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## WITHOUT REASON OR EXCUSE.

One of the vain pretenses put forth by promoters and apologists for the so-called "American" party in this city is, that such an organization is necessary in order that there may be individual freedom in business and politics. It is alleged that people here are under "the iron grip of ecclesiastical oppression." That is merely a hollow cry without cause and without common sense. Every business man in this city, whatever may be his creed or his party, knows that there is nothing here that interferes with his perfect liberty, unless it be "the iron grip" which certain adventurers and moribund politicians are seeking to impose upon him.

The charge is that Joseph F. Smith regulates commercial affairs at his will, exercises exclusive rights and privileges, and prevents and compels other people to keep out of paying industries. Indeed, if he was able to attend to all the affairs which he is charged with conducting and dictating, he would be the most extraordinary individual that ever lived on earth. He would have to be in a thousand places at the same time, be possessed of hundreds of arms, a brain greater than that of innumerable men of extraordinary intellectual power, and of a foresight that would reach farther and comprehend more than is vouchsafed to any mortal being ever heard of.

Now, where is the business man or woman who has been compelled by President Smith to go into business or to stay out of business, or to engage in anything or desist from anything, contrary to his or her own volition and choice? A big reward has been offered for such a rare avis, but up to the present time there has not been a chirp in response. The drool that has been poured out in false accusations concerning this matter is so silly, that sensible people either pay no attention to it or treat it with derision and contempt. It is manufactured for the deception of uninformed people, chiefly those at a distance. But it forms a flimsy excuse for persons who want to combine in an anti-"Mormon" crusade.

A standing offer of one thousand dollars has been published for some time, "if it can be shown that Joseph F. Smith since he became President of the "Mormon" Church has dominated or interfered with in any way the political action of any individual or party." This is no bit of buncombe or offer without genuine financial backing, though made by a gentleman who might perhaps be challenged as to his ability to furnish the money. It is endorsed and vouched for by one who is known to be able to pay, and who keeps his word and meets his obligations. Both of them are non-"Mormons." No one as yet has come forward to claim that one thousand dollars. What is the reason? Why, of course it is that proof cannot be obtained that any such political domination or interference has been exercised.

The so-called "American" party has nothing to stand upon but hot air and foul and false accusations. Every citizen who joins it or supports it, endorses its flimsy and virulent attacks upon the "Mormon" Church and its President, and if he be either a Republican or a Democrat he turns his back on the party to which he owes allegiance, and confesses that hitherto he has been a slave or a tool of the dominant church. For the so-called platform of the so-called "American" party so announce.

There may be citizens here who really think it would be a good thing for the "Gentiles" to unite for the purpose of excluding "Mormons" from participation in the affairs of the city and the state. If so, they show themselves unfit for the glorious privileges of American citizenship, because they would establish a religious test in political affairs, in violation of the letter and the spirit of the Constitution of our country.

We can understand why the promoters of the so-called "American" party now seeking to dominate local affairs are engaged in their nefarious work, but we cannot understand why good people of any shade of political or religious belief, who know that the charges made against the "Mormon" Church and its President are both false and foolish, can join in such a movement and help to keep up strife and contention to the injury of business and the growth of this commonwealth. Such a course is fatuous and absurd.

The great body of our non-"Mormon" friends in this city are thoroughly aware that they are not interfered with in business, in politics, in religion or in any of the rights and privileges of American citizenship by their "Mormon" neighbors or the leaders of the Church. The charges that have been made have no basis in fact, and the standing rewards that remain without

a claimant are witnesses, if any are needed, that the stories invented by calumniators to further their own selfish and malicious ends, are utterly without reason and without excuse.

## DIED FORGOTTEN.

The death of Dr. Henry Slade, the once famous spiritist medium, is another reminder of the fact that "no one can fool all the people all the time." Slade was a physician, but, in an evil moment took to spiritist performances. For a time he succeeded in impressing the public. Great men were fooled by his prestidigitations—among others Henry Ward Beecher. His fame lasted for 10 years; he was successful in London and Paris, and committees of learned men had sittings with him, none detecting his tricks. He made a fortune. But he died a short time ago in a Michigan sanitarium, penniless and forgotten.

