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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 3, 1888.

GENERAL SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-ninth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence at 10 o'clock Friday morning, October 5th, 1888, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City. The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

A meeting of the Deseret Sunday School Union will be held at the Tabernacle on Friday evening, October 5th, one of the Priesthood on Saturday evening, October 6th, and of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations on Sunday evening, October 7th.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

THE SOURCE OF CONTAGIOUS DISORDERS.

The yellow fever epidemic in Florida has given rise to a great many foolish speculations as to its origin, and attempts to scare people in places where Yellow Jack cannot possibly flourish are not uncommon. It is generally believed that this terrible disease is caused by the presence of microbes in the blood, and that those living but deadly germs are indigenous to a hot and humid climate. They are killed by cold, and a severe frost soon ends their activity if not their vitality. Filth is said to be their breeding place, but this is contradicted, and there are not wanting many intelligent and scientific disputants who argue that dirt does not produce disease and that the filthiest people are often the healthiest.

The latter argument, whatever may be the facts, will not have much weight with decent folk who believe that "cleanliness is next to godliness," and it is not likely that dirt and civilization will dwell together in harmony. However, we believe that a great deal of nonsense is printed as to the cause of epidemics, and that much is to be learned on this subject by the medical fraternity as well as the general public.

Prof. Brown Sequard, who has attained to deserved eminence as a scientific experimentalist, has been investigating the constituents of the human breath, with a view to determining whether it is capable of producing poisonous effects. By condensing the vapor expired from human lips he obtained a liquid which he injected under the skin of rabbits, and found that it produced instant death. Its poisonous nature was thus established. Dissection showed that the heart of the poisoned animal was gorged with blood. Chemical analysis demonstrated the poison to be an alkaloid and not a microbe.

As a result of his experiments Dr. Brown Sequard announces that he considers it fully proved, that the breath of men and animals contains a volatile poison far more deadly than carbolic acid. This, thrown out with the air will, if inhaled, produce serious results, and may be the cause of many fevers which are supposed to be traceable to microbes.

It has been suggested that if human beings and animals exhale a poisonous alkaloid, vegetation may also cast off invisible particles which, under certain conditions, become poisonous when inhaled and taken into the system. Also that the germs which have been supposed to be the cause of certain diseases are but an effect of this poison in the air, which exhaled by men and animals and plants, and acted upon under certain atmospheric conditions, when received into the lungs, mingled with oxygen and nitrogen, carry death in the midst of life.

It is conceded by botanists of eminence that plants breathe in order to live. When deprived of air they perish like animals would under similar circumstances. It is quite reasonable to suppose in the light of Dr. Brown Sequard's experiments, that their exhalations contain a destructive principle, and that this, with the poison of animal out-breathings, are the primary cause of some epidemics.

It is well known that such diseases break out in localities supposed to be detached from possibility of contagion.

Diphtheria, for instance, has often suddenly appeared in remote places, sometimes up in the mountains where no contact has been had with persons afflicted. Also that malaria, as it is called, will attack its victims in places considered to be the very stamping grounds of health.

In a condition of the atmosphere favorable for the aggregation of this volatile alkaloid, and a condition of the blood favorable to its action and accumulation when inhaled, fevers may find their origin and everybody be puzzled as to where on earth the patients caught them. A violent wind-storm often seems to purify the air and carry off contagion when epidemics are raging. And it is evident that in yellow fever regions a change in the atmosphere brought about by frost, changes the condition so that Yellow Jack dies out or ceases his active operations.

It may not be true of all contagious fevers, but it certainly is of some, that they have been communicated from the sick to the healthy through "catching the breath" of the patient. Plenty of fresh air is essential to the recovery of the fever invalid, and "taking time by the forelock" when fever commences is suggested or rather supported by the discovery of Dr. Brown Sequard, so that the action of the fever principle may be stayed before it reaches the stage of domination and destruction.

The subject of the origin of disease is worthy of the best thought of the most profound scientists. From cause to cure will doubtless be but a step. And prevention, which is far better than cure, cannot be assured until the secret course of evil is traced and demonstrated. The experiments to which we have referred are valuable. What they have disclosed does not explode the germ theory of disease, but it goes behind it and suggests that microbes, while present in certain disorders and apparently the disturbing agents, are not the primary cause, but a product of something more subtle and imperceptible to mortal eyes and therefore more dangerous and deadly. We hope this investigation will be pursued with still more striking and conclusive results.

THE WORLD'S BREADSTUFF.

