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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

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A WELCOME CHANGE.

A great storm has been raised in Denver, and the echoes of it are heard in other places, over the adoption by two prominent ministers of orthodox churches, of the doctrine proclaimed by the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seventy-five years ago, concerning the healing of the sick through the prayer of faith. Not that the reverend gentlemen make any reference to the teachings of the Latter-day Prophet or the tenets of the Church which he established by divine revelation, but it is worthy of note that this doctrine, when proclaimed by him in 1830, aroused such a storm of opposition from the different religious sects and particularly from the clergy, that mob violence was the consequence, and he and his followers were denounced by every religious sect of the times. These sectaries declared that the signs promised by the Savior to follow believers, as recorded in Mark xvi, among which was "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover," were only intended for the first few years of the Christian era; that all such things were "done away;" that they were "no longer needed;" that they were intended merely to induce faith in the teachings of the apostles and were signs to make people believe, instead of to "follow them that believe," as taught by the Savior himself.

One of the charges against the Prophet Joseph and the Latter-day Saints when he was cast into prison and they were driven from their homes in Missouri, was that they believed in miracles and claimed that the sick could be healed, as they were in the days of the Savior. Wherever the Elders of this Church have carried the Gospel as restored to earth in the latter days, they have been jeered at and opposed by so-called Christian ministers, because of their promulgation of the doctrine of healing the sick through faith by the laying on of hands, and they have been challenged, everywhere almost, to work a miracle in proof of their divine mission, and when most remarkable instances of healing through faith have occurred beyond contradiction, many of those professed ministers of Christ have declared that the marvelous manifestations were brought about by the power of the Devil.

It should be understood that the healings which have been wrought through the ministrations of the Elders of the Church had no relation to that which is called "Christian Science." Indeed, the latter was introduced many years after the doctrine of healing by faith was preached and practiced by the Latter-day Saints. This Church was organized April 6, 1830. The Christian Science cult was introduced in 1858. We do not wish in this connection to take up any controversy as to the difference between Christ's doctrine of healing, which is that entire-tained and taught by the Latter-day Saints, in contrast with the method adopted in the more modern creed and society. Nor do we wish to cast the slightest reflection upon any force or belief that really removes disease and heals the afflicted. But we affirm that the power by which the sick were healed in Biblical times and are restored to health in latter days by the ministrations of God's appointed servants, was brought about by and through FAITH. It is the prayer of faith that saves the sick, as taught by the Apostle James and as repeatedly proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth. In a revelation given to Joseph Smith the Seer at Kirtland, Ohio, February 9, 1831, the Lord said:

"And again it shall come to pass that he that hath faith in me to be healed and is not appointed unto death shall be healed. He who hath faith to see shall see; he who hath faith to hear shall hear; the lame who have faith to leap shall leap; and they who have not faith to do these things, but believe in me, have power to become my sons; and inasmuch as they break not my laws, they shall bear their afflictions." Doc. & Cov., Sec. 42.

The truth of this doctrine and the fulfillment of these promises have been established in unnumbered instances, through all the years that have intervened since the time when that revelation was given, in face of opposition from the entire "Christian" world. The commandment was given

also at that time that the sick among the Saints should call for the Elders of the Church, who were to anoint them with oil and lay their hands upon them and through faith they should recover. The blind have been made to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, the lame to walk, and in a number of instances those who had apparently succumbed to the power of death have been raised to life.

All these manifestations were the result of faith, either in the sick themselves or in those who administered to them, or in friends who prayed for them, or in all these combined. No true servant of God claims the power in himself or of himself to work miracles or heal the sick. The glory belongs to God. It is by His power that the blessings come. And the force which operates in all such instances is faith.

It is pleasing to notice the changes that are coming over the religious world, and the difference between the present and the past as to the grand truths restored to earth through the Prophet of the nineteenth century and embodied in that which is popularly called "Mormonism." Many of the glorious truths revealed in the early rise of this Church, and which aroused the hostility and hatred of the clergy of the times, are now adopted by modern ministers of different sects, and some of them have the courage of their convictions and are boldly proclaiming what they believe.

