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W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

A MORAL, NOT A RELIGIOUS QUESTION.

It is not because Roberts, of Utah, is a Mormon, that he should be denied a seat in Congress.

That fact must not be forgotten by anybody. Every man in this free country is entitled to hold any religious belief he chooses. If, however, he acts upon a religious belief in such a way as to offend against the laws designed for the general good, then society, for its own protection, has a right to deal with him, not as a heretic, but a lawbreaker. Mr. Roberts has as clear a privilege to accept Joseph Smith and Brigham Young as inspired prophets as a Mohammedan citizen has to accept Mahomet. But neither Mr. Roberts nor the Turk domiciled in America can be allowed to practise polygamy. To forbid them to do that is no more an interference with religious opinion than would be the restraining of a Thug from committing murder as a pious duty.

Mormonism, minus polygamy, has the same footing in the United States in the eye of the law as Presbyterianism, Catholicism, Buddhism or any other form of religion.

Mr. Roberts claims that his plural marriages antedate all legislation against polygamy, and that he would be "a villian and a hypocrite to deliberately repudiate the obligation." He closes his statement with the inquiry: "My God, what would they have me do?"

That question is easily answered. Let him resign his seat in Congress at once, and save himself the shame of being driven from the Capitol by an outraged public sentiment. He is defying the moral sense of the nation. His crime is an offence against every precept taught at our firesides and in our schools.

As his devotion to his three wives outweighs his respect for the law, there is only one consistent course for him to pursue—cling to his wives, and remain in a community that shares his depraved views.

Mr. Roberts is accustomed to suffer for being a polygamist. He was sentenced to the Utah penitentiary for his crime in Territorial days. It will not be a great hardship for him to forego the honor of being a Congressman. It will afford him an opportunity to pose as a martyr in the cause of polygamy, which he affects to believe has divine authority.

In the meantime the decent people of America have risen in revolt against Roberts, and their determined protest makes it impossible for him to retain his seat in Congress.

TRADES-UNIONISM AND POLITICS.

The most interesting feature of the conference of the American Federation of Labor held in Kansas City, was the discussion of a resolution offered by the Central Labor Union of Cleveland, Ohio, seeking to amend the constitution of the Federation by so altering the section forbidding political propaganda as to permit indorsement of political policies bearing directly upon "the class-conscious propaganda for the abolition of the wage system." The spirited debate evoked by this resolution showed how deeply many of the delegates had gone into the study of social and economic history and how conversant the representative wageworker is with the various phases of the differences between hammer and anvil. Many forcible and some brilliant speeches were made, the discussion taking up the best part of two days, culminating in the defeat of the proposed amendment by an overwhelming majority and the adoption of a committee report to the effect "that it is not within the province of the American Federation of Labor to designate to which political party a member shall belong or for which political party he shall vote."

The attitude assumed by this the largest labor organization in our country is in direct opposition to the stand taken by tradesunionism in all European countries, including England, though in the latter the introduction of politics into labor organizations is of comparatively recent origin.

It is not easy to determine why organized labor, pursuing a common end which, even though it may not be achieved by legislation alone, needs its aid, takes such a different attitude here from that assumed by the Labor organizations abroad toward political activity in its own interest. Is it conservatism? Is it the fear of having workmen regarded as a separate caste, shut off from the rest of their countrymen, or is it the sense of loyalty which each member, Republican or Democrat, feels he owes to the party of his original choice? Or is it the confidence of the workingman that he must come to his own, no matter what political party may control the destinies of the nation?

A FIREBRAND, NOT A LEADER.

Manly, the negro editor who is accused of having provoked the race riots in North Carolina by his attack on the white women of the South, in addressing a Brooklyn audience of colored people denounced labor unions as the "scum of the earth." He said many other indiscreet things, making appeals solely to the passions of his race.

Manly is entirely safe from physical punishment here, but even that immunity should not tempt him to make a nuisance of himself. He but gives new ground for the belief that his course in North Carolina was as malicious in intent as its consequences were lamentable.

Manly, it is to be feared, is a type of the negro for whom education has done no more than to swell his egotism and increase his power for harm. Such as he strengthen the prejudice against his race and help to dull the enthusiasm of those whose sympathies are with the negroes in their battle for intellectual progress, industrial advancement and political equality.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT.

On Monday it will be Governor Roosevelt. And what an opportunity awaits him! His friends are confident that he will seize it. His enemies even do not doubt his courage or his obstinacy.

He will need the rough-riding faculty that has been a feature of his official career. There will be schemes to throttle, politicians to thwart, and friends to resist. Many unpleasant duties will be forced upon him. He cannot dodge them. He cannot temporize with the sleek agents of corporations that will come asking favors. He must learn to say "No!" and if he mixes a little thunder with his tones it will do no harm.

