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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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HE IS GONE!

The news of the demise of President Franklin D. Richards will take many readers of the Deseret News with sad surprise. To others it will come with as much sorrow but with less surprise because they anticipated this result.

The loss to the Church and also to the State is great. Our departed brother was an old and faithful servant of the Lord, and had been an Apostle for over half a century. His labors have been in many lands and his name is familiar to the Saints throughout the world. He was also associated with the history of Utah; not only from being a pioneer in its establishment, but as a compiler and preserver of historical data both civil and ecclesiastical. He was the Church historian and recorder and the President of the State Historical Society.

Portraitures of the life and death of our esteemed Church leader are given in another part of this issue of the "News." The editor condoles with the bereaved family, knowing the depth of their affection for him and the value of his presence and influence. It has been our good fortune to be intimately associated with the departed Apostle, in foreign lands as well as in Zion, and our pleasure to have been able, to some extent, to lighten the burden of his labors. And now, while dropping a tear over his memory we desire to express our appreciation with most pleasure only known to fellow-laborers in the cause of human redemption.

Farewell, brother Franklin! We shall meet where trials and toils are no more, and where we shall be known as we are and be valued for what we have done. For you a crown of eternal life is assured, and your glory will be that of a king and a priest unto God for ever!

AN ASTOUNDING PERVERSION.

A syndicate article which has appeared in a number of American newspapers, gives an account of reasons why Miss Helen M. Gould joined the anti-"Mormon" crusade. It was published in the Salt Lake Tribune and headed as though it were a special article prepared for that paper, and it included the two-column column page from the original letter in the hand-writing of that lady. One clause in her letter stated that the "Mormons" believe in "plural marriage as a God-ordained law that must be obeyed in order to gain celestial glory."

In further explanation of reasons that determined her to engage in this mission and work for the unseating of the Representative from Utah, this language is employed:

"One doctrine which she believes explains why the Mormon women do not rise against the Latter-day Church, is that which inculcates the belief that the wife's immortality depends wholly upon the will of the husband. If she pleases him and to glory the word, she may win eternal life, the same as a man—either he or her perishes with her body and remains eternally in the ground."

That is the kind of stuff which professional ministers of religion have fed to and the public for "Mormon" doctrine. No wonder that good people of various creeds are aroused to indignation when they give credit to such unthinking statements. Perhaps they would not be blamable for opposing a system that existed only in their minds and discovered them in its accredited teachings. But there is a certain amount of fault to be found in their early acceptance of false reports when they could easily have arrived at the truth.

There is no such doctrine as that which we have quoted, either taught or believed by any person in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is no excuse for its invention. Its promulgation by "Christian" clergymen is equal to pious perjury. It cannot be found in any of the Church standards, nor in any publication written by a Latter-day Saint on "Mormonism."

The general allegation to the sentiments which convey the idea that marriage is not essential to the perfection and eternal glory of the man as the man is to that of the woman. This is "Mormon" doctrine on this point, and like all other "Mormon" doctrine it is the doctrine of Christ and is declared in the New Testament, which all sorts of "Christians" profess to take as their guide and religious authority.

There is no more comforting assurance and no more inspiring incentive to right conduct, than the "Mormon" doctrine of celestial, that is eternal marriage. The conviction that, if worthy, the man and the wife thus joined by death shall be re-united in the resurrection, with their loved ones, to more to suffer pain of body or anguish of spirit or the ordeal of death, is one that thrills the believing soul with rapture, and lifts it above the petty cares and sorrows of this mortal state.

The immortality of a woman is equal to that of a man. The idea that the soul perishes with the body, either of man or woman, is entirely antagonistic to "Mormon" teachings. So is the notion that a soul remains eternally, or ever is put into the ground. In spreading abroad the absurdities said to be doctrines of our Church, the authors of the impiety only give samples of other goods of the same kind of their own manufacture.

It no doubt appears incredible to the good people of the nation, that men established as ministers of churches and regarded as authorized expounders of Gospel truth, would engage in the dissemination of such falsehoods as that which has deceived Miss Gould and thousands more thousands of women as well as men in these United States. But it is an awful fact that, in the vast majority of instances, the explanations of the principles of "Mormonism" given by the "Christian" clergy are positive untruths, fabricated for the purpose of deception, or are such distortions for the same purpose as to equal them in infamy.