There is nothing new in the healing of the sick through faith in God. It has been manifested from the beginning. We read of it in the most ancient scriptures, and it was part and parcel of the Gospel proclaimed by Christ and his Apostles. It has been enjoyed occasionally since the days when they were put to death for their faith in Christ the Redeemer. But during the times of darkness which have intervened, it has only been on rare occasions that such manifestations have been received, and their cessation among mankind has been largely due to the teachings of uninspired preachers, who have persuaded their hearers that such things were done away and they need not expect them any more, and that those who claimed their restoration and the possibility of their enjoyment in these latter times were impostors and worthy only of death or ignominy.

We are glad when we hear of modern ministers, no matter how many errors they may entertain in other matters, proclaiming the doctrine of a living faith, which draws man up to God and is manifested in the healings and signs which Christ promised to true believers. He is "the same yesterday, today and forever." His power has not ceased. His willingness to hear and answer has not changed. Every gift and sign and blessing enjoyed in the early Christian Church may be had today, through obedience to the same commandments and principles promulgated by the early Apostles and which are part and parcel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Gospel has been restored in all its fulness. It will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth, and God will manifest, by signs and wonders and healings and all the manifestations of old, that this is indeed His latter-day work, set up among men for the last time to usher in the final dispensation.

FOR CHRONIC GROWLERS.

If one of the chronic grumblers who are engaged in the easiest occupation in life, that is, finding fault, will discover a sure means of preventing the ravages of lightning on electric works, he can make a heap of money and be of some use in the world. In this mountain region, electric lines and machinery are in constant danger from electric storms. Every device for protection known to science and art has been adopted in vain. One stroke of lightning will knock out light and power in a moment, and cause thousands of dollars of damage, besides the discomfort of the public and the growlings of people who use their mouths but not their brains. Possibly something will be invented to remedy the evil, but it has not yet been produced. Go and look at the latest "lightning protectors" burned to a cinder by the electric fluid and be convinced, unless you want to continue to growl without sense! Also read the accounts of darkness by the hour in eastern cities, from storm disturbances on electric works, and then quit swearing against similar local difficulties.

It is asserted that private or co-operative electric lighting is to be used for separate buildings or blocks, and this will remedy the trouble now had with extended poles and wires. Very wise indeed! Such arrangements may be well enough, if they do not cost too much, for the few places to which they are applicable, but how about street-lighting, and house-lighting, and general traffic in places away from the business center? The sapient remarks of the growler may do for street corners and saloon haunts, but people who think before they speak and after they hear others talk will simply smile at the nonsense, and perhaps wonder why there should be so much complaint with such little reason. Furnish a real lightning protector, and a sure smoke-consumer, and many of the grumbling fraternity will have to choose other topics for their daily kicking and snarling.

THAT NAVAL BATTLE.

Some surprise is expressed by readers of the telegraphic news from eastern Asia, at the hesitation of Admiral Togo to attack and annihilate the Russian fleet, now headed for Vladivostok. But the Japanese strategists have proved themselves as careful and calculating as their soldiers and sailors are brave and patriotic, and Togo is therefore, undoubtedly, guided by the very best counsel in assuming what appears to be a waiting attitude.

Rojestvensky, to reach his destination, must pass through a narrow strait, not more than a hundred miles wide and rendered extremely dangerous by Japanese mines. In all probability the Japanese hope to see some of the

Russian ships destroyed in contact with these floating infernal machines, before they take the risk of a general attack. The Russians have a large voyage before them in chiefly Japanese waters, where attacks from ambush, if the term is permissible, will render progress extremely dangerous. In an open sea engagement, Rojestvensky's chances should be fair, but this the cautious Japanese admiral shows no disposition to accord him. On the contrary, Togo is keeping out of the way, awaiting his opportunity, with the assurance that the nearer Rojestvensky comes to Japan the more precarious his position grows and the greater Togo's facilities for harassing him and picking off his vessels one by one.

On paper the strength of the Russian squadron is superior to that of the Japanese. The former has seven battleships, two armored cruisers, and six protected cruisers, and a large number of torpedo boats and auxiliary vessels. The Japanese have, it is thought, five battleships, eight armored cruisers, and thirteen protected cruisers. They are also well supplied with torpedo boats and destroyers. The Japanese battleships are superior to the Russians in displacement and heavy gun protection, but in estimated weight of broadside fire the former have the advantage. The Russian flagship Kniaz Suvarov and the battleship Alexander III, Borodino, and Orsk are modern ships and thoroughly equipped in every respect. The other three are of an older type. The Japanese fleet is modern throughout, and most of the ships and men have been tested in actual combat.

AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST.

A reverend gentleman, writing for an eastern contemporary and offering advice to a young man on the advisability of "entering the ministry," has this to say:

"By all means, young man, follow your soul's call. If the voice of your better self tells you to preach the Gospel, rest not till you find yourself obeying the high command."

This is, to say the least, very peculiar counsel from one who calls himself a minister, to a young friend evidently anxious to enter the service. It proves the utterly false and untenable position of the adviser.

A "minister" of Christ, if a successor of the first Apostles, is an ambassador from the Son of God to the world. He stands, according to the Scriptures, in the stead of Christ, declaring the message of reconciliation. But an ambassador must be duly appointed and accredited. If not, he will be rejected as a fraud, and a pretender.

Now, suppose a young man were to ask a United States ambassador to favor him with his opinion as to the advisability of entering the diplomatic service; suppose this gentleman were to tell him that, "if the voice of your better self tells you to be an ambassador, rest not until you find yourself obeying the high command;" and suppose, further, that the young man, following this counsel, should present himself at the court of King Edward and claim recognition as an American ambassador to Great Britain, what would happen? When asked for his credentials he would say: "I have none, but I am obeying the voice of my better self. Would he not be suspected of insanity? And if he urged that an old diplomat had advised him to, by all means follow his soul's call, would it not appear as if he were the subject of a practical joke?"

An ambassador must, in the first place, be qualified for the mission he is to perform. Then he must also be duly called, appointed and provided with credentials. And, further, he must be in daily communication with his home government, and do nothing except in consultation with, and by instruction from that government. And these characteristics of an ambassador apply to the true ambassadors of Christ, as much as to those of any earthly government. The poor exorcists at Ephesus learned by experience the folly of assuming power and authority not bestowed upon them. They had seen the mighty works performed by Paul in the name of Jesus, whose ambassador he was. They, no doubt, heard the voice of "their better self" and desired to do as the Apostle did. They had a call from their own souls, and so they went forth to rebuke an evil spirit. There were seven of them, and in chorus they cried out against the demon: "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." But what was the result? "The man in whom the evil spirit was, leaped on them and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." It does not take much of a demon to overcome seven impostors, even if they are, as were these, the sons of a chief priest. This is clearly recorded in sacred writ as a warning against the pretense of possessing powers not given. The evil spirit is not imposed upon by pretense. To the seven sons of Sceva, just referred to, he boldly said: "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?"

One who claims to be a minister of Christ, if not called "as was Aaron," or as were His Apostles of old, is merely a pretender. He may be a lecturer, a preacher, an emissary of a missionary society, or what not; and if he is a good man, he may do good among his fellow-men, through his good influence, but he should not claim to be an ambassador of Christ, unless he is called by Him, personally or through His authorized servants. It was not the "voices of the soul" that converted Paul, but the voice from heaven. It is strange that professed ministers of the gospel fail to see this truth. But this defect in their spiritual vision, and consequent darkened understanding, is our obstacle to the salvation of the children of men.

LIFE SHORTER HERE?

Mr. B. Laquer, a German doctor, is said to have read a paper before a congress of physicians at Wiesbaden, in which he maintained that Americans do not live as long as Europeans. According to the figures he produced, out of every 1,000 of population the number of persons from forty to sixty years of age in Germany is 179; in America, 170. Of persons over sixty, there

are in Germany 75, and in America 65. Figures, they say, do not lie, but more cheerful ones can be adduced in support of the truth that the average age is on the increase, and that human life has been perceptibly prolonged during the last century. Those figures are more comforting.

Immigration adds yearly to our population thousands of young persons from every country in the world. That alone would account for the fact that fewer old persons to the thousand of inhabitants are found here than in the countries where these young persons left their older friends behind. But it does not prove that life here is shorter. However, if European scientists can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Old World that it is dangerous to live in this country, and that to come here is to shorten one's life several years, and if by that means some people eager to leave their native hearthstones, to seek their fortunes here, could be influenced to change their minds and remain where they are, no harm would be done. So, let the figures stand, for what they are worth.

