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THE "NEWS" AND THE RULING.

In the comments of the Deseret News upon the decision of the majority of the Supreme court, upholding the city Board of health in excluding unvaccinated children from the public schools, an opportunity was afforded to a morning contemporary to uncork its vial of bile and gall, for some time suppressed, against this paper. But in doing so it had to ignore not only the able and incontrovertible dissenting opinion of Justice Baskin, but its own account of the nature and scope of the court's decision.

Attempting to belittle the effect and intent of the ruling, it states that the matter is "not finally disposed of by this ruling," and "The court overrules this demurrer, and that is all there is to it at present." It talks further about, "When the final hearing comes on," etc., as though the proceedings amount to very little and form only a simple stage on the way to "ultimate judgment." Well, let us take its own account of the case as given on the page next to its editorial expressions:

It is headed: "May Exclude Pupils." "Vaccination Case Decided by the Supreme Court." "The Court Reverses the District Court Judgment and Orders the Dismissal of the Case." In the body of the report it states that the opinion is one "in which the authority of the Board to exclude unvaccinated children from the public schools is upheld." Also that "The case is accordingly remanded with directions to the lower court to overrule the demurrer to the answer, deny the writ and DISMISS THE COMPLAINT." We capitalize the last three words to show their final effect.

It is another case of discord between the editorial utterances and the local statements of facts, so frequent in the paper that pronounces our explanation of the purpose and meaning of the ruling, an "imbecile editorial, based on a total misconception of the decision and of the record of the case." We leave the readers of that paper to decide whether its language does not exactly fit its own misconception of the intent and extent of that decision, judging by its own report of the court proceedings.

Now as to the assertion, once more repeated, that the editor of the "News" is a "bigoted" etc., etc., "fanatic," making "claim that he can cure smallpox by laying on of hands." That is simply a little more effervescence from our contemporary's bottle of hate. No one connected with this paper ever claimed he could "cure" anything "by the laying on of hands." No Elder of the Church that teaches the doctrine of healing by faith, and the ordinance of anointing and laying on of hands, pretends to "cure" anybody.

We believe that God can and does frequently heal the sick in answer to prayer, and that He has appointed the ordinance mentioned, as a means to that end. There is an abundance of testimony to establish the truth of the doctrine, and that persons afflicted with smallpox, in its worst form, have been thus administered to and have recovered. But no Elder of the Church who understands his position poses as a healer, or claims that he can cure disease by the laying on of hands. If our candid(?) contemporary cannot perceive the difference, we are sorry for its powers of discernment.

The assertion that "the Deseret News has been an advocate of letting smallpox have its run here," cannot be supported by anything that this paper has said or approved. The exact contrary has been contended for from the very beginning of the controversy. The scare that was concocted received the denunciation of our contemporary as well as of the "News." This paper, however, has been consistent in its utterances on the subject, and has not jumped from side to side as opposing parties pulled a string.

We have supported sanitation, isolation, quarantine when necessary, and every precaution known to be efficacious against the spread of contagion. We have opposed compulsory vaccination and have given reasons for it which have not been controverted. We have disputed the right of an irresponsible board, appointed and not elected, to exercise powers that are not expressly given to it by legislation. After reading the ruling of the majority of the court on this question, we were confirmed in our views of the subject, for that decision cites the very sections of the law which make clear the absence of the authority which those judges say the board possesses.

After reading the lucid exposition of the law in the case contained in Justice Baskin's dissenting opinion, our views received still further confirmation. Will our very courteous contemporary call the judge's arguments and citations "imbecile?" Can it overcome them by its own peculiar logic(?) or by its overflow of elegant epithets? Is it not clear that what the legislature refused to authorize by statute, cannot legally or safely be imposed by an appointed body with delegated powers?