As to the assertion that to gain celestial glory plural marriages must be entered into on earth, it may be classed among those perversions of "Mormon" theology in which its opponents take delight. We have stated in this article the condition which is necessary for entrance into that glory. The mere fact that a man and woman are united by divine marriage, is not thought of for a moment as the sole qualification for that exalted place. If a man or a woman, in order to reach that glory, must obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ and receive of His Spirit, walk in its light and be sacrificed both in body and in spirit by obedience to Him, so that they may be His at His coming, they must be pure in heart or they cannot dwell in His immediate presence.

"It is Christ who is "the resurrection and the life." It is to his power that "all who are in the graves shall come forth." But they will be raised in their own order, and they will such order that tried and resolve that have which they have individually fitted themselves for by their works. In the Father's domain there are "many mansions," and every soul will find its proper place and reach its own level.

As for the wicked and abominable, the carnal and impure, before they can be raised from their impurities they will have to suffer the wrath of God and be compensated for their evil doings. And in the nethermost parts of the place of retribution, a seat is prepared for "them that love and make a lie." That also is scripture, and that also the Latter-day Saints verily believe. May the Lord have mercy upon their misguided delusions!

WHAT DO WE?

At the meeting of the Presbyterian Union, held in San Francisco on the 6th of this month, Rev. G. K. Clark, of Oakland, made some statements regarding the decrease of the aggressive churches the last five years. His statistics are interesting, because they furnish a reason for the hostility and bitterness with which various ministers pursue a Church which, though unpopular, is remarkably successful in her missionary work.

Rev. Clark, as quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle, stated that there has been a gain of over 1,000,000 in addition to its depletion the past five years. "The net gain reported this year," he said, "was only 5,000, five years ago it was 40,000. The figures of gain are very small; they almost amount to an arrest of growth." It is the same with the Sabbath schools. The membership has fallen off five thousand. And other denominations are in a similar state of stagnation. Mr. Clark said there was a sad and sorful decline in growth last year. If the present tendency continue the next report will show a decline and only in increase, but one in actual membership. It is a serious matter and difficult to meet the opposition of the world.

This gives somewhat of a view to the situation. In the Gospel of John is an incident related which may be remembered in this connection. It seems written in the sudden time of our era to be found in the Jewish Talmud, that when Jesus was secretly conducted into a conspiracy against the established government. Their bitterness against the Nazarene is said to have dated from the day He refused to become a party to their schemes. But He was given attention for His pains by the same class of people who now complain of His. His teachings to the poor and lowly classes, and His doctrines of life and salvation. People flocked to hear Him, and many believed. Then, as the Talmudist tells us, "scribes the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, what do we? for this man doth many miracles. If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him."

Soon another was proposed in that council, for one of the chief members thereby stated that it would be better "that one man should die for the people, than that the whole nation be lost." Of course, such morals were not promoted by religious bigotry, or jealousy; only by the mundane solicitude for the welfare of the national hierarchy can be trusted to tell the truth.

History repeats itself. Sectarian clergymen who are incompetent to grapple with the "world," turn against the followers of the Nazarene, and in all their actions the sentiment is plainly visible: "If we let them alone, all men will believe on them." But can they stop the progress of truth? Was not Calvary, notwithstanding its agony, its darkness, its convulsion of nature, the greatest victory ever won for the cause of Christ?

DE COSTA JOINS ROME.

It is now announced that Rev. Benjamin F. De Costa has identified himself with the Catholic church. Some time ago he created a sensation by leaving the Episcopal church, because Dr. Briggs, the famous "higher critic," was given fellowship there.

Dr. Costa, in explaining his change of faith, says he has no apology to offer. "Standing in the midst of modern religious systems toppling to their fall, the reformers in the temple of Rheims, no defense need be offered for accepting a firm and unshaken Catholic faith." He declares that the Catholic church stands before the English-speaking people and Protestants everywhere as the unique and solitary defender of the Bible in its integrity and entirety. He adds:

"The church never changed her method of dealing with science. In this city a scholar should not allow his mind to become debauched. The issue is not merely one of science or simple interpretation. Primarily, it is the mystery of the incarnation that criticism pulls to pieces. The issue is dogmatic. It means a revision of the Bible. This the holy Catholic church will never approve."

