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

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 24, 1901.

A SINGULAR COURSE.

We have received a number of communications from Beaver and its vicinity, complaining of the course taken by the county Board of health in reference to the school at Fort Cameron. Today our traveling correspondent repeats the complaint, and writes in scathing terms of the action of the Board in scattering the seeds of contagion broadcast, and thus exposing the community in that neighborhood to the danger of widespread disease.

From the word sent to us it appears that smallpox broke out among the students at the Fort Cameron academy, and that it was quarantined by the school authorities, as most of the pupils if not all had been exposed. The school and the boarding places of those attending are at a considerable distance from Beaver City, and the whole place was put under quarantine, no one being allowed to leave it to mingle with the public. The school was continued as usual as there were no severe cases of the disease, but few pupils were unable to attend, and there was no danger of its spread to any other region.

The Board of health, however, took a high hand in the regulation of affairs, and actually closed the academy and sent the pupils home, thus scattering contagion and danger abroad, to the disgust and horror of the people. It is stated that the students were fumigated before being sent away, and were assured that they could go in safety. It appears, however, that some of them have taken infection with them, and it has gone as far as Kanosh in Millard county, as reported from that place today.

The Deseret News is not in a position to judge in this matter, having heard but one side of the story. What we have mentioned here has been repeated so often that we give credence to it, because it has come from reliable sources. We will give the other side a hearing if that is desired. It is difficult to see what motive the Health Board had, in thus closing up the institution and dispersing the students to their homes unless it was, as alleged by some of our correspondents "to give the institution a black eye." We do not perceive that this would be of any benefit to that Board, and therefore are at a loss to know why this dangerous and apparently unwise step was taken.

Possibly the Beaver county Board of health have an explanation to make which would throw a different light on this subject to that in which it now appears. If so, the "News" will be open to a defence of the Board's action. Just now it looks as though the school and the people immediately concerned have strong grounds for their forcibly expressed disapprobation, and for such further steps as may be legal and necessary.

IN NEED OF INFORMATION.

The Troy, N. Y., Press has broken out once more. The Deseret News had occasion to call upon that paper for as fair treatment towards the "Mormon" Elders, laboring in Troy, as it accorded to Senator Hoar, whom it misrepresented and being called down by the Senator, admitted that it had been "led into error" as to his case. The "News" reminded the Press of its having also been "led into error" concerning "Mormonism" and the "Mormons," and suggested that the amende honorable would be equally frank and consistent if extended also in their case.

The Press comes back with all its previous bitterness, and avows its desire to repeat its attacks with even greater virulence than before. It also accuses the Deseret News of seeking "to minimize the monstrosity of Mormonism by specious excuses." That is only adding fuel to the baleful fire which the Press has been trying to kindle. We appreciate the compliments which that paper extends to the "News" as "an able and alert journal, etc.," but we deny emphatically that we have tried to "minimize" anything. We directly and absolutely deny the vile charges and mean insinuations published by the Troy Press, concerning our Elders and in reference to "Mormonism." We have made no "specious excuses" and put forth no "organic sophistries" whatever that term may mean. Our language has been plain and to the point, but we have charitably attributed the errors and false accusations of the Troy Press to ignorance rather than malice.

The Press now goes off into a tirade against "polygamy," which it seems to consider synonymous with "Mormonism," thus once more exhibiting its complete ignorance of the question, or else a determination to malign that which it cannot assail by argument. All its talk about "harems," "carnal fancy," "crime and lust" and the rest of it is entirely misspent and wasted, having no application to "Mormonism" or to the people who have embraced it.

That paper begins a paragraph with:

"The Troy Press honors womanhood, and it therefore abhors Mormonism and its iniquitous works."

And it closes a previous paragraph by saying:

"And when we know of wolves in sheep's clothing posing as Christian missionaries, prowling in this community and trying to seduce women into this sort of life, we shall not hunt for mild terms in characterizing them."

We have heard just such boastful terms about "honoring womanhood," from the lips and pens of the most invidious and "prowling" libertines that are permitted to go unhung. They count for nothing against actions. The ignorance or malice of the Press shows up forcibly in the sentence we have quoted. "Mormonism" advocates and maintains the honor of womanhood, in theory and in practice, by insisting on the strictest chastity in both sexes, one as much as the other. And the Press, as we have several times repeated, displays utter lack of understanding concerning "Mormonism" and its teachings and effects.