Governor Roosevelt will have to give an early answer to the natural inquiry: "Will he be his own man?" In other words, will the influence of Platt, who nominated him, be minimized during his administration? It is only fair to say that the Governor has so far escaped the infection of the Boss's dishonest methods. He has been clean, where Platt has been the other thing. He has been frank where Platt has been deceptive. He has shown the manly qualities of the fighter in striking contrast with the evasion of the tricky political Boss.

Roosevelt must continue to defy Platt, as he did in the selection of Avery D. Andrews for Adjutant-General. He will make no mistake if he goes to some pains to find out exactly what Platt wants and deliberately does the contrary. The slightest bending to the will of the Boss will be a keen disappointment to that large portion of the public which hopes that he will rise superior to the claims of the "machine," the demands of partisanship, or the promptings of ambition.

The Journal will watch Governor Roosevelt's course with unusual interest. It will deal fairly with him, and it will record with pleasure any success that may attend his administration of State affairs.

A QUEER CANADIAN FEAR.

Canadians who view with jealousy and alarm the growth and expanding greatness of the United States are becoming filled with a haunting fear that the Dominion is to be absorbed in spite of itself. The Toronto World gives voice to this queer apprehension in these warning words:

Unless Canadians are fully alive to the situation and speak out in no uncertain way, they will find themselves between a grasping annexation movement in the United States, having for its end the domination of the whole continent, and a great party in England prepared to make almost any sacrifices to the United States in consideration of some kind of support of England in her race with Russia, France and other European powers.

The World deceives itself. It is under the prevailing colonial impression that as much thought is given to Canada in the United States as is given to the United States in Canada. This is a characteristic provincial delusion.

We do not think of Canada.

There is no desire here to lay hands on the Dominion or to do anything to hasten the day when it will knock at our door and ask for admission. When that day comes and the request shall be granted, the favor will be all on our side. We do not need Canada, but Canada needs us, always has needed us, and will need us more and more as the contrast between her littleness and our greatness increases at geometrical ratio. It has already come to be nearly a case of Dives and Lazarus.

The men of Canada who are able to think, and do not mistake the burning sensation of envy for a warm sentiment of loyalty to the British crown, know that their country has been condemned to backwardness and insignificance because of its dependence upon a foreign power. They know that had it been American instead of British, had it been from the beginning a part of the United States, it would have kept step with the Republic, and shared in our progress, prosperity and triumphs. They know that while Canada remains a colony it will continue to be a stagnant lagoon off on one side from the rushing stream of American life. They know, also, that the consent of the United States to admit Canada would be a concession of priceless value to the Dominion, in return for which all that the Dominion has to give would be as nothing.

The Toronto World and Canadians who feel with it are in a dream which inverts things. They ought to wake up and realize that the sane attitude of Canada should be not one of fear lest we absorb the anaemic Dominion, but one of prayer, with outstretched hands toward this Republic, beseeching to be let in.

A CHECK TO STAGE INDECENCY.

The line of toleration of indecency on the stage has been reached and passed in New York. The press, led by the Journal, has succeeded in rousing the authorities, and an exhibition of female nudity has been modified at Koster & Bial's until it has been brought within sight of propriety. The police were present and ready to make arrests unless this should be done.

The incident is made more noteworthy by the action of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Huntley McCarthy. The lady, whose stage name is Cissy Loftus, is engaged to appear at Koster & Bial's. Mr. McCarthy wrote the management that unless the objectionable performance mentioned were withdrawn his wife would cancel her engagement. Mr. McCarthy also addressed a letter to Alan Dale, the Journal's theatrical critic, thanking him for his strictures, which first informed him of the indecency.

The behavior of the McCarthys is as remarkable as it is praiseworthy. The people of the stage, abnormally sensitive to criticism of the moral standards of their profession, seldom seem to feel that they are called upon to make any sacrifices in behalf of its good repute. Were there even a small minority of players of the position of Miss Loftus to take the stand bravely assumed by her, the stage would soon be freed from such French filth as "The Turtle" and such outrages as that perpetrated by Koster & Bial. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy have honored the actor's calling and laid the public under a debt.

A beginning having been made by the police, let it be hoped that they will go on with their good work. There are other theatres in New York besides Koster & Bial's whose managers are in need of the censorship of threatened arrest and imprisonment.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY of Pennsylvania, through its majority in the Legislature, is about to testify to Mr. Quay's power and its own want of decency by re-electing him to the United States Senate while he is under indictment for a State prison offence. Should he be convicted after this impressive mark of confidence and esteem, and be required to serve a term in the penitentiary instead of in the Senate, the machine Republicans of Pennsylvania will suffer no embarrassment. Their only notion of duty is to "stand by the old man." The rest is trustfully left to Satan.

