

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1898.

THE AWAKENING AS TO MORMON PROSELYTIZING.

In Wake county there are six Mormons busily at work. A week or two ago the North Carolina Presbyterian made an extraordinary statement that must surprise all who shall see it. It was a very great shock to us, although we had been watching anxiously for a year or two the advent of the apostles of lust, and had seen their industrious proselyting journeys among the numerous ignorant people of this state with fears as to evil consequences. They have been steadily making converts to their religion of just that rivals anything in Mohammedan history. The statement made and reported by The Charlotte Presbyterian is to the effect that there are now more Mormon elders at work in North Carolina than there are Presbyterian ministers, and that at the present rate of increase it will not be long before the Mormons will have more churches and more communicants in this state than the Presbyterians, who constitute the third largest denomination in the state, the Baptists and Methodists outnumbering them in the order named. To those who may regard the future of North Carolina there is some cause for alarm. There is a tremendous amount of illiteracy in this state, it is standing Z in the alphabet as to white literates, according to the census of 1890. It is no better in 1898. The Mormon false stuff is well calculated to appeal to ignorance and animal lust. The emissaries talk religion of the old kind, and appear well up in professions of spiritual illumination and Bible truth. Among intelligent educated people this is the kind of strain they indulge. They talk religion right along and of the genuine, Biblical kind. When they get among people of the more ignorant and degraded kind they talk Mormonism—no Smithism—Brigham Youngism in essence.

What do the Protestant denominations mean to do about this Mormon invasion? It is too late to talk of religious persecutions. The whip, the fire and faggot, cannot be resorted to now, and especially in a commonwealth which of all others has been the most restive and defiant under religious intolerance and ecclesiastical persecutions. Read Bancroft and you will learn something of this.

This invasion of the Mormon proselytizers—the "buzzing emissaries" of Satan—must arouse the genuine protestants from Carrick to Cherokee. They have been indifferent, asleep, torpid, while the agents of the Mormon debauchery have been as active as maggot, and have "gained fresh confidence," to quote William Cowper, "from every hairbrained proselyte they make." These spies into the intellectual and educational nakedness of our state have gathered fresh hope daily. They find the receptivity of ignorance and superstition immense, and they have gone on diligently prosecuting their insinuating and deceiving work while the religious denominations were fallen into a condition of lethargy. Already the Mormons count about 100 congregations in this state in the regions of "Egyptian darkness."

The regular Christians are stupefied, stunned, amazed. They look on helpless and sorrowful. They are reported as "startled," "dumbfounded." They will now begin to try to do something to counteract all false teaching—will seek a remedy for the new disease, an antidote to the insidious, killing poison. It is late, for the enemy has "entered in." The Charleston News and Courier is amused and says with severity, not without some aspects of justice: "The funny aspects of the situation are too broad to be missed; but there is a serious side to it, also, which is presented in the very obvious reflection that the 'Protestant' ministers and churches of North Carolina appear to have rendered such an invasion, with such results, so easily practicable. The North Carolina ministers and churches have not employed their opportunities, are fear, when the elders from far Utah can find material for about a hundred congregations all about them. The sudden activity of the shepherds and churches, moreover, appears to be inspired rather by dislike of the Mormon brethren than by hostility to the common enemy and a consuming regard for the salvation of lost souls. It is very much to be feared, in short, that but for the invasion of the elders the thousands of poor and ignorant people would have been left in darkness for many years to come. There is more

anxiety, it seems, to save them from Mormonism than there has been to save them from heathenism and their sins."

While Protestant ministers have been urging, persuading, begging their people to give much money to send the Gospel to the heathen in remote countries, here in our own land—in our state—are heathen of the rankiest type and in great numerical strength. They are in every county, in every town, in every city. This is said in no opposition to missions, which are right and proper, a real Christian duty and obligation, but it is protest against neglect at your doors.