One would think the doctrine of papal infallibility would be highly objectionable to see announced to the Protestant way of thinking, but the reverend doctor meets this point as follows:

"It is time for candid non-Catholics to learn that the notion that it (infallibility) interferes with individual liberty is as true as that a motionless railway engine renders the sailor an abject slave."

It is no great wonder that thoughtful Protestants seek refuge in the outstretched arms of Rome. It is true enough that in America, where religious life is not especially virulent, or has been for generations, the Catholics, compared to Protestantism are reported recently, but in Great Britain, which for centuries has been noted for religious activity, there is a steadily increasing current toward Rome. In fact, some of the most prominent English clergymen have espoused the cause of papacy, and the little volume of Mark Pattison, Newman, and others, has not failed to bear fruit.

There are numerous causes for the Romward movement. But one of the most conspicuous is the Protestant denial of a visible church. They have all abandoned the Scriptures idea of "one body" with "one Lord, one faith, one baptism," as well as the notion of the early fathers who knew of no church except an association of "elect," or "faithful Saints." They have set up a theory about a mystical, invisible body as the only true church. "On this theory," Dr. Costa well remarks, "Christianity has failed, the church that triumphed over Rome and Caesar has ceased. Reformed religionists, therefore, offer no moral or intellectual outlook for coming generations, and leave the world forced at last to choose between pantheism and the Catholic church."

This, we believe, is the secret conviction of a great many Protestant theological scholars, and if they were free to follow their own convictions, they would abandon their pulpits. But what can they do? With their larder shorn to the tip of Delilah and their feet tied with a sahsh, no wonder if the mighty Samsons are found grinding grain in the house of the Philistines!

The movement towards Rome, however, is one of the signs of the times. That, too, will hasten the day when, according to the Divine word, "Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven."

PROTESTANTISM RETREATING.

The Living Church, a Protestant Episcopal journal, in its issue of Nov. 4, notices with surprise that among Protestants there is a growing habit of addressing prayers to deceased persons. Dr. George Adam Smith, in his Life of Henry Drummond, mentions as a fact that certain persons habitually pray to him, and the well known London preacher, Dr. Joseph Parker, has openly declared that he is daily prayed to by his departed wife. He said he never came to his church, the City Temple, to preach without asking her to come with him, and, furthermore, he knew that she did come.

Not only does this valiant opponent of Romanism pray, himself, to his departed wife, but he encourages his friends to do the same. He says: "I encourage my friend to pray to his wife, and to pray to God to ask her to come to his help. She will be more to him than twelve legions of unknown saints." All this, the Living Church considers "petrifying."

The Church does not strike some of our commentaries as very absurd. The Omaha World-Herald says:

"It may be conceded that prayer to the saints of the dead is hardly in consonance with the dogmas and ritual of the Protestant churches. But the World-Herald does not believe that any man who addresses himself in prayer to God, or even to the departed shade of a wife who, being guided his steps aright, will be deputed or made a less desirable neighbor for such act of worship thereby. There are many men who could truly pray to the spirit of an loved and venerated in the flesh. There are many men outside the pale of any church to be so pray—those men who invoke the spirit of a politely gracious for desire, to help them to resist temptation. And if that mother's spirit be wafted on to Heaven, it will not greatly the religion of Christ will not suffer, nor will the temple of civilization totter, if it be found that the spirit of a loving, of tenderness, of deeply moral nature, the strong man still bends the knee in devotion."

All of which shows that there is a great deal of confusion in the Protestant world concerning that which pertains to a true knowledge of God and man and angels, and spirits out in the flesh. It shows that the world today stands in need of the guiding light of revelation on these points, so as to prevent it from returning again to the state of ignorance from which the Reformation of the sixteenth century partly saved it. It shows the immediate need of the Gospel as revealed through the Prophet Joseph.

Ecclesiastical history shows that even as late as Origen, the church knew of no object of worship but the Almighty. His sole prayers and praises are offered "to God alone, the Lord of the universe and God, the Word, His only Begotten. Therefore the one God, God ever all, is to be supplicated and entreated to be propitious to us." This excludes all prayers to angels and departed Saints. Later, prayers to the latter were made the common practice, and with it came a number of new notions and abuses, culminating in the scandalous conduct of the Hildebrand Tetzel, who with his jingling gold awakened the slumbering conscience of the Christian world.

