

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers: For the Chief Editor's office No. 74. 8 rings. For Deseret News Book Store, 74. 2 rings. For City Editor and Reporters, 359. 2 rings. For Business Manager, 389. 3 rings. For Business Office, 389. 2 rings.

TRAFFIC IN PLURAL WIVES.

"What is construed as a menace to the schoolgirls of New York City has just been revealed through information which has reached a prominent educator in a letter from Salt Lake City. The revelation is that the Mormon missionaries whose work has lately caused so much protest are paid for their work after their return to Utah. It is stated that \$5 is paid for every girl over sixteen who becomes a convert, and if the missionary succeeds in 'placing' her—luring her to fill an order for a plural wife—she is worth from \$40 to \$60 to him. 'The letter, which comes from a man who was formerly a Mormon and one who is closely allied in friendship with the heads of the Mormon Church, is in reply to questions on existing conditions among the sect, which the New York educator, in the interests of the schools is now investigating. The letter says: 'Every missionary gets so much per convert—if he gets them to Utah. The missionary makes from \$30 to \$250 for his term. I can point out at least 300 Mormons in Salt Lake City who have from two to five wives. Plural wives are as much in vogue as they were twenty-five years ago. 'I hope most sincerely that your work will be the salvation of the ignorant women of your state and nation. In the name of common sense and humanity do what you can for the ignorant. 'The statements regarding the fate awaiting young girls who listen to the Elders were startling. 'Commenting on the letter, the Rev. Dr. Duncan J. McMillan, of the New York Presbyterian church, at Seventh avenue and One Hundred and Twenty-eighth street, protested that there was no doubt as to the accuracy of the writer's information. He said that here in the east the bare truth would be regarded as unbelievable. 'The foregoing tissue of amazing falsehoods was actually published in the New York World, of Jan. 19, and has appeared in other Gotham papers. It is astonishing that any public journal with ambition to be considered reliable should print such palpable absurdities. If the Archbishop, scripturalist called the 'Father of Lies,' had been incited to furnish something peculiarly in his line, nothing worse than that letter from Salt Lake could have emanated from the 'bottomless pit.' There is not a single truth or a shadow of excuse for the libels in the entire communication. 'The fact that the missionaries of the 'Mormon' Church not only pay their own way to the fields of labor assigned to them, but travel 'without purse or scrip' and without any pay for their services, or pecuniary reward for their time, talents, success or failure, is too well known by all classes of people in this State to be a matter of doubt. Their self-sacrifice is proverbial. Appreciation of their faithful work is not gauged by the number of their converts, nor are they specially engaged in bringing or inducing people to come to Utah. Neither is it particularly desirable that women rather than men shall embrace the gospel they preach or emigrate to these valleys. 'There are hosts of unmarried girls and women in Utah, as fair and attractive and as suited to be wives and mothers as any in Europe or America. They form a social problem very difficult of solution. They are ready for matrimony but lack the opportunity. There is no need to swell their ranks by immigration. The young men are urged to enter the matrimonial state, that these splendid specimens of budding womanhood may not waste their lives in single loneliness. The opponents of the 'Mormon' who, without proof, charge that there have been plural marriages here since statehood was obtained, admit that such cases have been very rare indeed and that even they are of doubtful reality. 'The notion that the 'Mormon' Church is engaged in gathering people of either sex to Utah or that the Elders urge converts to leave their native lands or offer inducements of any kind for this purpose, is utterly fallacious. Influence is actually used to persuade them to stay where they are, for some time at least, to aid in the work in those localities. Instructions are given to the Elders to this end. We find the following advice to the members of the Church in Europe in the Millennium Star of January 7, 1904, published in Liverpool, England. It is in the farewell address of President F. M. Lyman of the Twelve Apostles at the close of

his labors there, 'To the Ministry and Saints of the European Mission.'

