

# THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

## MAGAZINE SECTION.

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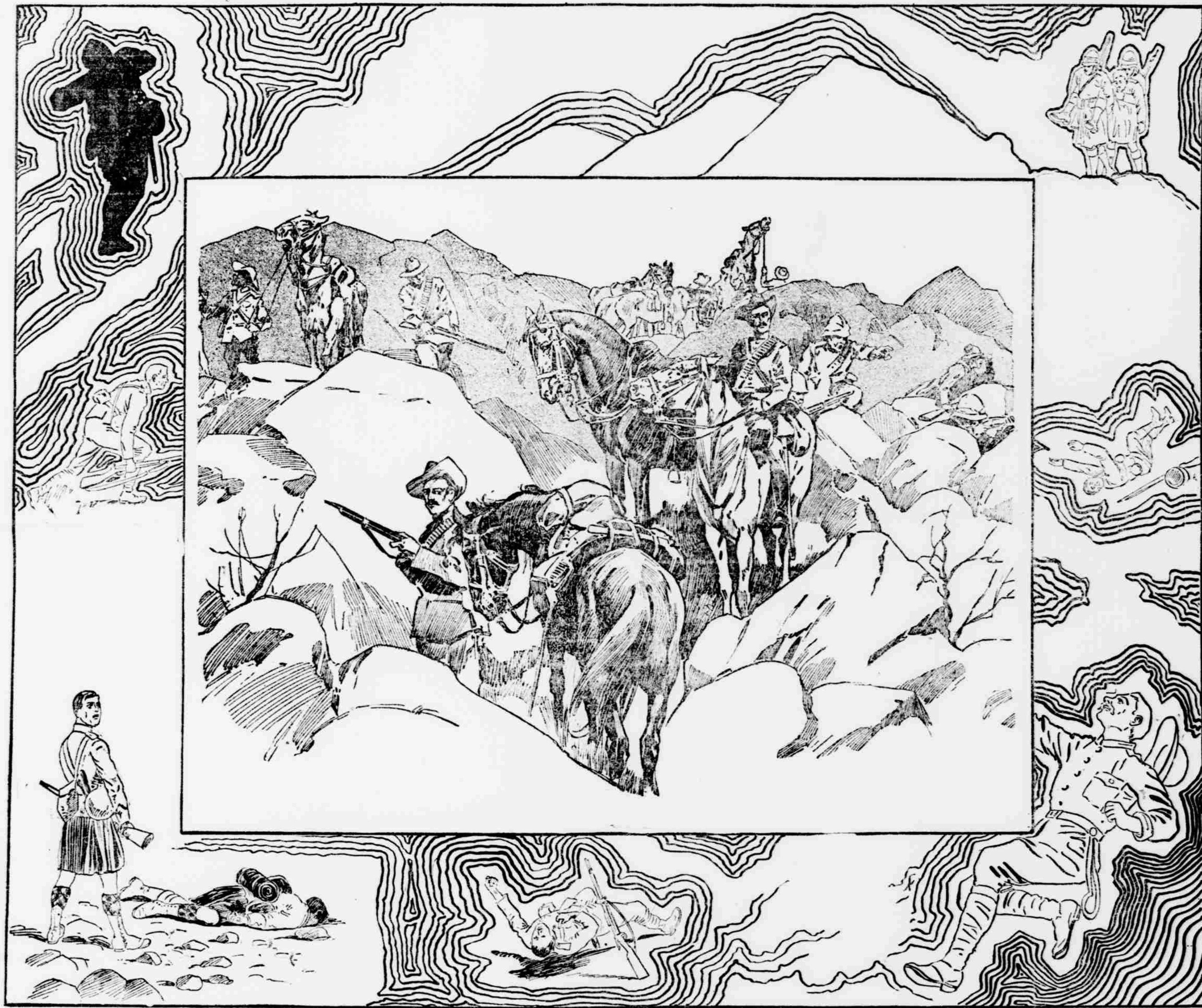
NINETY-SECOND YEAR.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1900.

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### THE BOER WAR ON THE SUMMIT OF A SOUTH AFRICAN KOP.

The Drawing Below, Reproduced From a Sketch in the Petit Bleu, of Paris, Made From Original Photographs, Giving a Definite Idea of the Country in Which the English Troops Are Operating, and the Natural Defences Upon Which the Boers Count So Much.



### A RABBI Surprises His People and BECOMES A CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST. Dr. Wertheimer Cites His Reasons.

Rabbi Max Wertheimer of Dayton, O., has announced formally his conversion to Christian Science. This is the first time that a Jewish clergyman has taken such action, and naturally it has occasioned widespread discussion among members both of the Hebrew and Christian faiths. There have been others to accept Christianity in various forms, and actuated by various motives.

The sincerity of Rabbi Wertheimer is unquestioned, and his explanation of the reasons which led him to this important move will be read with deep interest by Jew and Christian alike.

By Rabbi Max Wertheimer, Ph. D.

I have thoroughly searched the various theological beliefs of civilized nations. For years I have delved into the study of comparative religions and have followed the trend of higher criticism. What was the result? A pile of dry human opinions, theories, guesses—a chaos of bewildering contradictions. And when I learned through the various channels of the religious press how callous and worldly minded the Jewish and Christian churchgoers had turned, despite all the learned discourses, lectures and sermons that from week to week have been and still are dished out to them, I knew that something must be wrong; for,

the more confused and indifferent people became the more I pondered. I became tired of one-sided and stereotyped phrases and creeds, sectarian liturgy, cold rituals and human systems of philosophy which cannot satisfactorily account for the origin and destiny of man, and which cannot still the soul-hunger of man. Away with this mental rubbish of exploded theories and conjectures and facts!