The heavy and cold rains which prevailed over the greater part of England at a critical time for ripening crops, have finished the work of an exceptionally bad season and raised the price of bread one penny per quarter loaf. This is a very serious thing for the poor, and will cause much suffering and destitution.

The average production of wheat in Great Britain is about 85,000,000 bushels a year. But the consumption is nearly three times that quantity, the large balance having to be imported. It is estimated that the deficiency this year, or the amount for which Great Britain will have to depend on other wheat-producing countries, will be about 170,000,000 bushels.

France has a short crop, and the locusts in Algiers have cut off much of its supply from that quarter; its deficiency is placed at about 80,000,000 bushels, which also will have to be supplied from foreign imports.

There is a shortage in Russia and also in Hungary, and the European countries which have to buy wheat to make up their insufficient products will, this year, as computed by the London correspondent of the New York Times, be compelled to call for 370,000,000 bushels, while the countries producing more wheat than they consume will have only about 295,000,000 to sell. That is to say there will be a shortage of 75,000,000 bushels in the world's supply of material for bread. Canada will probably furnish 103,000,000 bushels, Russia 90,000,000 and India 35,000,000. The London Daily News says that three quarters of the bread consumed by the English people during the coming year, will have to be made from imported wheat.

An interesting question arises as to the ability of the United States to aid in supplying the European deficiency. Eastern journals report that the estimates are not very definite as to the Western States and Territories, but it appears that in Indiana the section about Madison reports a double crop of excellent quality, while in the central part of the State the estimate does not exceed 60 per cent. Wisconsin offers the most encouraging report, the estimate being 25,400,000 bushels. Not more than half a crop is reported from Ohio. In Illinois the estimate is 34,000,000 bushels, a decrease of 4,000,000 from last year. Michigan expects two-thirds of an average crop. The official statement of the crop of Minnesota in 1887 is 26,000,000 bushels, and this year the largest estimate is 25,000,000. Kansas reports not more than 20,000,000 bushels, while in Dakota alone of the larger wheat growing Territories the encouraging estimate of a production equal to that of 1887 is given, in this case exceeding 60,000,000 bushels.

The general opinion supported by such statistics as are attainable, seems to be that the shortage abroad cannot be fully supplied, and that consequently there will be a general advance in the price of breadstuffs. It is consoling to think that America has enough for home consumption and a little to spare, but the hardship to the struggling masses of Europe must necessarily be very great.

It will be well for the farmers of Utah to keep an eye to the future, and not be in a great hurry to dispose of their wheat, which ought to bring living prices this year, and will, no doubt, be in full demand before another harvest can be reaped.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

As the sewerage question becomes better understood it becomes more and more apparent to every sensible person, that the idea that the property-owners required to decide need not consider the matter of the disposition of the sewage, or of the water for flushing, or anything but the bare query "do you want sewerage," is preposterously silly and childishly absurd. There are numbers of sensible citizens who, on the simple proposition "do you believe in sewerage," would answer unhesitatingly, "yes," but who are so doubtful of the practicability of the present scheme as to be decidedly against it.

We want a sanitary system. But there is something needed far more than that. It is a better water supply. In the eastern part of town where people have established and vested water rights which they have held for many years, they have not only been deprived of a drop of water for irrigating for months, but have had none for domestic purposes except what they could carry from hydrants at a distance. The wells have entirely dried up like the water ditches, and the people have actually suffered for drink and for cooking water.

Even when the Parley's canon water was turned into the canal, only a small dribble ran down the sects in the Eleventh Ward, and women and children might be seen trying vainly, to dip up a little with tin cups to secure enough water for washing. And these are people who have water rights which are legally unimpeachable. They want water worse than any part of the city needs sewerage.

"But what has this to do with the present question?" A great deal. The scheme proposed will require much water for flushing, which cannot at present be spared. The money to build the main sewer could be far better expended to secure a proper water supply. The water question is inseparably connected with the sewer question. We must have more water. We could do without this sewer system proposed for some time, even if it were feasible and did not threaten a worse evil than it is designed to remove, through lack of a proper place of deposit.

It is perfectly true, as conceded, that "there will be no sense in laying the laterals until the main shall be in place ready to receive the sewage." Also that "before the construction of the main can even be begun the problem of the disposal of the sewage must be solved." This being so, how much sense is there in desiring people to decide on the bald question of whether or not the laterals shall be laid, without any consideration on their part as to the main to receive the sewage or the manner of its disposition?

