

For President, 1900:

Hon. W. J. Bryan, Of Nebraska.

ERRONEOUS IDEAS.

All have heard of the person who tried to please every one, and eventually succeeded in pleasing none. The Index does not propose to follow the example of the man in the fable. There are some friends who want the paper to be religious, and they find fault with the editor because it is political. Upon inquiry it is found that these are all good Republicans. If the politics of the paper were Republican, it would probably not be objectionable on that account. The paper is political—Democratic to the core; but it is not rabid. It is, and shall continue to be, fair to Republicans. In politics, as in other things, the editor has convictions and opinions, and has the honesty and courage to express and advocate them. While a conscientious Republican can read the Index with profit and benefit, and while the editor is glad that some do, of course, he does not expect them to be pleased with his politics. When our Republican readers come to any politics they do not like, they can skip that part, if they wish; though they can read if they will and still not fall out with the editor nor with the paper if it suits them in other things. The editor intends the Index, as a political paper, to be just and fair, candid and clean. A part of its mission is to purify and elevate politics and political methods.

Other friends think the paper too religious. They want a secular, not a religious journal. For the information of these the editor states that the Index is in no sense a religious paper—it is a secular newspaper. It is moral in its teachings. Our friends who find fault with the Index because, as they say, it is religious, mistake morality for religion. The Index advocates morality—morality in politics; morality in government; morality in public and in private. The paper is against intoxicants, profanity, injustice and all wrongdoing. The editor fears that those that object to the religious character of the paper, as they are pleased to call it, really object to its moral views and teachings.

But some one may ask: "Why does the paper oppose Roman Catholicism? Is it not a religion?" Yes, but Romanism is political—necessarily so, because of its principles, and all history shows that it dominates the civil authority where it can. It opposes, when it dare, Bible reading, enlightenment, and individual responsibility. It is as a religio-political organization that the Index opposes Romanism. It has two reasons for opposing Mormonism—its political character and its debasing doctrines.

The editor shall, as long as he manages the paper, pursue a straightforward, consistent course, expressing his sentiments upon all subjects, desiring to offend none, but refusing to try to please all. The paper would utterly fail

in its mission if it fails to oppose the wrongs that exist and to advocate and help the right. When a different course is adopted the present editor's connection with the paper will cease. If the paper makes enemies by the course pursued, it should make friends by the enemies it makes, and the editor confidently appeals to all who want wrong suppressed and right sustained, to give the paper their patronage. It must have a support or it cannot live. Shall it live? It is for its friends to say.

The Springfield Republican says: "If Gen. Wheeler attempts to take his seat in congress this winter, while at the same time retaining his commission in the United States army, it is to be hoped that some congressman will have courage enough to insist upon his being ejected. It is the worst kind of militarism in a republic to have as congressmen men who are also army officers under the command of the President." Gen. Wheeler has no greater admirer in this country than myself, but we cannot but think that he violates both the spirit and the letter of the constitution in holding on to the commission in the army while occupying his seat in congress. We trust, when he shall have returned from the Philippines he will recognize there is no longer need for his services in the army, and resign his commission. He is needed, and by virtue of the experience gained both in Cuba and the Philippines can be of great use in congress. And the American people will place great confidence in what he says as to the needs of these peoples. We hope he will pursue this course.—Raleigh News and Observer.

It was stated in our Raleigh correspondence Sunday that "some persons are saying that ex-Senator Ransom will be a candidate for the senatorial nomination." Of course "some persons" are saying this, or our correspondent would not have sent in this paragraph; but our information is that ex-Senator Ransom, now a man about 74 years of age, and the largest farmer in the state, is at home attending strictly to private business and getting rich cultivating his fertile farms on the Roanoke. Under the circumstances it is positive cruelty to mention his name in a newspaper, especially in connection with a public office.—Charlotte Observer.

Plain Facts About Mormonism.