'I have urged the Saints not to emigrate too hastily. They should be fully converted and seasoned in the Gospel before they undertake the long and expensive journey. We wish them to be happy in Zion and not discontented. If they are not sure the Gospel is true in every particular, they had better remain at home. It will cost them less to apostatize in Europe than to journey seven thousand miles to do so. Brethren and sisters, let the Lord indicate when you shall gather with His people. He may have a great work for you to accomplish in the world in warning your friends, sustaining the branches and representing His Kingdom in whatever land you may be. Instead of hurrying off to Utah as soon as you can possibly get the means, counsel with the Priesthood who are set to preside in the branches and conferences, and their advice will be safe to follow. When the proper time does come, you will go up to the mountain of the house of the Lord with rejoicing, and it will be Zion to you.'

We hereby issue an invitation to the writer of the falsehoods published in the New York World, also to that paper, and to Dr. D. J. McMillan who endorses them, to produce one case of the payment or promise of payment to a 'Mormon' missionary for making converts, or for bringing or sending them to Utah, or for 'placing' girls as plural wives. Give us name, date and place and we will print them. The World, of course, merely published that which was furnished for the purpose. The writer and the endorser knew they were lying before God and the public. McMillan has been exposed, thoroughly, as a bearer of false witness, and his wilful falsehoods and their complete refutation are a matter of record. They can be reproduced whenever necessary.

There are persons in this city, some of them employed as press correspondents, who send by mail and by wire most infamous defamations of our people, distortions of our doctrines, and false statements of the public utterances of our leaders. They do this for a few paltry dollars and to gratify a malicious, mendacious, anti-'Mormon' spirit. They are criminals at heart. They are mean and despicable in mind. They surely grovel in self-contempt, for they know their own degradation. They, and some of the religious preachers here, are responsible for the fever that rages against the Latter-day Saints today, and the outbreaks which, on many occasions, have caused the whipping and the burning of meeting houses and even the murder of unoffending men and women. As God lives and justice rules they will certainly reap the full reward for their dastardly and cowardly doings. They are spattered with innocent blood.

It has long appeared to us that good men and women, not of our faith, but who know the untruthfulness of such stories as that published in the World and other New York papers, are failing in their duty to their neighbors in permitting those slanders to pass unrebuked by non-'Mormons.' When the Deseret News presents the facts, well known here but not to the masses elsewhere, its veracity is denied by the miserable creatures who invent the falsehoods sent abroad, and the fact that the refutations come from 'Mormon' sources is sufficient to weaken their force on minds already prejudiced. Don't you think, friends, that in the sight of heaven and in communion with your own consciences, you are somewhat culpable for your silence in the face of such gross calumnies? We have for many years defended the 'Mormon' people and their faith against the attacks of unprincipled defamers. We hope to do so as long as life shall last. And we are comforted and encouraged in the work by the certainty that truth will surely come uppermost, that justice will certainly be done, and that even falsehood, and cruelty, and the cunning craftiness and sectarian venom of our foes, will be overruled for final good, and the cause we stand for will prove triumphant and conquer the powers of darkness of earth and hell combined.

A BATTLE ABOUT SCHOOLS.

A unique battle in England at present, against the right of the state to levy taxes upon dissenters for the support of school teachers teaching the 'established' religion. It is an old fight, but recently it has assumed large proportions, and is beginning to become quite serious.

It seems that the movement for religious liberty has crystallized into an organization known as the Passive Resisters, with a membership of about 70,000. These Passive Resisters seem to be pledged to suffer their goods to be confiscated and sold for taxes, rather than to pay voluntarily for the support of the established religion in the schools. A number of ministers belong to this organization, and the movement is said to be growing steadily. Even in this country, the movement has earnest supporters. Letters from sympathizers here are beginning to pour in by every mail. In New York and Boston, committees have been formed, and funds are being solicited to send across the ocean. It is a fight for principles, that calls for a true Anglo-American alliance.