At that time I began to study "Science and Health, with Key to Scriptures," by that soulful and devout author, Mary Baker G. Eddy. Like the sweetest strain of angelic music, it transformed me. The more I comprehended its spiritual purport the more convinced I was that the divine truth

of the ages and of centuries to come was compressed in that volume. Gradually it dawned upon me that Mrs. Eddy's conceptions of man, God, universe were correct, demonstrable and unanswerable. Thus, by logical thinking was I forced to adopt her spiritual conclusions.

Material-minded people look at everything from a material standpoint, but "to the pure all things are pure." The swinish element of the carnal-minded has in every age and clime spurned, ridiculed, persecuted, vilified and maligned spiritual truths. Most religions will tell you they believe in God. Yes, but what kind of a God? They will say God is almighty, an all-knowing spirit, but do they mean what they say? Not a bit of it, for they have more faith in a drug and pill, powder or tonic than in God Almighty. They say God is all-good and infinite, and yet they believe in a powerful devil or evil one. They say that the all-wise God is the ever-present Father, yet their daily lives belie their claims. They say God is unchangeable and eternal, yet they have the impudence to deny that daily and hourly display of divine power is not possible any more to-day than it was in days of yore. Still, those very people will read from the Psalms and assert the Lord is an ever-present help in

times of "trouble." They believe that the biblical miracles recorded in the Old and New Testaments prove nothing to-day, and yet they prove all and everything.

Christian Science postulates one infinite, omnipotent and omnipresent God—i. e., the mind of love and supreme wisdom, and Christian Science proves, with mathematical accuracy and precision, the workings of that mind. Mind you, Christian Science proves everything at all times, and that by the spiritual understanding of its principle. The God of Israel can positively be relied upon to-day as accurately and precisely as two thousand or four thousand years ago.

Sometimes it happens that a Christian Scientist fails to heal a patient, and then the papers notice it abroad in glaring headlines! But the thousands of complete cures the Christian Scientist accomplishes every day are ignored or silently passed over, give credit where credit is due. Does not every clergyman or layman desire to heal the sick? Of course. Why don't they? They cannot. Why not? Because it takes strong spiritual growth. Mind you, not scholarship, not education, nor worldly education is requisite to accomplish a positive cure of any disease, but deep spiritual understanding.

It is this fact which entrages the average

minister against Christian Science; to think that any doctor of divinity cannot heal, but that an obscure Peter or Paul can. The Scriptures, from beginning to end, are full of Christian Science; but to find this out you must interpret the Scriptures spiritually, and not according to an *ism*, *ism* dixit, or *ology*. There are 20,000 various interpretations of the Old Testament, and 20,000 interpretations of the New Testament. Think of it! Here you see how the human caprice, whims and opinions have crept into the deciphering of the Bible. Christian Science is the same as divine science, and divine science really means "the knowledge of God." I have left the Jewish pupil, but not Israel's mission—i. e., to spread the truth, the knowledge of God. Judaism is one of them; Israel's religion is quite another. Israel's religion is the revelation of God to prophet and apostle. Judaism comprises the man-made laws, customs, habits and ceremonies of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Jews—man made laws enacted and enforced by majority vote by synagogues, synods, rabbis and rabbinical conventions. The term "Judaism" occurs not in the Old Testament; it is a word coined by Jewish Hellenists. The term "Judaism" occurs first in the Greek version of Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, 12 and 13. God never originated that

word. God spoke to Israel, but Israel means spiritual son, or prince of God. In God's kingdom there are no Jews, Gentiles, Greeks, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians or Unitarians, but sons and daughters of God. It is high time that the congregation of nations, which ought to be bound with closer ties than cable or telegraph, should know this, understand this and live this truth. Whatever theological fossils will say to the contrary, whatever bigoted and conceited pharisees of ecclesiastical, church and synagogue will scream to the contrary, the fact remains, the religion of the future will be, ray must be, alone the spiritual lines of Christian Science. All the churches espouse to-day the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man, but how many mean what they say?

Christian Science has done what no other religion ever accomplished. It is broad, uplifting and the most practical. In all other denominations the question is constantly asked: "What is the use of going to church?" Among Christian Scientists the question which is asked every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening is: "What's the use of staying at home and not going to church?" Their parsonages of worship are packed. Yet no preacher preaches, no operative choir sings in their church. The mother church of

Christian Science, in Boston, has a membership of 16,000 members. They all attend every service! There is no other single local church on the face of the globe that has such a stupendous attendance as the Boston church. And who belongs to it? Cultured people, the poor, lawyers and mechanics, judges and students, physicians, ministers and working folk! Men and women throng the building, sometimes an hour before divine service starts, be it rain or shine. Four services are held every Sunday to accommodate the crowds. Does this look as though a man must necessarily be weak minded or insane to belong to such a powerful and divine religious movement? No one knows how that noble mother in Israel, Mrs. Eddy, has worked and watched and prayed and suffered to bring about the Renaissance of God's religion! But the reformation is on. No one can stop it, snuff and ridicule who will. The future will tell. What Rabbi Gamaliel said to the Jewish Council at Jerusalem respecting persecuting the first apostles of this divine science I would have you consider: "And now I say unto you, refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will be overthrown, but if it is of God, ye will not be able to overthrow them. Lest haply ye be found even to be fighting against God."—Acts 5, 28-29.