The files of The Messenger will show frequent references to the vile work of Mormon propagandists all through two or three years. The Charleston paper is not certain as to the creed of the Mormons being wrong, but it marvels at Protestant faithfulness. It says the "elders" of the Brigham Young false religion—our words, for we despise the thing—have shown themselves to be "admirable exemplars of faithfulness and zeal in the Master's service, as they understand it. The church people in North Carolina are indebted to them for a very forceful and badly needed lesson." So far from thinking their "zeal" is really for the Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that it is "zeal" inspired by the "father of lies" and the great deceiver.

In North Carolina the Baptists have some 200,000 white adherents, and the Episcopal Methodists some 158,000, and the Presbyterians are strong and growing, and the other Methodist bodies number some 25,000, we suppose. These large bodies ought to be able to root out the Mormon tares and rid the state of a growing nuisance.

HELP FOR CUBA

The Cuban relief committee earnestly urges the people of the United States to give quickly to the cause of suffering humanity in Cuba. There is no mistake as to the awful condition of tens of thousands of people. They are skeletons and dying for the want of food. General Lee, other American consuls, American citizens and all tell the same—very sad and heart-moving story of extreme suffering. The suffering is so wide spread that the committee will load a steamer at once with 2,000 tons of corn meal and 200 tons of bacon. It is a question of life or death. The relief committee says: "Send us money if you can. Accept food wherever offered; cornmeal, pork, lard, potatoes, rice, condensed milk and other staples in unlimited quantities. Southern and Pennsylvania railways will haul free to New York. Our two steamships will make circuit of Cuba, landing supplies at all ports. The Spanish ministry has agreed to abate the treasury port charges for steamers and permit the landing of supplies without duties. Not one day should be wasted. President McKinley, through the state department, urges us to the greatest efforts."

Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, appeals to the people of that state to give to famished and perishing Cubans. He tells his people that they they have "Never known famine or want and should show their gratitude by liberal donations to the dying Cubans." "What is North Carolina doing in this noble cause that appeals to the merciful and benevolent and sympathetic trumpet-tongued? Senator Gallinger who visited Cuba recently says the suffering cannot be exaggerated. "The correspondent of the Atlanta Journal publishes a letter from the senator dated 19th inst., in which he says: "Think of a district, with population the size of Atlanta, literally starving to death. Little children and old men and women lying in the streets and along the roads dying by inches for want of food. Every city in this country should imitate the example set by The Journal and add its quota to the relief fund."

Help the suffering, the starving, the dying.

RUMORS AND OPINIONS

Bismarck, the great and most venerable German statesman, Prince Bismarck, praised President McKinley and says that Spain cannot expect the support of any nation except France or Italy, that are Roman Catholic countries.

In Washington the report of the court of inquiry is expected at any hour. It will be short, it is reported. But it will be exactly to the point. What next? There is a difference of opinion here. The reports differ at this point. The Washington correspondent of New York Times sent on 18th inst., a dispatch to the effect that the president's real plan was kept as a profound secret. His advisers say he will secure peace and liberty for Cuba, but they do not know when it will be or how it will be brought about. They deny the alleged "backdown." He has not said that the Cubans must take autonomy or nothing. If McKinley had said that foolish thing he is not Caesar. The congress still has power and can take a hand in foreign affairs, and in saying as to peace or war.

General Horace Porter, American ambassador to France, says that in France war is not looked for. He shares in the opinions. It is reported as follows in the London Morning Leader of 18th inst: "The secretary of the United States Embassy remarked: 'There will be no war, because the real feelings of both countries are that all the difficulties can be settled. There is not an Amer-

ican in Paris does not applaud the attitude of President McKinley in trying every expedient before resorting to war."

The Consul General said: "The real heart and soul of America has not yet been heard. The surface talk which causes the collapse of stocks does not merit serious attention. Unless I am greatly mistaken our trouble with Spain will shortly be ended."

It is admitted that Europe is intensely interested in the relations between this country and Spain. A dispatch from the Vienna correspondent of the London Times of 19th date, says: "The increasing probability of an Hispano-American conflict engrosses public attention. Spain's latest representations at Washington are regarded as an indication that the situation has grown worse. The Fremdenblatt, expressing this opinion, finds it conceivable that Spain should seek to prevent America perfecting her armaments by a pretense of desiring peace."

