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"A free nation is better than a compulsory sober nation, or a compulsory moral nation, because to freedom all other things are added, but where there is no freedom to choose between good and evil it is the evil that comes without choice."

That would apply in Utah except that there is no intention here to establish prohibition; the object, so far as outlined, is to turn the traffic over to the drug stores and take from them all responsibility for the effects. That is the object on the face of the business, but behind that the special purpose is to cripple the business and the future of Salt Lake City, by the power which made the vilest kind of whiskey here for forty years, and sold it without either scruples or limitations. One other object is to pose before the country as favoring prohibition which is just as sincere as their other claim that they have given up polygamy, though that is just as much a tenet of their faith as it was twenty years ago, for there is nothing in their records to show that it has ever been done away with, or even suspended.

The petitions which are offered ought not to count any more than a vote in conference, which is a mere perfunctory affair, there not having been thirty dissenting votes in twice thirty years.

Finally, the movement is a square repudiation of the bargain these same chiefs entered into last summer to insure the carrying of the election their way. But then, for them to repudiate their covenants is an old trick, and they do not mind that any more than did the sons of Jacob, when they did up the circumcised Hivites.

### Why Such a Comparison?

THE NEW YORK Nation begins an article with these words: "The acquittal of T. J. Hains brings up anew the question whether the morals of New York are any better than those of a frontier mining camp." Now, we have heard some pretty tough things said about frontier mining camps, but nothing quite so tough as that.

There is short shift for the assassin in mining camps; no mercy to betrayers of innocent women; infinite tenderness to children; adventurers and adventuresses are soon estimated at their real worth; frauds and grafters are speedily understood; there are no reeking tenement houses, and broad charity is the rule. Why should the morals of such a place be compared to that of New York City? What depth of depravity was ever sounded below what New York City can display? And why should an honest mining camp be slandered by invidious comparisons?

### John Nicholson

JOHN NICHOLSON, long known and much honored in this city, has passed away. The world had grown dark to him here; let us hope the light has been restored to him in a happier land. He was a sincere fanatic; he would have gone to the stake for his convictions with a smile on his lips, but he had none of the usual prejudices of the real fanatic; he was considerate of those who differed with him, and was honest in every hair of his head. He did not believe in

the methods of many around him, for so devout was he, and so fixed in his convictions of the rightfulness of his belief, that he could never imagine that there was any way to promulgate the faith within him save through absolute truth. He was a scholarly man, a strong writer, a winsome speaker, and the greatest charm of both his pen and his voice was the clear evidence of the sincerity of the man shining out through all he said. His last trail was a dark and thorny one; may he have found the tents of everlasting peace to rest in now.

### The Old American Navy

AT THE last annual dinner of the National Geographic Society, Secretary of the Navy Newberry reviewed the history of the American navy, and showed that from the first it has been a glory to the country, and made clear why in its latest presentation through the battleship fleet it had been the admiration of the nations. Apropos of that, in a speech the same evening by Vice President Fairbanks, he told of meeting an English gentleman recently who was in Australia when the fleet visited there last summer. This gentleman asked the Vice President: "What is the most magnificent spectacle you ever saw?" Whereupon Mr. Fairbanks turned the inquiry and asked the Englishman: "What is the most magnificent spectacle you ever saw?" to which he replied:

"The most sublime thing I ever saw or ever expect to see was the great American squadron as it came into Sidney and anchored in the bay. Thousands and thousands of Australians had gathered there and with heads uncovered bowed before the majestic power of the Republic of the United States."

But to return to Secretary Newberry's speech. In the course of it he said:

Since Wilkes' squadron of six wooden sailing ships, the largest being of 700 tons' displacement, sailed out from Norfolk in 1838 and passed through the Straits of Magellan on its peaceful mission of exploration and scientific investigation—to mark out in the vast and unknown oceans the pathways of commerce, over which was destined to sail seventy years later, from the same port, the magnificent fleet of today, bearing the peaceful greetings of the nation to the maritime countries of both hemispheres.

The operations of the Wilkes expedition extended over a region of ten million square miles, within which more than five hundred islands were charted, more than two thousand drawings of costumes, scenery and natural history were brought back, together with thousands of geological and botanical specimens.

Wilkes also realized the dream of his life in the discovery of a large body of land lying within the Antarctic circle, which he named the Antarctic continent.

That was the father of our Major Wilkes, the same one who twenty-three years later on the old San Jacinto, rounded too the British steamer Trent and took from her the Confederate ambassadors to England and France, Mason and Sildell, for which act our government apologized to Great Britain, but made Commodore Wilkes Admiral Wilkes the next day.

We may add that the accuracy of some of the Wilkes surveys of the Southern Pacific ocean were questioned by an English navigator some years ago, but within the past three years they have been absolutely confirmed by a British naval officer sent down to that southern continent.

### Turkey's Rejuvenation

THE EVIDENCE accumulates that the 23d of last July was to Turkey what the 4th of July, 1776, was to the United Colonies, an epoch in Turkish history; the dawn of a new day to the Turkish people.

Indeed, the comparison with the new birth of what has since become the nation of the United States, does not seem to express the whole case. That July day in 1776 was the date when the allegiance to the mother country was surrendered; that July day in 1908 was the day when without any severance of fealty to the Sultan and his government, the tree of liberty burst into bloom in Turkey and with the full consent of the Sultan, the manhood and long-veiled womanhood of Turkey, emerged from the shadows of weary centuries and stood forth unshackled and unashamed.

A constitution was given Turkey thirty years ago, but it was to the people little more than a vague promise of freedom and so far as its workings went it was little more than a dead letter. But it seems that the Sultan, while practically ignoring the putting of it into execution, began at once to prepare his empire for the inevitable change which he saw was coming. He began to build school houses, of which there are now 40,000 in the empire, to apply and enforce sanitation in the cities, to build railroads, later to light the cities; to open his empire to foreign colleges, Catholic and Protestant, and to make many more advances, and when out of the schools and colleges the young Turks emerged and demanded a new constitution, and a retreat from the exclusiveness that had hedged Turkey round about so long; they found no opposition and the noiseless and bloodless revolution was accomplished in a day.

There are still many wrongs and savageries in Turkey; there is still a world of ignorance and superstition there, but, nevertheless, the whole atmosphere is changed, as much as is seen in a mine when a new air-shaft is opened, a new circulation established, the fatal dead air is driven out, and all the levels cleansed. The railroad from Damascus to Medina and Mecca is almost completed and the change from the camel to the palace car, for the annual pilgrimage is typical of the change that has lighted the hilltops of the empire with the signal lights of liberty.

This goes, too, to all the realm of society. Woman are emancipated with the men. Before long the heavy veil will be discarded when women walk the streets, her citizenship will cease to be

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