Is Protestantism turning back? It looks very much that way. Through the preaching of the Gospel, the honest in heart are being rapidly gathered from the world and enlightened in the principles of truth. To those who remain the darkness cannot but become intensified. When the Gospel had been proclaimed to the uttermost ends of the world covered by the Jewish polity, those who rejected it had no power of progressing towards perfection. That universal preaching of the truth was one of the signs of the approaching end of that dispensation.

SOUND OPINIONS.

The unwarrantable course pursued by the House of Representatives in the case of the Congressman from Utah, will stir up lovers of their country and of institutions to perceive the danger which will come from breaking down those safeguards to liberty and equal rights provided by the Constitution. Even before the vote was taken in favor of an unprecedented and unconstitutional method to gratify popular opinion, thoughtful persons and papers pointed out the wrong intended and raised their voices against it. There were many, too, who perceived the hypocrisy displayed in the pretense of high morality on the part of some who raised the outcry against the "Mormon" Representative.

Among the papers which have taken conservative ground on strong grounds against the injustice and illegality of the proceedings in this case, is the New York World. We have already published some of its utterances on this question, and we here append a few more, also some letters published by that paper in relation to the subject.

"So far as polygamy as an institution is concerned, it is not even cared to think about the matter could possibly regard it as a menace to the American home. The Aryan race was monogamous when it came out of the darkness into the light of history. It has remained monogamous. It is not likely that at this late day, when polygamous races are turning to monogamy, it will take to wife polygamy if it refused to adopt from its neighbors in its infancy.

"If Roberts is a transgressor of the code of social purity, why do not those whom he has offended take him to court, secure his conviction, with its penalties of loss of the privileges of citizenship, and then lay before the House a fact of which the House has the constitutional right to take cognizance—the fact that he is legally, constitutionally disqualified?

"Isn't it possible to be sensible, orderly and law abiding even if a question of social purity, will its endless opportunities for cant and hypocrisy, is under discussion?

"What would be the proper adjective with which to describe the conduct of a Congress which would refuse to exercise its constitutional right and investigate charges that a member had obtained his seat by bribery and corruption, and would proceed to investigate charges against another member in no way affecting the legality of his title to his seat or his constitutional standing?"

To the Editor of the World:

Suppose Jesus of Nazareth were in Congress, and said to the members as to the Roberts case as He once said to a not less pharisaical company, "Let him that is without sin amongst you cast the first stone?"

Has the authority of the great Teacher lost its hold upon mankind?

New York, Dec. 2. G. B. M.

To the Editor of the World:

Polygamy is a crime in Utah. If Roberts has committed it there, it is there that he should be tried for the offense. What has Congress to do with the matter?

New York, Dec. 2. LAWYER.

To the Editor of the World:

Why should such a trade be made against Congressman-elect Roberts? Although not in favor of polygamy I cannot see the difference between this man who has two wives and one home or the man who has one wife, a paramour and two homes—in fact, both are wrong, but is he the first man to be overcoming? He is frank and open with his life, while the other is a sneak and a coward.

While investigating Mr. Roberts would it not be just as well to investigate some of the other Congressmen whose private lives are Washington talk? Is there anything of a very dim searchlight even? All hail to Susan B. Anthony for her able work on the subject!

What is the Biblical quotation about casting out the mote in thy brother's eye? C. F. B.

New York, Dec. 1.

The Chicago Times-Herald says on the constitutional question involved:

"The consensus of congressional opinion, however, favors the plan to permit the man to take his seat, to take the oath of office and his seat in the House, for the reason that neither the constitutionality of his election nor the legality of his credentials is challenged. Also he is known in the open, first to ascertain whether the State of Utah has violated the federal statutes or the United States—contained in the Enabling Act by which it was admitted as a State—in sending Mr. Roberts to the National House of Representatives. This is clearly a matter for investigation by the House of Representatives, by a special committee appointed for that purpose. If this committee, after a careful examination of the Enabling Act, comes to the conclusion that a reasonable construction of the language of the act forbids the continuance of polygamy as unlawful as the contracting of new plural marriages, it will be the duty of the committee to report in favor of his expulsion."

To the Editor of The World:

Absolutely no newspaper in the United States has presented the Roberts case so fairly, so intelligently and so correctly as has The World.

"It is not the function of Congress to pass on the moral qualities of a man. Congress has to do is to decide whether or not he has the qualifications required by the Constitution, and whether or not he has been duly seated.