Warlike preparations on the part of the United States continue to be rushed with tremendous earnestness and success. It will continue until the war cloud is dissipated. The report in Sunday's Messenger that General Blanco is anxious for peace is favorable indication. The effort of the Spanish soldiers to bring about peace by trying to interview insurgent leaders is a sign of weakness, and it may be also a sign that they are very desirous to avoid war with the United States. But all speculation is useless until the exact finding of the court is made known. The American people will stand no foolishness. They will not allow much longer the Spaniards to starve and devastate Cuba. If they cannot suppress the war they will have to cease their war.

BREVITIES

If the Spanish ambassador to Vienna is not misinformed, there will be war before any payment of indemnity. Put a pin there and wait.

Dynamite in a mine in Spain killed 80 men and many were wounded. But 258 American seamen were killed by Spanish dynamite at Havana.

Mrs. William Beiden Noble, of Washington, D. C., has given \$20,000 to Harvard University to endow a lectureship in memory of her husband, a clergyman in the Protestant Episcopal Church and a graduate of the Harvard class of 1885.

Mr. Charles B. Roush, of New York, has given \$35,000 to the University of Virginia. He is southern born.

In the death of ex-United States Senator Blanche K. Bruce the negro race in America loses its best man yet in public life. He had ability and character. President Booker T. Washington is the other foremost negro in this country now. He is wise and candid, and with discernment and integrity.

Russia and France are steadily preparing to partition China and ask no permission of the people to be injured or of England.

Spain gives an intimation that it means war for the United States to intervene in the Cuban war. But already Spain has lost 70,000 of her troops in the fruitless, vain attempt to subdue the patriots in Cuba.

The illustrious Gladstone, in his 89th year, is returning home to die. With him goes the world's greatest man now living.

The fool talk of the Spaniards, that they could induce the south "to revolt" is pitifully stupid. They do not know a letter in the book about the south. If the southern whites could have had their way they would have thrashed Spain long ago and have liberated Cuba and stopped the damning butcheries.

There is a fierce war being waged at this time between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and great excitement prevails. Hell on earth appears to be the opinion of northern visitors to Cuba as to the real condition.

Dr. Galling's new gun just finished at Cleveland, Ohio, is described as the largest single gun in the world. It is rifled and mounted at the Washington navy yard. The ingenious inventor is a native North Carolinian.

Representative Tilman recently said of Mr. Bryan, that he "is the only man I ever saw who was born great, achieved greatness, and had greatness taken from Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night,' bodily without thanks.

In 1877 England consumed 30,000,000 pounds of tea. In 1897 she drank 230,000,000 pounds, or 5 1/2 pounds for each inhabitant. She might be considered a tea drinking country. She guzzles an immense amount of ale and beer in addition.

General Fitzhugh Lee will be pressed by his good friends in Virginia for United States senator in place of Senator Martin, a silver advocate. The gold men hope Lee's Cuba fame will make him so popular he can be elected in spite of his goldbug advocacy.

Recently at Belleville, N. J., a brutal assault by a negro was made upon a young white woman of character. The inhabitants hunted that darkey all through one night and would "have tortured and lynched him," they say, if they could have found the villain.

The private stockholders doubtless show excellent judgment in favoring the lease of the Atlantic road to the Southern. If Russell remains firm he may carry out his plan of a lease. It is time the unwise and defenceless war on North Carolina railroads generally had ceased. It is a stigma upon the intelligence of the people of the state.

HON. FOLKS.

For the sake of the welfare of the whole state, it is to be hoped that the populists will follow further the leadership of the fellows who beguiled them with false promises, and after getting their tongues in the pie play false.