1. It is a fact that the Mormons are putting forth zealous efforts to spread their doctrines in the United States, especially in the South and West! About five hundred missionaries are at work in the South, their headquarters being in Chattanooga. 2. It is a fact that the first Mormon church was organized in Fayette, N. Y., 1830, its founder being Joseph Smith, who claimed to be a "Prophet, seer and revelator." 3. It is a fact that Smith and a handful of followers moved from New York to Ohio, whence they were driven out and went to Missouri, where they committed murder, arson, robbery and perjury and were expelled from the State by citizens acting under orders from Governor Boggs. Escaping into Illinois Smith claimed to receive a special revelation enjoining polygamy. The proclamation and practice of this infamous doctrine made him so obnoxious to the people that he was lodged in jail and afterwards shot by an infuriated mob in 1843.

4. It is a fact that the Mormons started in 1846 for Utah under the leadership of Brigham Young, who died in 1877. He was succeeded by Taylor, who died in Mexico in 1887, a fugitive from justice under the Edmunds anti-polygamy law, by Woodruff, who died last year, and by Lorenzo Snow, the present incumbent.

5. It is a fact that the Mountain Meadow massacre occurred in 1857 in Utah, when one hundred and twenty emigrants on their way to California were butchered by a company of Mormons and Indians led by John D. Lee acting under orders from Brigham Young. The Mormons concealed the guilty parties

for twenty years; but the leader, John D. Lee, was arrested on testimony of detectives, convicted in a federal court on Mormon testimony and executed in 1877. Brigham Young's death soon afterwards prevented his being brought to a trial for this shocking crime. The emigrants were camped in a valley surrounded by hills and were besieged in vain for a few days. The Mormons then presented a flag of truce and promised the emigrants their lives if they would lay down their arms and leave all they had. The proposition was accepted and the emigrants were marched out in single file, the men first, who were shot by Indians in ambush at a given signal, while the Mormons cruelly slaughtered the women and children. Their bodies were left to vultures while the property was divided among the perpetrators of the atrocious deed.

6. It is a fact that the Greek word, Mormon, means (Liddell and Scott), a hideous she-monster, a fitting name for such a system as that styled, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."

7. It is a fact that the Mormons accept the "Book of Mormon" and the "Doctrine and Covenants" to be as holy and authoritative as the Bible itself. 8. It is a fact that the Book of Mormon is a religious romance chiefly purporting to be a history of the American Indians from 600 B. C. to A. D. 400. Although Smith claimed to have discovered by direction of an angel metallic plates on which were inscribed in a peculiar writing the revelation, it is known to be largely inspired by a manuscript novel written by Solomon Spaulding, an unsuccessful Presbyterian preacher, and afterwards revised by another eccentric preacher, Sidney Hixson, who inserted Scripture passages to give it the effect of a revelation from God. Joseph Smith dictated the Book of Mormon to an amanuensis, keeping himself concealed behind a curtain, a red blanket, stretched across the room. Soon afterwards the plates disappeared.

9. It is a fact that Mormonism claim that the whole earth has been given to them by God and that all who do not become Mormons are to be exterminated by them, just as Israel destroyed the Canaanites.

10. It is a fact that Mormonism teaches polygamy as the perpetual family of God. God is represented as a polygamist, having a material "body and all the parts and passions of a man;" he co-habited with Eve and became the father of the human race, and with the Virgin Mary, another of his wives, and became the father of Jesus. Mary and Martha and Mary Magdalene were wives of Jesus, a polygamist. Deceit forbids the mention of other polygamous teachings.

11. It is a fact that Mormons teach that child-bearing will continue throughout eternity, the saints becoming fathers and mothers in the next just as in this world, and that this will be one of the chief means of man's glory, he being the most exalted who has the greatest number of wives.

12. It is a fact that Mormons teach that unmarried women go straight to perdition, however excellent their characters, while all married women, however wicked, go straight to heaven. Out of marriage no salvation for a Mormon woman.

13. It is a fact that the "Book of Mormon" forbids polygamy, but Joseph Smith received a later "Revelation on the Eternity of the Marriage Covenant, including Plurality of wives," and authorized polygamy.

[Continued on 4th page.]

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