Was it not part of the record in the case that the child excluded by the ipse dixit of that irresponsible body, was "not suffering with any contagious or infectious disease, whether acute or chronic, or liable to convey such disease to those in attendance?" And are not these the only statutory grounds for exclusion from the schools? Take the decision and the law on which it professes to be predicated, and do they not clash as violently as two opposing locomotives trying to pass each other on the same track?

If any fair reasoning can be offered in support of the court's ruling, we are perfectly willing to consider it, and to acknowledge our error if it is pointed out. But Justice Baskin's clear and conclusive argument will also have to be overcome, and billingsgate, opprobrious epithets and direct or indirect misrepresentations of our position, will neither weaken it in the least, nor convince the rational public that we are wrong in our conclusions.

AUTHORITY ON VACCINATION

The assertion that vaccination is shown to be the only safe preventive of smallpox, "recognized and approved by medical science, and by governments throughout the world," simply ignores some well known facts. For instance: In Switzerland the successful agitation against compulsory vaccination was led by one of the most prominent professors in hygiene, and in Great Britain, Germany and elsewhere, medical science is retreating from the old positions on the question.

The opinion of Dr. Joseph Hermann, head physician of the department of skin diseases of the Imperial hospital, should have some weight. He is quoted in the Westminster Review for October, 1899, as follows:

"It [his hospital experience] has imposed on me the duty of taking an active part in the bold and spirited onslaught on vaccination which is now being carried on [this refers to the year 1873] in Switzerland, England, and other countries, and of yielding such assistance as I am able to give to the unraveling of a question which concerns in an equal degree the interests of science and humanity. * * * I am convinced that vaccination is the greatest mistake and delusion in the science of medicine, a fanciful illusion in the mind of the discoverer, a phenomenal apparition devoid of scientific foundation, and wanting in all the conditions of scientific possibility."

The same high authority on skin diseases does not hesitate to state that vaccinated persons, bearing unmistakable marks of the process on their arms, frequently have confluent smallpox, while unvaccinated people have it in the mildest form. And he continues:

"These observations, resting upon the most indubitable truth, appear to have given occasion to the distinction between a genuine and a modified smallpox (varicella), a distinction evidently made with a view of maintaining at all hazards the dogma to which vaccinators have committed themselves, as to the influence of vaccination in modifying outbreaks of the epidemic. These chimerical subtleties, belonging to the category of chimeras, have long since proved to be illusory. In reality there is no such distinction; for even in a mild epidemic of varicella (or chickenpox) a careful observer will be able to discover amongst the sufferers fully developed pustules of smallpox, possessing every attribute of the true and genuine pustule. In my opinion, the severity and extent of smallpox outbreaks depend on the season, the dwelling, and the mode of life of those attacked, and especially on the care that is taken of the state of the skin."

Vaccinators rely chiefly on statistics whenever they condescend to argue their case. The following official figures are quoted in the Westminster Review. They do not furnish much of a basis for the extraordinary claims made for an antiquated operation:

In Berlin, in 1870, there were 1,337 cases of smallpox, of which 1,064 had been vaccinated, 127 revaccinated, and only 237 were unvaccinated. Of 6,213 smallpox patients who entered the General hospital at Vienna, in the twenty years from 1836 to 1856, 5,217 had been vaccinated. Out of 1,330 cases in the Wiede hospital, from August, 1858 to the end of 1864, only twenty were unvaccinated. In England, during the years 1842 to 1865, there died of smallpox 104,213, of whom fully 84 per cent had been vaccinated.

If there is any fact established by thorough investigation into this subject, it is that vaccination has not proved to be all that once was hoped for it. But science has instead found means, in sanitary measures, etc., that more than compensate for this disappointment. "Facts are stubborn things." They cannot be sneered away. Nor will they be changed by any amount of abuse. Those who evince a mania for injecting cultures of disease into the systems of their fellowmen, notwithstanding the serious results that sometimes have followed, will never be looked up to with confidence as guides in matters of life and death, in a community where purity of body and soul are regarded as of paramount importance, both for present and future generations.