The point of contention is thus stated by Rev. Dr. Clifford, a London minister: 'We contend that no taxpayer should be obliged to support schools in which dogmatic and ecclesiastical instruction contrary to his belief is taught, not to help pay teachers who must undergo a denominational religious test before they are allowed to practice their profession. It is precisely the same spirit which caused the pilgrims to emigrate to America in 1620, for just as the government was trying to force a state religion upon the people then, so it is trying to strengthen that religion now by proselyting the children of Non-conformist parents.'

To give an idea of the manner in which this curious battle is fought, the following incidents may be quoted: 'A Nonconformist minister at Birmingham, who had refused to pay that portion of his taxes which was to be devoted to the support of schools of another faith, surprised the officers who visited him to seize his goods, by inviting them into his little front parlor, summoning his family and reading the psalm in which appears the words: 'Surely, He shall deliver them from the snare of the fowler and from the net-

some pestilence,' and then asked the officers and all to kneel in prayer, in the course of which the pastor besought special grace for the dear friends who had called upon him that afternoon. After this ceremony the 'dear friends' carted off the pastor's piano.

'At Sutton some of the goods of a minister 50 years old were sold off, and in Berkeley a Methodist minister was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for 'passive resistance.' At Fulham the mayor himself was among the number summoned to court for withholding the educational rate of his tax. 'Near Bristol a woman who owned a little farm, and who had tendered all of her tax except the two dollars which was to be devoted to the local sectarian school, was told that such payment was not accepted, and the horse and cart on which she depended for a living were seized for the payment of the whole rate.'

'In another place some vases for which the 'resisters' had paid \$50 were knocked down to a stranger for the \$2.50 of taxes which had been withheld. In most cases, however, the goods have been bought in by friends of the 'resisters' and returned to the original owner, who would thereafter find some way of recouping his rescuers without damage to his conscience. At one sale in fashionable Brighton the auctioneer was so much in sympathy with his victims that he refused to accept any fee, and sold the goods to friends of the owners for the precise sum required to satisfy the warrant. Strangers present on the lookout for bargains found it impossible to make themselves heard when they offered more than the friendly bidders. That auctioneer became a local hero, and was the chief guest after the sale at a meeting in which the local person proposed to the crowd to send him to Westminster to see what price he could get for a damaged Tory cabinet.'

The question might be asked why all this trouble, but it should be remembered that it is not safe to go against enlightened conscience, even when following its demands means sacrifice. If, for instance, a Baptist honestly believes that infant sprinkling is a grave error, how can he conscientiously pay a school teacher for teaching the children that it is true baptism? Suppose all the public schools in America were placed under the control of one denomination; and that the government would compel the members of all other denominations, as well as people of no denomination, to support that particular faith and have it taught to all the children, what would the result be here? But that is what the battle is about in England. It looks as if it may yet cause a great upheaval in English political circles.

'Down with the thermometer!' says Jack Frost. And down it goes.

A South Dakota divorce court would have untied Alexander's Gordian knot in a trice.

The findings of the coroner's jury in the Iroquois fire disaster were rather theatrical.

When freed from Working jail it is to be hoped that Mrs. Maybrick will not take up lecturing.

If Senator Morgan succeeds in having Panama annexed, it will be the great American vermiform appendix.

When Menelik's lions reach Washington, they will be social lions, for they will belong to the White House.

New York society is going to help free Russia. Now the Czar has something about which he may really be worried.

The Emperor of Morocco says he does not know where St. Louis is. And just now St. Louis thinks itself the center of the universe.

Whitaker Wright's tragic death will do very much to remove the stain from his name. Surely he died protesting his innocence.

'There is evidently too much sugar in the world' says a weekly trade circular. Evidently there isn't too much sweetness in the world.

Father Joseph H. MacMahon of New York says that society women run after fortune tellers. Some of them, if all stories be true, run after fortunes.

The Herreshoffs are to build an automobile boat for the Kaiser. Had he wanted something in the Amphibian line he should have applied to Professor Langley.

Twenty-three thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars has been refused for the manuscript of 'Paradise Lost.' Manuscripts have risen since the days of John Milton.