It is now admitted that no one knows where the main sewer is to run, nor what can be done with the accumulations of filth when it is decided to build sewers. Where, then, is the common sense of saying "yes" to the question "are you in favor of the system proposed for District No. 1, when nobody on earth knows what it would lead to?" We believe the majority of the taxpayers will exercise their rational judgment, therefore we are of the opinion that they will not endorse an expensive plan that is not matured and the outcome of which nobody can explain.

We again remind the property owners in District No. 1 that silence in this case means consent to the proposition. All who do not protest against it will be counted as for it. Those who are opposed to it are not necessarily against sewerage on general principles, or in favor of filth. But they are simply averse to adopting something that appears to be impracticable, and likely to involve the city in great expense and many difficulties which will be unavoidable and disastrous.

Let a complete and well digested system of reception, conduct and deposit of sewage be matured, and then the people may be able to decide upon it intelligently and with a full understanding of what their votes mean and what their decision leads to. Let us look before we leap.

A LONG AND SHORT HAUL DECISION.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission has rendered an important decision in regard to the long-haul and short-haul question, which is of interest and value to the public. The Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City railroad company reduced its through rate below the rates charged to intermediate points, and gave notice to the Commission of this infraction of the Inter-state commerce law. The matter was duly investigated.

The Company claimed as a justification for this action the right of self-protection against the Burlington and

Northern company, which had reduced its rates between both the terminal and the intermediate points so as to make them entirely unremunerative if followed by the Chicago and St. Paul. It was argued that the law could not require any company to do business at a loss, and that the only way to hold its own was for the latter road to give similar rates as the other to the extreme points, and retain former rates to the places intermediate.

This made the local traffic help pay the deficiency for the long-haul traffic, and brought about the very thing which the law was passed to prevent. But the Chicago and St. Paul people argued that, in the words of the law, the rates must be "just and reasonable" and that the Burlington and Northern rates were such that they were not just and reasonable because they were unremunerative. Therefore either the Burlington road should be required to make its rates "just and reasonable," or else the case constituted a "dissimilar condition" and justified the non-operation of the long and short haul clause of the law upon the competing road.

The Commission decided against the St. Paul Company on both propositions. The law was not framed to protect one railroad from competition by another, but rather to protect the public against imposition and extortion. And if the complaining company were allowed to do as they had attempted, on the ground of "dissimilar conditions," the whole intent and purpose of the law would be abrogated.

The Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City Company was ordered to make its long haul charges no less than the rate for short haul, according to the letter and spirit of the law. The public will endorse the decision. Either enforce the law or let it be abolished.

DEATH OF JUDGE SNOW.

The present year will be a memorable one in respect to the number of noted members of the Church who have departed this life since it opened. Yesterday we briefly announced the demise of Judge Zerubbabel Snow, at his home in this city, and today, as a tribute to his memory, so well worthy to be treasured, we append a brief account of his long, active and eminently useful life.

Judge Snow was born in St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, March 29, 1800. His father was a farmer, but the land he tilled was poor, his family was large, and rigid economy and unflagging industry were required on the part of both parents and children in order that want might be avoided and respectability maintained. In that region, during the period of Judge Snow's boyhood, educational facilities were extremely meagre, and books scarce. The primitive village school, in session only a few weeks during each year, afforded him all the means he had, aside from personal effort, to obtain an education; yet at the age of 18 he became a school teacher himself, and taught several terms in Vermont and Canada.

In the spring of 1832 Elders Lyman E. Johnson and Orson Pratt introduced the fullness of the Gospel in the neighborhood of St. Johnsbury, which he embraced soon after first hearing it. It was not a thoughtless step which he took in so doing, as his mind for years dwelt more or less upon religious subjects, which were constantly being discussed in the society in which he was reared. He had also studied deeply the principles of political science, and at the time of his baptism, though a young man, possessed a mind well matured by thought, research and reflection.