FINE FINANCES.

The supposition that the Sultan of Turkey is about to order a cruiser built in this country, and to pay $100,000 more than it is worth in order to cover the damages claimed by the United States must be set down, in the absence of further evidence, either as a specimen of lively imagination, or as a ruse on the part of the Sultan to gain time.

It is stated that in this way he will avoid giving the European powers a pretext for pressing their claims, but if it is found out that the ruler by the Bosphorus has money to buy ships for, and that he places orders with the intention of paying indemnities, would not his European friends have a number of suggestions to offer, as to the manufacturing establishments that are entitled to orders for guns, ammunition and all kinds of war material. But this would be only on the condition that they have some assurance of the existence of cash in the imperial treasury. Without such assurances no European house would be anxious for an order from Constantinople.

The Sultan would, no doubt, gladly get an American firm to build a ship for him, on credit, and add all the cost of the vessel to the sum claimed for damages, and then negotiate a year or two, or more, for the payment of the entire sum. The cost of collecting it would amount to more than the original bill, even with a Turkish cruiser to pay for in addition to the destroyed property.

The claims are now five years old. They were at first for $300,000, but on representations of the Sultan it was agreed to reduce them to about $100,000, provided the sum was paid immediately. But it has not been paid at all, though several promises have been made. One excuse after another has been offered. The Turkish government has a yearly revenue estimated at $80,000,000, so there are ample means at hand to pay in better value than promises. But the long delay in paying the comparatively small sum of $100,000 cannot inspire any shipbuilder with confidence in the government that is guilty of the delay. The costly cruiser will not be constructed in this country, until the money to pay for it is placed in safe hands.

A late dispatch from Constantinople says the Porte now disclaims responsibility for the destruction of the property. If that is true, there seems to be no other recourse than to collect the money by force. For the question of responsibility is no longer debatable. Turkey is unaccustomed to American diplomacy. A wholesome lesson in respect for the American flag would not be lost on the diplomats in Constantinople, nor on the Turkish people generally.

DOES IT PAY?

The New York World has found that according to authentic statistics the British colonies do not pay. India, the largest of them, shows a deficiency in its balance sheet with England more than half of the time—thirty-two years, to a surplus of revenue for twenty-four years only, the entire indebtedness for a period of fifty-six years being $170,000,000. Besides this India owes a debt, for which England is of course responsible, of over $1,000,000,000.

The other colonies have no better financial showing. Neither the Australasian, the African nor the West Indian group of British colonies yield, we are told, any net revenue to the London government, and a majority of them show annual deficiencies, besides owing enormous debts for which England, as indorser, is liable.

The account of Canada is somewhat more encouraging, the excess of revenue over expenditures for 1898 being $21,000,000. But the Dominion has a debt of $264,000,000 for which Great Britain is responsible.

These figures may be strictly correct, but do they furnish a reply to the question whether the colonies pay? The true test of this would be to ask the British government to cease extending its influence over any more "non-paying" territory; or to ask how much the British people would take for the non-paying colonies in Asia, Africa, or America. The reply to either proposition would give the right key to that puzzle.

The iceman groweth impatient under the notion that the coalman is getting more than his share of the year's business.

To the scourges now visiting India is added that of the cholera. Pestilence generally appears simultaneous with famine and war.

Andrew Carnegie says the trusts are "of benefit both to rich and poor." He can speak advisedly for the rich men; now for a competent witness from the other class.

News comes now of cholera in India. If the account given be true, there would seem to be little else needed to depopulate that part of the globe: Famine, bubonic plague and cholera. The outlook there is indeed gloomy.

A Chicago paper complains that eggs are so plentiful this season that millions have been put in cold storage till better prices prevail. It should be remembered also that a big political campaign is at hand, and stored eggs might give it strength.

Lyman Abbott now declares in favor of daily religious services in the schools. How this can be carried out while the people are of all kinds of belief and yet have common schools, does not appear, unless there shall be separate services for each sect.