When the Press writer discovers any "Mormon missionaries" seeking to "seduce women" into any "sort of life" that is contrary to virtue, as understood in the strictest Christian sense or as construed by the most stringent civil law, it will be time enough to "hunt for" strong language in which to "characterize them." And it will be in order to accuse them, as they well deserve, before a competent court. But proceeding now on vile suspicion, purulent gossip and groundless slanders which it takes for "common history," it charges and attacks are only vapors from an incensed mind, inflamed by base rumors and fed by inflated vanity. "Mormonism" surrounds womanhood with an atmosphere of sacred purity, superior to any other religious system extant. It upholds in principle and in fact the glory of chaste manhood and womanhood and the sanctity of home and family, to be perpetuated through this life and throughout the life to come. The Troy Press does not comprehend and does not want to understand the truth about "Mormonism," and therefore continues to rest on libelous tales as "history," and to repeat malignant charges against men who are equal to any persons living in all that makes up true Christian character. When the Press is willing to learn, "Mormon" missionaries will be willing to explain what "Mormonism" really is and thus relieve it both of mental bile and spiritual darkness.

MAXIMO GOMEZ COMING.

Maximo Gomez, Cuba's grand old man, is said to contemplate a trip to this country, accompanied by his oldest son, Urbano. His name is a household word in the United States, although he has never been here before. He conducted the long struggle of the Cubans against Spain, with a skill and endurance that were almost unparalleled, and after the end of the war, he, unlike Aguinaldo, counseled the people to patience and loyalty to the United States, assuring them that in the end everything would come out all right.

"What his mission to this country is, is not stated, but it can be taken for granted that it is in the interest of Cuban patriotism. He is the logical candidate for the presidency of the new Republic, and if he is successful, relations will be established between this country and Cuba. The Platt amendment to the Cuban constitution has caused some ill feeling and misunderstandings, which might be removed by a fair and impartial presentation of the Cuban side of the question, by such a man as Maximo Gomez.

Since the Platt amendment was rejected by the Cubans, a new suggestion has been made, to the effect that Cuba be offered statehood as a substitute for the partial protectorate provided by that amendment. Some see in this suggestion a way out of the present dilemma, honorable both to us and the Cubans. That would, of course, give the island the same kind of independence that every state in the Union enjoys. It would give the Cubans sovereignty over their own local affairs, and, in addition, a voice in the government of the greatest Republic on earth. But would that be accepted by them as a fulfillment of the pledge of this country, given previous to the war? Outside of the United States the ideas of the sovereignty of the states is not very clear. Very few understand the actual relations between the states and the federal government. It is to be feared that the majority of the Cubans would at the outset regard such an arrangement merely as a change from Spanish domination to that of another country.

It is clear enough that in our future relations with the people with whom we lately have come in close contact, a great deal of misunderstanding has to be removed. Information must be disseminated, and this can best be done by friendly visits of prominent citizens. For this reason the coming of Cuba's hero to this country should be productive of much good, both to the United States and Cuba.

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

Recently a writer in a prominent Amsterdam paper has spoken a word in defense of Russian politics and social customs. He admits that the ruler of the Russians is omnipotent within his domain, in theory, but he explains that in point of fact both the czar and the ministers are conspicuous for their respect for the law. In Russia, he says, everything is regulated by law, and the administration of justice is both good and cheap. The people have no parliament chosen by themselves. Popular elections in Russia would, he explains, under the present circumstances be a farce. But there is a sort of parliament—the imperial council, the members of which are appointed by the emperor, and the council are the law makers. They are ex-ministers of state, heads of government departments, and other persons who have distinguished themselves. There can be no doubt that Russia is a much misunderstood country, simply because it is less known than most other European states. People who

have traveled there have been agreeably surprised at the kindness and cheerfulness of the people. At the same time, it can hardly be denied that social conditions there are, in some respects, barbarous. Especially is this the case, when the religious status of the vast multitude is considered. Alexander I was a man of broad views, and his idea was that religious toleration should prevail. But this view has not gained much ground. The state and church are so intertwined that it would be impossible to define clearly the boundaries between the two. Excommunication from the church means very often banishment from the country. Priests are among the most arduous in the work of collecting money from the people for war purposes, and such contributions of the faithful are solicited before the very altar of the "sacred" images. The czar is also the head of the church, and the two institutions meet in him. Soldiers serve as executors of the decrees of the church. A transgression of the rules of the church very often is a crime against the state, and vice versa.