Farewell, April, 1905!

This May wheat business is done in a corner.

Send the gladden tidings to the prudential committee.

The Chicago teamsters will hardly attempt to ride rough shod over the Kohlsaat injunction.

Carrying coals to Newcastle, Colo., is quite the proper paper since the President is almost snowbound.

In Indiana it costs twenty-five dollars and costs to carry cigarette paper. This does not include the cost of the paper.

Ex-Banker Frank Bigelow and ex-Collector Smith are shining examples of the fallacy of "get-rich-quick" methods.

Jamaican contract laborers on the Isthmus have gone on strike. They are being Americanized all right and fast enough.

How anxiously the Colorado bears must be for the 5th of May to come. On that day the President breaks camp and starts for Washington.

It looks as though residents of side streets that run into the Grand Canal on South Temple street would have to use a system of locks to get up and down.

An entirely new kind of rust has appeared in the New York subway which will make mischief in about four hundred years. So the subway is doomed to rust out after all.

Mrs. J. Morgan Smith in refusing to answer certain questions in the Nan Patterson case, although a tempting offer was made her, proves that blood is thicker than water.

Again the Russian squadron has been sighted, this time some seventy miles north of Kamranh bay. Some of these days when least expected, Togo will sight it over his guns.

The Japanese have decided to go ahead with the war in Manchuria and not await the result of the impending naval battle. How impatient to win more victories they are.

Washington left an estate valued at \$800,000, which is supposed to be larger than that left by any other president of the United States. He also left a larger reputation than any other president.

A man in Chicago claims to have discovered a method of bringing dead cats to life again. If he can only discover a method of bringing political dead ducks to life again, he can make a fortune.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

New York Examiner.

The vindication or condemnation of Mr. Rockefeller's business methods, can safely be left, where they properly belong, to the courts of law and the national and state legislative bodies, which have powers of investigation not possessed by us nor his accusers. Meanwhile we beg to call attention to a good old rule of Anglo-Saxon law, namely, that every accused person is to be regarded as innocent until he has been proved, by due process of law to be guilty. This rule is just as sound with respect to moral and judicial judgments; and Mr. Rockefeller is as fully entitled to the advantage of the law's presumption as any of his assailants.

Christian Advocate. We do not know Mr. Rockefeller. He is, we understand, a Christian—at least to the extent of being a member in good standing of a Christian church. He is probably sincere in considering himself a Christian. Yet many of his actions are not Christian actions. He crushes competition, he corrupts railroads and legislatures, he robs the people by forcing them to pay for oil double what it ought to be worth. Mr. Rockefeller might doubtless say: "I sell for all I can get; every man who sells does that. I crush competition by buying out competitors, but I pay them well. I get the best terms I can from the railroads, but every shipper does that." But he does not say that much. He takes refuge behind the corporation and in the fact that it is no worse than others. Herein is probably the greatest evil of modern life—to wit, the diluted conscience. What a man would not do alone, he will do if others do it.

New York Outlook.

What Isaiah said of the Messiah, may be said of all his ministers: "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people." This is precisely one of the functions of the Christian minister; to bear witness not against individual men—he is not appointed to be a judge or a divider between men; not upon individual transactions—he is not appointed to be an investigator of special acts, and certainly he is not appointed to condemn special acts without investigating them; but to be a witness for the essential principles of truth and righteousness, as they are interpreted by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and to be a witness against the violation of those principles whatever and whenever and by whomsoever that violation may be manifested.

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He will live best on earth, most helpfully for others, most joyfully for himself, when his conversation is in heaven. Being risen with Christ already, as Paul says, he will seek those things which are above. But seek them where? Not surely, in mere sentimental dreams of Paradise or selfish withdrawals from the order of common life, but where alone he can seek anything in the world that is open to his view—the very world of common human life which the hermit and ascetic dread or despise. So Christ went seeking in every man he met some point of contact for the heavenly. So he lived his perfect life of service in the crowded towns of Galilee. So we must seek the answering touch of the divine life in everyday acquaintance—the opportunities of our immortal partnership with Christ, in common social relations of our neighborhood. For we can find them nowhere else.