A report comes from Texas that a woman was sold at auction there on Monday night, for $40. Outrageous as this is, there are some people in that part of the country who doubtless think the price too high for a guide, judging by their actions toward the fair sex. The story, however, smacks of fiction.

A Berlin dispatch announces the discovery of the cancer bacillus. As such an event presignifies the finding of an agency to destroy the bacillus, it is to be hoped that the announcement is true, in the interest of humanity, and that a cure for the dread cancer will follow.

The Chinese minister here has reached the point of inquiring why, since America wants an "open door" in China, Americans refuse Chinese the "open door" to this country? He cannot see how they can measure the situation by the golden rule. Neither can the Yankees; it isn't measured that way.

It is not customary for the "News" to boast of its own virtues, nor is it necessary. The commendations received from discriminating and influential persons are sufficient proofs of appreciation, even though the Salt Lake Herald may fail in its perception of merit. But perhaps it views the matter "absentmindedly" again.

Some New York papers give much space to the demise of a circus elephant "Dick." One, who had a reporter present, says it was a case of execution by the owner of the beast, and that it took four hundred men to do the job. Another paper says it was a case of suicide. The beast had been "crossed in love," etc. Evidently truth is not contagious.

Mrs. Kivouac made a fire on Thursday, and there is no denying that it was a success from a burning point of view. The lady not only lit the kindlings, but set the chimney on fire, and the soot did the rest that was necessary to start a blaze which made thousands of people homeless and did millions of dollars in damage at Hull and Montreal, Canada.

The Houston dairy, seven miles northeast of Denver, is now in the hands of Justice Rice. Ira Merrill holds a $300 mortgage upon the place, given him by W. H. Busz. When Merrill was about to foreclose, Mrs. Busz came in and claimed the dairy as her own individual property, and Constable McGowan was placed in charge. The institution will be well churned before it gets to the real owner.

Now it is said that Turkey intends to buy a battleship in this country, and thus pay the damage claim of America by passing the amount over in that way. The story is a fake. If the Sultan had such an act in mind he would give out some other plan. Whatever may be said to the disparagement of the Turk, none can assert truthfully that he is not a diplomat. At this time he is at his usual policy of "I'll see."

It is said that in Chicago, after crowded vaudeville performances there, an investigation of the floor accumulations "developed the presence of nearly every bacillus known to the medical man." Yet in case of threatened epidemics, certain local health officials insist on closing clean and well ventilated schoolhouses and church halls, while the more poorly cared-for places where crowds assemble are allowed to go at full swing. This pretense of following scientific hygiene, yet proceeding less than half way, stamps the pretender as a fakir. Apply scientific rules where science declares they are needed.

LORD ROBERTS'S CRITICISM.

Chicago Record.

There is nothing more extraordinary in the events of this little war than the fact that, although disaster after disaster has marked the British campaign, only one general has been visited with any public expression of his superiors' disapproval to the extent of his removal from his command. Even now it is intimated that the war office will wait for General Buller and General Warren to ask to be relieved before action will be taken on Lord Roberts' criticisms of their incapacity.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Of the officers who were conspicuous in the early part of the war French is the only one who remains active and in high favor. White was let off on account of poor health, Gatacre is discredited, and though Methuen is still in the field his standing is dubious. Roberts has done what he could to confirm the opinion that stupid generals were appointed to lead brave men.

Boston Transcript.

It is difficult to see what purpose their publication can serve now unless it be to pave the way for the enforced retirement of Buller and Warren. Thornycroft being simply a colonel can remain a colonel still, but the severity of Lord Roberts' criticism of Buller and Warren, coming from the command-in-chief and published by the government, leaves no course open to them but to tender resignations of their present commands and ask for a court of inquiry.

New York Evening Post.