In 1846 Slade performed in the presence of a prominent German scientist, Professor Zoellner, who closely observed him without being able to detect the deception. The learned professor, in a grave report tells how Slade made the needle of a compass move and swing round, though he was a foot and a half away from the instrument which, besides, had been placed under a glass globe.

From another source Prof. Zoellner reports that a heavy bedstead moved and performed astonishing evolutions, though no one was seen to touch it. Explosions were heard, as from strong electric batteries. In the presence of several learned lights Slade made common parlor tables jump, and dance, and move about, and for a long time he defied detection. But he was finally unmasked, as nearly all such "mediums" have been, and had to seek retirement.

There is neither happiness, nor lasting fame, in anything but a life of usefulness. Through deceit many have succeeded, for a time, in becoming prominent, but their fate has been that of the sky rocket, which bursts and falls down, no one knows where. A life of usefulness, in truth and sincerity, is the only life worth living.

## ZANGWILL ON ZIONISM.

Israel Zangwill has recently outlined his ideas on Zionism. As will be remembered, he is the leader of the Zionist faction that believes in the establishment of an autonomous Hebrew state somewhere under British rule, as a preliminary to the actual return to Palestine, which is the true goal of Zionism. Mr. Zangwill mentions British East Africa, Australia, and even Canada, as countries in which such a state might be established.

Of the success of the proposed venture, Mr. Zangwill has no doubt. The Jews, he says, naturally are agriculturists, and not financiers. In Russia there are at present 100,000 Jewish agriculturists, 100,000 Jewish artisans, and 100,000 Jewish soldiers. Moreover, they are not tied to the soil. There is already an annual stream of a hundred thousand Russian emigrants whose one wish is to find a home where they can live in comfort.

After reviewing the situation, Mr. Zangwill comes to this conclusion:

"The psychological moment has arrived. The Jewish question in Russia is rapidly coming to a head. Kishineff massacres, frequently organized in cold blood by the Society of the Black Hundred, are now so common that one's senses become positively dazed. It is impossible for the Jewish bankers to turn the screw effectively on the Russian Government. That is all talk, and you never did anything yet by talk. Not only are the Jewish lower classes emigrating, but the Jewish middle classes, as well, are leaving Russia. A rich Russian Jew has personally assured me that there are hundreds and hundreds of middle-class Jewish families who would emigrate eagerly to the new Jewish state. There is, moreover, a constant floating element in the population which would come to the new State—young men in search of adventures, with their lives still before them, and old men anxious for a quiet haven in which to spend their last days. These things run by epidemics. Once the idea of a colony is in the air—once the land is ready to receive them—the difficulty will be not to attract immigrants, but to keep them out. A certain amount of financial support will be necessary, but I have assurances that this will be forthcoming from the rich philanthropists of the Jewish community."

## COMMENTS ON DISSOLUTION.

The comments of leading newspapers of Europe on the dissolution of the Scandinavian union are of a rather pessimistic nature. The Literary Digest, in its current number, reproduces several paragraphs which may be considered representative of the prevalent opinion in the Old World.

The London Daily Mail is quoted as follows:

"The Swedes have throughout shown great forbearance. They are the stronger nation numerically, financially, and from the naval and military standpoint. But, while they are anxious for their own safety and security as a people to live in peace with Norway, they have not been altogether reassured by such statements as that recently made by the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. Loevald, that there is considerable sympathy in Norway with Russia, at a time when Russia is treating a former Swedish province, Finland, with extreme severity."