The verdict of the coroner's jury in the Iroquois theater fire case may have been just, but it certainly evinced malice towards Mayor Harrison, a most unworthy thing on such an occasion.

President Elliot, of Harvard, and President Hadley of Yale have a grievance. Each has been misquoted. Better to have been misquoted, so far as fame goes, than not to have been quoted at all.

Russia would prefer that China declare war to remaining neutral. Then she would not have to respect any neutral rights and could seize Manchuria without excuse. But Ah Sin is too sharp.

At a recent cattle show at Smithfield, London, four pounds of Eldorado potatoes sold for six hundred pounds, this being at the rate of \$1,800,000 per ton. This makes them worth far more than the golden apples of the Hesperides.

It is as bad and revolting as can be for negroes in Africa to burn Germans alive, but it is no worse than for white men in America to burn negroes alive. The white men are more culpable because they claim to be Christians, while the African negroes are savages.

TALKING WAR. Boston Transcript.

The executive council of the National German-American alliance has addressed an open letter to Maj.-Gen. MacArthur, taking him to task for some of his utterances at Honolulu with respect to the relations, present and prospective, between this country and Germany. The several declarations against which protest is made were that war between the two powers was inevitable; that the pan-Germanic doctrine was spreading among our German-American population, and that their patriot-

ism had declined to such an extent that during the Spanish-American war the presence of one of their number as a soldier was a matter of comment in the regiment. All this, says the disclaimer, 'is a malignant misstatement of facts.'

New York Evening Post.

'There is a possibility of war between this country and Germany, but not the kind predicted by Gen. MacArthur. Just at present the Germans are far more disposed to steal our markets than our rights to South American territory. It is not the German treacher that we need fear, but commodities labelled 'made in Germany.' This danger is not to be scoffed at. The failure of the Cologne steel conference this week has without doubt already begun to set our steelmakers thinking.

Boston Herald.

Prince Henry's remark that Germany expects every bullet to do its duty, addressed to the German expeditionists to southwest Africa, recalls the Kaiser's parting word to the German contingent that was dispatched to Pekin to avenge the murder of the Kaiser's diplomatic representative there. It's pretty hot stuff.

LANGLEY'S AIR SHIP.

The Hartford Courant.

Prof. Langley is still convinced that the principle of his flying ship it all right; he said so Tuesday evening at Bristol. Walker's Waldorf-Astoria dinner in his honor. But he knows now that the happiness of making it really fly as it ought to be reserved for some younger man. The other guests, Santos-Dumont, Charles Francis Adams, Gen. Davis, Post Marchant, Arthur Brisbane and Field-Marshal Murat Halstead, said what they could to cheer the professor up, and the host was more comforting than any of them. It's Mr. Walker's opinion that the commercial success of the Langley flying ship will be in sight before the year is out, and that before 1906 timid folk will choose the flying ship in preference to any other mode of travel because of its great safety.

THE PANAMA TREATY.

Worcester Spy.

The treaty with Panama will undoubtedly be approved. There is no practical difficulty in the way of constructing the Panama canal, but the critics of the American government, those who fear that President Roosevelt is not observing the traditions of his office zealously, should read this speech, should put themselves in a way of joining the vast majority of people who have confidence that the administration is right, because the administration knows all the facts, because the administration is responsible for its acts, because the administration has to handle the difficulties of the situation.

New York Evening Post.

The senate is urged by the versatile Banau-Varilla to pass the Panama treaty without amendment, on the ground that it means anything or nothing, or whatever the United States wishes to let it mean. Panama is so much our good friend that she will trust us to read the treaty as we will. It is surprising that no exponent of senatorial courtesy has risen and asked why, if the treaty means now one thing, now another, the time of an august body has been wasted in its consideration. Surely the senators who have carefully weighed it clause by clause and tried to make of it an accurate state paper, are left in a very ridiculous position by M. Banau-Varilla's glib suggestion.

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