Lord Roberts' report on the Spion Kop affair, severely censuring Col. Thorneycroft and reflecting seriously upon both General Warren and General Buller, is, in itself, only a routine matter, a part of the reuglar duty of the commander-in-chief. The astonishing thing is that it should have been published at this time by the government. How it can have any but the most unhappy effect on the morale of the army it is difficult to see. It is one thing for the authorities to receive information discrediting officers in the field, but quite another to give it to the public while the men are still holding important commands.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The rigid censorship of the newspaper correspondents' dispatches from South Africa did not prevent unpleasant facts getting through in regard to the operations of General Buller's command during the movements for the relief of Ladysmith, and on these facts some unfavorable opinions of the capacity of the officers in charge were found. The British war office has now made public a dispatch from General Roberts, transmitting the reports of General Buller and his subordinates concerning those movements, with his own comments on them. What General "Bobs" says plainly and what he leaves to be inferred are in full accord with the unfavorable criticisms of the most censorious of British critics.

New York Mail and Express.

The publication of Lord Roberts' two months' old dispatch on the battle of Spion Kop, following so closely the recall of General Gatacre, is the most significant incident in South African affairs since the surrender of General Cronje. Summed up in brief, it is a confession from authoritative sources that the first five months' campaign against the Boers was rendered ineffective and abortive by the lack of discipline and of fixed purpose that characterized the movement of the troops.

CHICAGO'S INDISCRETION.

Baltimore Sun.

The duke of Arcos, Spanish minister at Washington, has declined with some asperity an invitation to attend the celebration at Chicago of the second anniversary of the battle of Manila. Possibly no one but a Chicago man would have thought of extending an invitation to the diplomatic representative of the nation which we have but recently stripped of nearly all of its colonial possessions. At any rate, the Spanish minister could not reasonably be expected to attend a function intended to commemorate a terrible disaster to his own country. His refusal to take part in the festivities at Chicago is not discreditable to him. It takes more than two years for a defeated nation to acquiesce in the results of a war of conquest and to unite with the conqueror in making merry over its humiliation.

Worcester Spy.

While it would be a very pretty spectacle to see the Spanish ambassador magnanimously joining in applauding Dewey, it would be a spectacle relished more in Chicago than in Madrid. The duke has no other course than to refuse. It will probably require all the tact of the American Duchess of d'Arcos, to avoid the sending of a challenge to the senders of what the duke terms an insulting invitation.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

That it is the people who have least reason for self-confidence that are the quickest to take umbrage is a fact so well established by universal experience as to require no argument. The Duke d'Arcos is entitled to no apology, because he has been subjected to no discourtesy. When he was invited to assist Chicago in making merry with Admiral Dewey on the aniversary of the battle of Manila, the precedent uppermost in the minds of his would-be hosts may be presumed to have been that furnished by jovial Englishmen taking part with Americans in the celebration of the Fourth of July. America has gotten over her differences with Spain, and is ready to assume that the Spaniards are not a people who cherish resentments forever.

Chicago News.

Spain's ambassador at Washington, the Duke d'Arcos, should not take it unkindly that Chicago's Dewey day committee invited him, as well as all the other members of the diplomatic corps, to take part in the celebration of May 1. The committee was in a dilemma. To invite the duke and thus run the risk of offending Spanish dignity, or not to invite him and thus offend in courtesy, was the position from which the committee seems to have determined to extricate itself by leaving the question for the duke to dispose of.

New York Journal.

While Mayor Harrison is undoubtedly blameless in the matter, it was nevertheless a reprehensible thing on the part of the committee on invitation to give a hare-brained underling the power to inflict an official insult. Whether the affair was a mistake or not, it should not have happened, and it would not have happened if the celebration had been kept a purely domestic matter, with no attempt to mix the diplomatic corps in it.

Springfield Republican.

The Spanish minister rightly resented an invitation to attend a Chicago celebration of the battle of Manila bay. He displayed tact in assuming that the invitation was sent by mistake; as a matter of fact, doubtless, the Chicago committee really thought he might like to attend the show.

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