MAJOR-GENERAL LAWTON'S assignment to service in the Philippines gives assurance that to the extent of his power justice will be done there. General Lawton is more than a gallant soldier. He is a cool-headed man, sensible, practical, and, better than all, a high-minded gentleman. There will be no bullying of the Shafter sort when General Lawton is in command, but plenty of firmness, reinforced by tact.

An Appeal from a Soldier.

Mr. W. R. Hearst, Editor New York Journal:

Dear Sir: Is there anything you can do for us poor fellows down here?

Almost every one of us has a mother or family depending upon us, and the longer we are kept here the more they will suffer.

God knows we have done our duty, and so does the United States Government. But because we haven't any pull we have got to stay here, while our families are starving at home.

The Twenty-second New York left their armory some time after we did, and yet they are mustered out before us. We were the first regiment to volunteer as a body, provided our own officers went with us; but they have gone back on us.

Kindly publish this and appeal to the citizens of New York and Brooklyn to help us get home once more.

Kindly excuse me for not affixing a stamp, as the United States Government has not as yet paid us, and we have been here almost two months. Your humble servant,

A SOLDIER,
Forty-seventh Regiment N. Y. Inf. U. S. V.,
Stationed at Vieques, Porto Rico.

How to Secure Rapid Transit.

Editor of the New York Journal:

Let the city build the rapid transit and issue scrip payable in ten years and accepted by common consent at par in payment for merchandise. Read how the Guernsey Market was built without a penny. Scrip was issued and redeemed by the rents received until all was paid.

The earnings of the road economically constructed and honestly managed will pay for construction in ten years. We have enough of corporation greed and extortion. We ought to have one and two cent fares all over the city.

WILLIAM SAUL,
No. 11 Summit Avenue, Jersey City.

PURSUIT.

"And yet," he exclaimed, striving to seem cheerful, "I shall still pursue the bright visions of hope!"

Beryl did not love him; but she pitied him.

"Oh, chase yourself!" she pleaded, for she sincerely desired to save him further pain.—Detroit Journal.

HIS SYSTEM.

She—How do you pronounce the title of Victor Hugo's masterpiece—"Less Miserables," or "Laize Meczeerawbles?"

He—I never pronounce it all. I know of too many easier ways to make a fool of myself.—Cleveland Leader.

HOW SHARPER THAN A SERPENTS TOOTH TO HAVE A THANKLESS CHILD.

AGUINALDO—Get out you old stiff, I won this war myself.

BEWARE THE BREAKFAST.

SCIENCE HAS AT LAST DISCOVERED OUR WORST ENEMY?

THE two-meal a day craze has seized the inhabitants of various towns of the interior, notably Elgin, Ill., whose inhabitants are jubilant over the benefits accruing from the new gospel of health. Two Universalist pastors, a superintendent of the watch company, a lady librarian and others have adopted the two-meal system, and are proselyting with zeal.

There is much to be said for and against the plan. There is no earthly reason why the greater number of civilized people should eat as much as they do, in quantity or quality. They take as little physical exertion as possible, and their minds move in an automatic way, along the grooves of opinion held by their forbears for generations. Their brains secrete mucus instead of thought, and all their ducts, mental and physical, are clogged with it. The principal exertion their systems are called to perform is that of digestion, and of digesting half as much again as they need. If any of them are obliged to really exert themselves—say a mother with a nursery of children or a teacher with a school, a pastor with a church, or a business man with the responsibility of an establishment—the nervous force at once finds itself unequal to the double strain, and is unable to digest.

If one wakes in the morning with a taste in the mouth as of many bad words and no particular desire for food, common judgment tells him to wait until he keenly hungers before eating. A hearty lunch about noon and dinner after business at night amply supply the demands of the mature body and brain. Three classes of humanity need more than this: Children who are active and growing, the epileptic-neurotic sort of persons—often of highest gifts in business and art, whose salvation lies in ample supply of the best nourishment—and men who toil in the open air, like farmers and railway hands. Breakfast, and a substantial breakfast, is a necessity with these. The rest of us will grow in grace of mind, body and temper by breaking fast on a cup of coffee and a crusty roll. French fashion, if anything at all, is needed before noon.

The economy of the plan in work, time and money is delightful. No more hurry and worry getting breakfast for the early commuter, who leaves his Jersey home anywhere from 5 to 7.15 a. m.; no more painful waste of time in uptown boarding houses while heavy-footed dining room maids pace moderately down the hall with your glass of water first and your oatmeal second and your cutlet third, instead of bringing all at once. No more bills for breakfast bacon and "Pettijohn," and Vienna rolls, but an absolute third lopped off the living expenses, including early gas and fires.