In June, 1832, he was chosen by the branch at St. Johnsbury to go to Ohio, where he arrived in the following month. Here he met and became well acquainted with Joseph the Seer, and other prominent brethren. He was in company with the Seer daily, while the latter was engaged in translating the Old Testament and heard him translate nearly the whole of the Book of Genesis. He returned to Vermont and resumed school teaching; but in 1834 came with his wife to Kirtland, arriving one day after the departure of Zion's Camp. Leaving his family at Kirtland he overtook the Camp, and was chosen commissary. He performed the duties of that responsible position with fidelity, on the march to Missouri. Soon after reaching that state he returned to Kirtland, and a few days after joining his family went to Canada with them where he remained several months, laboring as a missionary. He returned to Kirtland in the spring of 1835, and soon after started on a mission through Pennsylvania and New York into Canada West, but returned to Kirtland again in time to be present at the dedication of the Temple. He remained at Kirtland some years, taught school, engaged in business, failed and with difficulty finally paid his debts in full; studied law, and in October, 1839, was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

In the spring of 1841, Judge Snow's wife Susan S. died soon after giving birth to a daughter, and he subsequently married Mary Augusta Hawkins. In 1850, while still residing in Ohio, he applied for a judgeship in

Utah, and received from President Fillmore the appointment of Associate Justice. He reached Utah in the summer of 1851, assumed the duties of his office, at a time when some friction existed between the Federal judiciary and the people, in connection with which he labored as a peacemaker. He retained his office until the expiration of the term in 1851 and left the stamp of his individuality upon the early jurisprudence of the Territory. About June, 1856, he went on a mission to Australia, and returned in December, 1858. In 1859 he became probate judge of Iron County, and in 1863 of Utah County. In the spring of 1865 he was appointed prosecuting attorney of Salt Lake County. In 1876 he was elected to the same office to which he was re-elected at each election until 1894. Prior to the last date he had been rendered ineligible by the laws of Congress to vote or hold office, and was therefore compelled to cease serving the people. He also held the office of Attorney General of the Territory two or more terms, and was its incumbent when it was abolished by the Poland law of 1874. He was also city attorney of Salt Lake City, and during his incumbency of that office the corporation had some severe legal contests with liquor dealers. He conducted the famous Englebrecht case in 1871, which went before the United States Supreme Court, and the decision in which wrought such a revolution against the shameful McKean regime.

In 1876, Judge Snow aided in codifying the laws of the Territory, a great and important labor. In fact he has been intimately associated with the legal history and jurisprudence of the Territory since its organization, and as judge and legal counselor he has rendered services to this commonwealth of incalculable value, and which insure the perpetuity of his name as a pioneer and founder of its judiciary.

Judge Snow's integrity was without a blemish and his uprightness was never impeached. He was endowed by nature with a mind eminently judicial and profound. His manner was urbane and dignified, and his honesty rugged and invulnerable, and his posterity may well take pride in the success he has made of a long life fraught with great trials and varied experiences. He was devotedly attached to his brother, Apostle Erastus Snow, and Providence had decreed that they should not long be separated.

THE CAUSES OF "MORMON" UNITY.

It is popularly supposed that the power of "Mormonism" consists of the ignorance of the masses of its followers and their domination by the Priesthood. That the union which is a marked characteristic of the "Mormons" is brought about by unquestioning obedience to the dictates of their rulers in the Church. And that therefore the system is a strong and compact ecclesiastical machine.

Nothing could be further from the truth than this conception of "Mormon" polity and influence. It has sprung from a desire to misrepresent and distort the reality, and with a view to provoke hostility to the system and its adherents.

The strength of "Mormonism" is in the force of individual conviction of its truth and the harmony of views and unity of spirit among its devotees. It commences by inducing men and women to investigate for themselves; to inquire into the truth of orthodox creeds; to contrast them with the teachings of the Book which all Christian sects profess to receive as their standard; and to compare the doctrines of that Book with its own. It exhorts enquirers to ask of God, depending upon the dictum of no man, fearing not the anathema of any priest nor regarding the ridicule or the persecution of the multitude. "Think for yourself; read for yourself; pray for yourself; decide for yourself," it cries to every one who listens. It does not attempt to work upon the senses of the hearers, but appeals to their intellect and stirs up their spirituality.

Its very first principle appeals to the individuality of the investigator: Faith in God and in Jesus Christ, His Son, and in the Holy Ghost, their manifesters. The first is the actual, literal accessible Father of the spirits of all men; the second, as His firstborn, our Elder Brother, a living person, a mediator between God and man; the third as a revealing influence, emanating from Deity and communicating directly with each believer, through faith. It promises to each individual who accepts it by obedience to the ordinances of God a testimony from heaven of its truth. It declares that each one must obtain this testimony for himself and not be content with the testimony of another or the teachings of the preacher.

God thus becomes to each true convert a Divine Reality, with whom he can commune and from whom he can receive personal guidance, light and help without any human being between, apostle, priest or king. It is this individual intercourse with Deity that makes each convert to "Mormonism" so confident of his position and so firm in his convictions. He is promised a Divine witness through faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands by which the Holy