The London Standard points out that the Scandinavian countries, in the time of danger must not rely on alleged friends, but on themselves. History is indeed clear on that point. The Standard says:

"We are far from suggesting that any scheme of aggression has been formulated, or even vaguely conceived in any quarter, or that Sweden and Norway and Denmark have any ill-will towards any of the courts and cabinets of Europe. Still, our age is one of flux and change, in which mighty forces have been unleashed; nor can it be said that the state of stable equilibrium is yet reached. The geographical situation of Scandinavia renders it at least possible that its people may at least at some future period be called upon to resist aggression, and, perhaps, withstand encroachment upon their integrity and independence. They might find allies; they certainly will not lack friends, but their main reliance must be upon their own strength."

French papers see in the separation a dangerous invitation to Germany to assume an aggressive policy. The Liberte says:

"Sweden and Norway by thus com-

pletely separating fatally betray, now or later, the whole Scandinavian Peninsula into the hands of Germany. The history of the War of the Duchies, the odious seizure of Schleswig-Holstein, are things of yesterday; the example of Denmark should have been a warning."

The Figaro remarks:

"Norway cannot maintain a foreign policy which is not also that of Sweden. What would happen if, sooner or later, Norway should have for friends, or even for allies, those that would set her at odds with Sweden? Undoubtedly, a good treaty of alliance between the two countries would dissipate forever this evil, fratricidal dream."

Of this character are the comments of the press. Even some of the leading Norwegian periodicals take a rather pessimistic view. Intelligensierne says the results of the Karlstad conference are "utterly disappointing," and the once very conservative Morgenbladet declares that "the present arrangement can only be provisional," intimating that the anti-Swedish agitation is to be continued. No wonder, if those well acquainted with the situation are inclined to the view that the Karlstad conference has not permanently settled the question there discussed.

And now John A. knows how the other Mc lives.

Brutal football must go. And the sooner it goes the better.

To Joseph Ramsey, Jr., all is Gould that glitters.

Superintendent of Schools Dougherty of Peoria, says he is no bookkeeper.

Mr. Hyde prefers to be a looker-on in Vienna to being a witness in New York.

It is meet that the secretary of war should lead in the fight on brutal football.

Isn't Mr. Hearst a little bit over impressed with the sense of his duty to the public?

The czar comes pretty near saying to M. Witte, "If you don't see what you want, ask for it."

To the bankers Secretary Shaw did not say one word about his boom. It was a discreet silence.

It is hard, very hard, to shed tears of anguish when one hears of an express company being robbed.

Cunliffe may claim that absconding with that hundred thousand dollars was "only a boyish escapade."

Truth a trained nurse up in the way she should go and when she gets old she will not depart from it.

Guilty or not guilty, it is to be hoped that Pat Crowe will not be released save on bonds not to lecture or go on the stage.

Think of an insurance company whose assets are far greater than those of the Bank of England and of the Bank of France combined. America is truly the land of big things.

The names of several famous American women have been selected for inscribing in the Hall of Fame, but that of Lydia E. Pinkham, the most famous of them all, is not among them.

Gen. Gomez finds no sympathetic response to his wall of war about things in Cuba. The fact of the matter is the American people do not take much stock in the plaints of defeated candidates.

The Rev. Joseph Milburn of Chicago says: "Yellow journalism is a sort of 'protestant' journalism." Why didn't he go the full length and say, "It is the assiduous of dissent, and the protestantism of the Protestant religion?"

Mayor Dunne says there shall be no political assessment of Chicago employees. What with his municipal ownership of street railways and no political assessments he must dream of converting the Windy City into a Utopia.

According to Richard A. McCurdy of the Mutual Life Assurance company, life insurance is a work of charity. With him and his family the charity seems to have begun at home, and stayed there, to judge by their salaries and commissions.

Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr college, declared in her address to the students at the opening exercises of that institution that "The day of the college 'tramp' is past, and I am glad of it. Slovenliness is no longer overlooked in a woman, no matter how brilliant she may be." To which the young ladies might have replied as the Don did to his squire, "I tell thee, Sanchio, thy frumps sometime nip."