Under this lack of freedom, the most cruel persecutions flourish. It is not so very long ago that a correspondent in Warsaw told the pitiful story of a poor Polish peasant, who was once made the victim of Russian bigotry. He was over eighty years old, and he was found dead in a snow-drift, a few miles from that city. His granddaughter, a seventeen-year-old girl, was dead by his side. Here is the story in part:

"In the early eighties Felix was a fairly well-to-do peasant, owning a piece of land in the village of Zwerski, not far from Warsaw. He was headman of his tribe, and lived in peace with his neighbors and the government, too. Old age beginning to make itself felt, Felix ceded his property to his son and was about to retire from active life altogether, when a St. Petersburg decree ordered him to embrace the Greek faith and thus set an example to the village. The villagers applauded."

The commissioner ordered them to return home and afterward again appear before him. They did so, but when they refused to abjure their faith, the son of the old man was killed before his eyes in a most cruel manner. The account says:

"The inhuman officer commanded his men to give the headstrong peasant some 'Russian punch.' They opened his jaws, stuck a funnel in his throat and poured in foul water. Then they danced on his stomach. Under their kicks and spurring, poor Ignatio expired."

Then the old man was taken in hand. He was asked:

"Wilt thou now renounce thy Roman heresies? Felix shook his head."

"Bring in his granddaughter."

"Mariska was then but two years old, and Felix loved the child more than the light of his eyes. He began to tremble as he heard the order."

"A Cossack came in, carrying the child on the point of his lance, but the spear was drawn through the little one's clothes, and her tiny body was as yet unharmed."

"The commander placed six lancers in one end of the room and six in the other."

"Abjure, or the ball game shall begin—Mariska's body shall be the ball."

"Then Felix broke down. He threw himself on his face and, cursing the hour of his birth, promised to become a convert if the child's life was spared."

"And there were barrels of vodka and much rejoicing, and all the peasants got boisterously drunk and kissed the boots of the commissioner who had destroyed their body and soul."

It is almost incredible that in a "Christian" country, a scene like this can be enacted. Russia needs light. It needs religious freedom, the mother of true liberty. And the people also need that training, which will enable them to make the proper use of that great privilege. There is no doubt that in Russia there is excellent material for a free and great nation, but there is still much to be done, before that end can be reached.

A NEW NAME FOR INDIANS.

A Washington correspondent of an exchange explains that among scientists the American Indians are beginning to be known as "Amerinds." The name is a compound of "American Indian," contracted into the form just quoted. The correspondent says:

"It was hatched in the bosom of a body of ethnologists in Washington, to whom it was suggested by a well known lexicographer. It has thriven under many disadvantages, being a thorn in the flesh of old-fashioned scholars like Prof. Putnam of Harvard, but it is now appearing in scientific journals and will be in the coming edition of the new international dictionary, as well as in any future edition of Webster's."

"Amerind" is sufficiently brief and euphonious for all practical purposes, not only in English, but in the prevailing languages of Europe; and it may readily be pluralized in these languages, in accordance with their respective rules, without losing its distinctive character."

"Amerind" is proposed as a designation for all the aboriginal tribes of the American continent and adjacent islands, including the Eskimo. It has thriven scientifically, says Prof. McGee, and as soon as people understand it and become accustomed to our new fashionable name for American Indians it will replace the old one entirely."

"Amerind" may recommend itself to ethnologists, but the name is not as euphonious as "Lamanites," a name which, besides, has a historical basis, and a distinct meaning.

Sacramento Record-Union.

The document is something of a surprise. It has more of character and manliness than we expected. It has the virtue of frankness and the air of sincerity. Its author says that he is convinced that longer resistance would be folly, since it would be against an irresistible force, and, moreover, that he now knows that his people long for peace and wish to come into enjoyment of the beneficent administration of affairs by the American government. No regret is expressed for the past. There is no cowardly cringing, but straightforward confession of belief that to further resist will be but to delay the pacification of the country under American rule.

Topoka Daily Capital.

The manifesto of Aguinaldo to the Philippine people bears out the reports of the fact commission and General MacArthur that pacification had been steadily progressing before his capture and that the majority of the people of the islands cheerfully and voluntarily welcomed American sovereignty. This report has been repeatedly denied by the auties in this country, who professed to have inside information contradicting it from mysterious sources. Aguinaldo disposes of this pretense. "This cause," he says, speaking of peace, "has been joyfully embraced by the majority of my fellow countrymen who have already united around the glorious sovereign banner of the United States. In this banner they repose their trust and belief that under its protection the Filipino people will at-

of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina.