"Based, in the absence of any conviction of crime, Congress has no more right to inquire that it has to inquire the colored life of any other Congressman, or his respectability, and perhaps a large number of Congressmen would, for reasons of their own, extend such inquiry as pertinently impertinent.

H. M. SOUTHWORTH.

Brooklyn, Dec. 2.

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Under the caption "A Dangerous President," the New York World, of Dec. 5, says:

"If Roberts is guilty of the crime charged, the place to try him, under the Constitution, is in Utah. If proved guilty he can be and should be expelled. There is no sympathy or toleration anywhere in the United States for the twin relic of barbarism. But to deny him a seat upon allegations and to try him before a committee of the House is unlawful and unjust."

The Chicago Times-Herald remarks:

"In deciding the Roberts case the House went so far as to ignore a thoroughly established precedent in deference to a public sentiment that was expressed in numerous petitions and by numerous persons and associations in and out of Washington. Its action was clearly without technical defense."

The Chicago News says:

Congress is following the program agreed upon as regards Roberts. To do this it was necessary to violate the letter or the spirit of the Constitution as regards the seating of a delegate upon his credentials. Recognizing the dilemma Congress promptly took the first horn.

This is the time of year when a window flower-garden seems a touch of paradise.

Arizona is making an effort with the present Congress to secure statehood. Success, sister.

Ten conferences tomorrow—Stake conference morning and afternoon, and Mutual Improvement conference in the evening.

The interstate commerce commission is investigating the advance in railway freight rates. But the onward march will not be stopped.

London advices say the fleets around Ladysmith are preparing for flight. There is no likelihood of flying before they are shot at.

Gen. Buller is advancing on Ladysmith. The prospective carnage when the two contending armies of professed Christian nations meet, is awful to contemplate.

People who visit the Paris exposition next year are likely to be treated to a surprise in the way of what Japanese can do. Already several Japanese gardeners are there with the avowed intention of taking the world's prize in horticulture, and are putting in a magnificent display of Japanese flora.

News comes from Ladysmith today that the British have achieved a victory at Lombardding, the scene of one of the most serious British reverses. The information at hand from South Africa, though meager, clearly points out that Gen. White and the garrison of Ladysmith are battering away at the Boer position from one side, while Gen. Buller's column is hammering away with all its force from another side.

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Provo Blankets, the best in the country..... $3.50 up
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Gen. Young in northern Luzon would indicate that the general is hot on the trail of Aguinaldo, and that the latter is making desperate efforts to evade capture.

During the past year the number of deaths in France has increased nearly 6,000, and the number of births has decreased over 15,000. At that rate, France is in no need of war to depopulate the country.

The government expenses of 1900 are expected to be many millions higher than last year, according to the estimates submitted, and the bulk of the increase is for war preparations; yet the war is over—except on the taxpayers.

The head of the anti-Roberts lobby in Washington may be an authority on how easy it is to combine preaching, prevaricating and plagiarism as a vocation, but he is a total failure when he professes to relate facts concerning the "Mormons."

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The War in the Philippines.

An illustrated talk about the Philippines by Capt. Harry L. Wells, late of the Tenth Pennsylvania, who has just returned from the Philippines. Capt. Wells is a graduate of West Point, and has been in the Philippines for the past two years. He has been in Luzon, and the management of the Grand has secured the services of Capt. Wells for one night only. Capt. Wells is a graduate of West Point, and has been in the Philippines for the past two years. He has been in Luzon, and the management of the Grand has secured the services of Capt. Wells for one night only. Capt. Wells is a graduate of West Point, and has been in the Philippines for the past two years. He has been in Luzon, and the management of the Grand has secured the services of Capt. Wells for one night only.

CAPTAIN HARRY L. WELLS

Company L, Second Infantry, U. S. V. Volunteers, who is now in the Philippines, will be in Salt Lake City on Sunday, Dec. 10, and will give a lecture on the Philippines at the Grand Theatre. Box office opens Sunday, at 10 A. M.

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

Dr. Talmage's new book, written in Lonon, and the manuscript of which he has just completed, is now in the hands of the publisher. It will be issued in two styles of binding, cloth $1.00, leather $1.50; author's edition, $2.00; morocco gilt $2.50. Special discount to Sunday schools, Church and Sunday school organizations. For sale at the Deseret News.