## VALUE OF THE WEATHER MAN.

Country Life in America. In spite of the standing jokes about the weather man, it is probable that for every dollar spent on the weather bureau ten dollars are saved. At the time of the Mississippi flood of 1897 \$15,000,000 worth of livestock and other property were saved as a result of warnings issued a week ahead. Signals displayed for a single hurricane have detained in port vessels valued, with their cargoes, at \$20,000,000. The West Indian stations, established in 1898, in form of hurricanes as soon as they begin. The course of the hurricanes that caused the Galveston flood was charted for a week before it struck our shores for hurricanes move slowly. Eighty-five per cent of the forecasts now come true, and the aid of rural free delivery 25,000,000 forecast cards were distributed last year to farmers, many of whom could not have had them five years ago.

## THE ULTIMATUM TO THE SULTAN.

Pueblo Chieftain. It is to be hoped that the European powers that have presented an ultimatum to the sultan in regard to the Macedonian reforms really mean business. If they do, the sultan will undoubtedly yield, though it would be a blessing to the world if he would carry his resistance far enough to make it necessary to destroy his empire finally

and forever. At any rate there seems to be some reason for hoping that the Macedonians are to be relieved from the atrocities from which they have suffered, either as a result of the work of the international delegates, or by the final overthrow of the Turkish government.

## JAPAN'S DEBT.

Boston Herald. According to the leader of the progressive party in Japan, that nation will owe by the time her army has returned home no less than \$1,250,000. That is a large debt for a country like Japan, although, admittedly, measured by some European standards, it cannot be called an oppressive burden. Japan, however, is young as a national borrower, and that makes the indebtedness in her case appear all the heavier for her population of less than 50,000,000. But the Japanese debt pales into insignificance when compared with that of France, which is something like \$6,000,000,000; with that of Italy which is double the figure for Japan; with that of Spain, which is rising \$2,000,000,000.

## TO BE INDEPENDENT.

San Francisco Chronicle. A young man whose father is president of a railroad has refused to take a job under him, saying that he prefers to go out and win his own way. The announcement of his determination is a trifle theatrical, and some of the comment it has called forth is silly. The young man may be very spirited and may be loaded to the brim with ability, but if he moves up rapidly there will always be the suspicion that he owes some of his good fortune to the fact that he is his daddy's son. If he really wishes to be independent of those who have cared for him from infancy and cut loose entirely from old acquaintance. If he wins his spurs under such circumstances he will not be rated a false alarm.

## LEARNING AND A WOMAN'S DRESS.

New York World. Higher education no longer covers for a woman a multitude of sins against the standard of tidiness in dress. This is the burden of the year's opening address by Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College. "The day of the college tramp is past," said Miss Thomas is glad. Wealth and fashion have invaded girls' colleges as they have men's colleges. They have set a new pace in student luxury and extravagance. Fault has been found with this invasion. Yet it is possible to suggest a compensation. The example of those who have cared for dress too much has very probably set a right balance in the minds of many who have cared for dress too little.

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\$15 Ladies' and Misses' Jackets at 1/2 PRICE

If we could say they are not out-of-date, but that would not be in keeping with the reputation this house has for telling the truth about its goods. We have had this line of Jackets in stock just one year, so they're not so much behind the times, not enough to warrant this radical reduction in price; but we want to move them, and believe that all will be gone by Saturday night. They are in colors and blacks. Every price from \$10.00 to \$15.00 will be cut into halves.

## ONE-FOURTH OFF COVERED CUSHIONS.

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Black and colored velveteens, the noted A. W. B. Boulevard Brand, 25 inches wide, suitable for Ladies' Tailored Street Costumes or Children's Dresses; has always sold for \$1.25 a yard, but for Friday and Saturday only the price will be 75c.

**75c BLACK TAFFETA SILK FOR 55c**

A 18 inches wide Black Taffeta Silk, an extra good value even at the regular price of 75c a yard. It is made a special for Friday and Saturday's Selling, and will be sold at 55c.

**60c TAM O'SHANTER 35c**

Extra fine line Camel's Hair Scotch Tam O'Shanter, in white, black, cardinal, blue, pink and brown. Have been sold regularly at 60c; all this year's new goods, for Friday and Saturday the price will be 35c.

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