That was a very handsome tribute Rev. Dr. Hoge paid to Dr. E. A. Alderman, president of the University of North Carolina, in his last letter. The careful reader of The Messenger knows the high estimate in which the gifted native Wilmingtonian is held by it, as the builder of the best addresses of any North Carolina as to literary style, and as a lecturer of very uncommon excellence. We are not surprised that the eloquent speaker should really electrify a cultivated audience on ship-board. He is one head of a college who knows how to write in English and with admirable taste.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Greenville Register: Colonel J. S. Carr, of Durham, will deliver the memorial address in Washington on the 10th of May. Salisbury Special to Charlotte Observer: Mr. J. J. Norton has received an intimation that the United States government and the Southern railroad wish a refinery for sugar here. The government will furnish the seed to the Rowan farmers, and if the farmers will plant and the crop grown contains a sufficient quantity of saccharine matter, it is expected to establish a refinery in Salisbury.

The Smithfield Herald hears from every quarter of the splendid condition of the democratic party in Johnston county. Charlotte News: Major E. M. Hayes, of the United States Army, has accepted the invitation of Colonel A. L. Smith, to command all of the troops during the 20th of March in this city.

N. H. Turbyfill, a member of the hook and ladder company of Asheville, had his right arm broken while at practice. Twenty-five children whose applications for admission to the Orphan Asylum have been approved, are waiting for room to receive them. Major George D. Davis is preparing a history of several North Carolina regiments in the war. The News says he is in Charlotte getting data.

Raleigh News and Observer: Mr. John H. Winder, formerly general manager of the Seaboard Air Line railroad, has accepted a position with the Hocking Valley Railroad Company. The negroes also are growing more intelligent and offering their services to the state in case of war with Spain. Yesterday's mail brought the governor a number of interesting letters from the "nigger black" on this subject. It will be observed that they are just a little choice, though, as to their official position should they enter the service. The opinion of Congressman Stroud, the populists in North Carolina will fuse with the democrats this year, and he believes an offer to the effect will be made at the proper time.

Dunn Union: Saturday evening about dark in Mingo township, Sampson county, James Lee, was seriously cut in the abdomen by a sharp Phillips' razor. Phillips' house, Lee and Phillips are neighbors and live but a mile of each other. They had been to Dunn Saturday and went by the train to the home and got some whiskey and when they reached Phillips' house they were both drunk. Phillips began to beat his wife and she asked Lee to protect her. Lee demonstrated with Phillips about his conduct and Phillips struck him, got on top of him; Lee turned Phillips and was in the abdomen seven inches in length and exposing the intestines. Lee got away from Phillips and started down the road, and his screams were heard by his sister, Mrs. Julius LaRou, who lived near by. Lee was taken to the home of his mother, Kinston, F. P. Press: The state has chartered the Lumber Company of Kinston, with a capital stock of \$50,000.

STATE PRESS.

The man who talks of fusion or co-operation of populists and democrats is simply wasting his breath.—Pittsboro Citizen.

The populists claiming Daniel Russell, Whooper, boy, "Ain't he funny?" the pops and rads, don't tussle because they call one another honey. Hancock and Dan, and the rest of the clan, on a platform of good money, and the pops sticking up to a man because they call one another honey. There's Grace, of Wayne, in a letter again. On fusion he says he'll go for it. Butler and DeLoe a caucus again because they call one another honey.—Rockingham Rocket. Chairman Wiley does well on the threshold by the campaign in which the shibboleth will be "The White Man and the White Met." To show that the democratic party are a kindly fellows to the colored man, but is in fact the party to which he goes most for schools and the care of the unfortunate of his race. The demand for white rule is not made to injure the negro. It is necessary to protect the state against corrupt and ignorant government.—Raleigh News and Observer. Roads in their present condition it costs at least 25 cents a mile to move a ton and that a ton cannot be moved ten miles for less than \$1. This is 10 cents a bag for ports and 10 cents for each bale of cotton. Have you thought of this? With modern roads this could be reduced to 5 cents per mile for a ton or 50 cents for ten miles. We ask our commissioners to look into the matter which is interesting the entire country outside of Bertie county. We urge our farmers to figure out the question for themselves and if they find our present system of road making is defective and can be improved upon to give some other method, a one-third out of the year the roads within anything but a light buggy, and hard even for that. Give us better roads—five miles of Windsor are impassable for Windsor Leds.

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