No. 3 not fat enough.

The heroine can once more cause grief in Denver. Mrs. Stewart wanted to get tired, and was in a hurry. The fire did not blaze fast enough, and she poured kerosene on the burning fuel. It blazed out and her clothing took fire. She was terribly burned and lived only two hours. Her two year old child which she held in her arms is fearfully burned also and it is said, will not recover.

A year ago the Missouri Farmers' Alliance had 50,000 members; now it has 30,000, according to the official report made at the Kansas City convention two weeks ago. The autonomy and government land loan schemes were refused an endorsement, showing that the conservatives in that State are getting control. The convention, furthermore, appealed to the farmers to hold their wheat as long as possible so as to hold the prices.

It is reported that E. T. Jeffries, of Chicago, will be the next president of the Rio Grande Railroad. Mr. Jeffreys is now one of the directors of the World's Fair at Chicago. He was for thirty-five years connected with the Illinois Central, and rose from office boy to be general manager of that road. He is considered one of the most efficient railroad men in America. He was sent on a special message to Paris eighteen months ago, in the interests of the Columbian Exposition. He is one of the favorite sons of Illinois, and in Chicago is very popular.

Marshal Blucher died Sept. 12, 1819, at the age of 77. He was born at Rostock, in 1742. At 14 he enlisted in the Swedish army. At 16 he was taken prisoner by Prussia. At 19 he enlisted in the Prussian army, in which he became General-in-Chief. He was at the battle of Leipsic, and pursued Napoleon to the Rhine. He crossed the Rhine to attack Paris on January 1, 1814, but Napoleon drove him back. He defeated Napoleon afterwards at Laon. The failure of Grouchy to arrive in time at Waterloo, and the approach of Blucher, gave to Wellington the victory in that memorable battle.

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