Three of the powers have notified Venezuela that they will not respect the decisions of her courts. The natural consequence would be that Venezuela will lose her own self respect.

The ministers at Peking show no disposition to reduce the claims for indemnity, thinking them extremely reasonable. They seem to put on an air of injured innocence whenever it is suggested that these indemnity claims are not extremely reasonable.

The Pan-American exposition managers have decided to put a tax of fifty cents a day on cameras used in the exposition grounds. It will be a little hard on the kodak fiends but it will be a blessing to the general public. It cannot but fail to aid in making the exposition popular.

In response to the terribly strained effort of our morning contemporary to turn a point on plague serum, we suggest that in default of "a fair chance where the plague rages" in India, the inventors try their hands on the Tribune editor, both for the curative and preventive serum, which are equally needed in that sad case.

The rumored proposition of France and Russia to guarantee China's indemnity to the powers will be a master stroke if carried out. It would give these two nations an absolutely preponderating influence in the Celestial empire. It is this very fact that will cause the other powers not to accept an indemnity guarantee on any such terms.

The insurgents in the Philippines continue to come in and surrender. This is very much better for them and for the United States. A continuation of the war only means a continuation of useless bloodshed and the incurring of great expense. The Filipinos can never know the true and better side of the Americans until peace is fully restored and the ways of peace have full sway throughout the islands.

In summoning up the last of the lectures of Prof. William Knight of St. Andrew's University on "The Philosophic Undertones of Modern Poetry," a writer in the Boston Transcript gives the following as the professor's opinion of Matthew Arnold:

"Arnold, with advantages for culture that come to few, and possessed of the greatest delicacy and refinement, was a brilliant prose critic, but as a poet lacked the intensity and the well-put of poetic thought in the soul which marks a poet born."

That is a just estimate. Arnold is a correct but unimpaired poet. In one of his letters he says that the poet has "to tear himself to pieces" to get out the best that is in him. And the same criticism may be applied to Arnold's poetry by his readers. He lacks spontaneity and that stirring of the soul that gives rise to "thoughts that lie too deep for utterance." He was first of all a critic, and a critic of the first order. His was clearly a case of a poet made and not born.

AGUINALDO'S PROCLAMATION.

Chicago News.

In his proclamation Aguinaldo admits that the majority of his countrymen are now ready for peace and willing to accept it under the sovereignty of the United States. They have found the road to independence "impeded by an irresistible force, which, while it restrains them, yet enlightens their minds and opens to them another course presenting them the cause of peace," and their leader, therefore, exhorts them to embrace this opportunity. Such a view of the situation coming from the Filipino leader can hardly fail, it would seem, to be of great effect. Its publication is to be signalized by the release of 1,000 Filipino prisoners and this step must also add to the influences pressing upon the insurgent natives to accept American allegiance before May 1st and thus secure to themselves the rights of citizenship.

Kansas City Star.

Aguinaldo's address should do much toward the speedy settlement of the military situation in the Philippines. The important message sent by General MacArthur is shown by his release of 1,000 prisoners. Doubtless ere long the military occupation of the islands will be reduced to garrison establishments and the major portion of the army will be in this country. This end is much to be desired, not only because of the hardships and expenditures of war, but also for the benefit of the Filipinos generally and the removal of war speculations from the reach of pernicious political agitators in this country.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Although it will be the part of wisdom to watch Aguinaldo himself quite closely while he is enjoying the freedom which amnesty will extend to him and his followers, the United States troops need have little fear of immediate revolutionary trouble. The policing of the islands will be the work necessary to convince the Filipinos that they have done a good thing for themselves in yielding to the power of the United States. When the brigands are swept out of existence, and life and property are made secure, while the Filipinos are at the same time enjoying a measure of self-government, there will be a sentiment in favor of permanence of such conditions that no future revolutionary leader can overthrow.

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tain all those promised liberties which they are beginning to enjoy. So do I respect this will, now that it is known to me."

Springfield Republican.

The daily surrender of men and arms reported from the islands under stress of the hard blows struck by the conqueror enforce the conclusion that outward resistance is nearing an end, and so far as this address has any influence at all, it will tend to hasten the end. It is better so. The question from the beginning has been one for the American people themselves to decide in accordance with their sense of justice and on appeal to the traditions and principles professed through all our history and reaffirmed on going into the war which has thus been converted into a war of conquest. That the final outcome will be for the triumph of justice and liberty as against criminal aggression we have no doubt whatever.

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