Many who read this know the benefit of the anti-breakfast plan. The women who live in hall bedrooms, the studio population, and the dwellers in small apartments, whose numbers yearly increase, have almost forgotten what breakfast is. The business man who lives on his nerves and lives on the skirmishing line, day in and day out, has nothing to say to breakfast if he wants to eat dinner in peace. He learns that his nerve force is capital, just like money; there is only so much to spend, and what he uses one way is not available in another when he most wants it. He has brought the amount of his food down to a fine point. When he learns to be exacting about its quality life will have new satisfactions for him. The gospel of self-denial holds true in all ways. Whoso denies himself what is unnecessary will receive a hundredfold in this world, leaving out that which is to come.

And what a cheery time one can make of the noon breakfast or lunch! Going straight to business mornings, one can afford time to eat reasonably, unhurriedly, between 12 and 1. Good business relations can be formed over the downtown luncheon, just as the best social impressions are given at the lively, tastefully served lunch party of madame uptown. It is vastly more a compliment for a knowing person to be invited to lunch than to dinner, for the talk is better, not to mention the menu. The old New England breakfast dies with the old habit of early hours. People who arose with the morning star found time to eat three meals a day. Those who rise four to seven hours later must abandon the breakfast habit or lose much that makes life worth living.

"PROF. JOHN BARLEYCORN."

WHERE WILL THE LATEST COLLEGE DEPARTURE LEAD?

Birmingham (Eng.), Dec. 27.

The university of this town will shortly start, at a cost of £50,000, a school of brewing, with a special professor in charge. A fine brewery will be provided contiguous to the university buildings.

THIS piece of news opens up a vista that will cause thrills to creep through the frame of every lover of John Barleycorn. Time was when such an announcement would have almost created a riot among prohibitionists and temperance advocates, and, in fact, it may be that even now a storm, a cyclone of protest, will form in such centres and sweep away the daring project. Let us, however, dwell upon its probable action, its certain effects and its logical conclusions and lend our aid in slaying the scheme in its cradle.

I can see the insidious advance of vice in the announcement. To brew beer will be an art as easily learned as that of brewing tea when once the able intellects of our collegians are bent upon the task, and once learned what will follow?

Every student's room will be turned into a little brewery, ready to pour forth its foamy product at demand. Beer brewed will be drunk, of course, and with what results?

Ribald songs, boisterous laughter, music and katzenjammer! Next, floors sanded, stein decorations, "commers" and uproarious long-distance drinking contests inaugurated. It will be but a step from this to that of establishing a chair, professorships and fellowships of distillery! Why not? In the evolution of vice and crime thus begun it naturally follows. With a "worm" in each stud the fumes of alcohol, the deadly samples, the "blending," "coloring" and "toning" processes in their fascinations, each student will begin a course that leads to perdition. The moonshine studies, once started, who will predict their result? Wife-beating, forgery, non-payment of club dues and car fares, arson and murder are in this curriculum. The whole college course will be two hundred and sixty-five days in a barroom. The kindred arts will be taught if brewing is once placed on the list. How to knock the bung out of a keg, cooling and frothing, drawing with a collar, blowing off foam, treating, and then—pinochle playing and waiting for angels and touching. All the cafe arts and sciences in the possession of our callow boys at an age when they should be dreaming of reforming the world and being up and doing!

THE VALEDICTORIAN OF THE FUTURE.

Little by little the course will widen, and there will be introduced the making of benedictine, creme de violet, absinthe, kummel and kirschwasser. Then will follow that of manufactured champagne, with a host of studies in "stone fence," "dog's eye," "high balls," "rickeys," etc., in a class presided over by a barkeeper with an alphabetical addendum to his name. Pousse cafe orations and cocktail essays will take the place of "How to Direct the Destinies of the Philippines" at our commencements, and diplomas will be given to the boys who write the cleverest upon the "Art of Tending Bar" or "How to Bounce Hoboes."

Then I foresee a further progress along this line. Logically it follows that a school in poker playing and faro will be established as an attractive feature in some college desiring to draw to its halls the already besotted youth of our fair land. Playing the races, as a study, will be one of the features, so that a boy can leave the university qualified, instead of toiling for a livelihood, to start bookmaking at once and roll in wealth. The product of such educational establishments will be complete and thorough "rounders" and a post-graduate course will naturally be created in confidence games, green goods and check kiting, leading up to a fellowship in municipal politics or artificial ice making.

Now is the time, while the matter is in abeyance, to unite and strike against this terrible innovation, and call, in no uncertain tones, upon our English cousins to halt.

WALT M'DOUGALL.