

Torch of Reason

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THURSDAY, NOV. 22, E. M. 300.

REPUBLIC VS. THEOCRACY.

The American Eagle and Her Black Cuckoos.

When we think of the millions of church property exempted from taxation, and that all of that property is a direct tax upon the productive energies of the people; that all of that property is non-productive, and yet is held and used to wean the people from this world and the republic, and to bring a "kingdom" in which a "Christ" is to reign, to take its place, the innocence of our people as victims present, and to be, passes belief. Because churches do not avowedly co-operate it is not observed that they do so practically. They are just so much of the energy and production of our people taken from them and lost, for the purposes of this world; as much so as though they had committed suicide and thrown all that property into the sea. But far worse, for all that energy and property is turned against the republic whenever an opportunity arises. It is constantly in co-operation with the enemies of Republicanism abroad; it is the ally of every influence of the few against the masses of the people in this country. Its spirit and policy can never change for it is not only the rival of the republic, but it can never succeed in this world or in any other without the extinction of the republic. Yet the republic exempts its property, and spends no little of its time and energy in nursing it into life and strength and paying its way.

There are certain innocent birds

who never can tell the cuckoo's eggs from their own until they are hatched, and hardly then. They let these big strangers grab the food from their own young until they are thrown out of the nest by them to starve, and the mother bird then knows no better than to go on feeding the big robbers as though she was their mother instead of their slave. Strange freak of nature, all agree. Then let us ask our Uncle Samuel to retire the American Eagle from this ruinous business at once.

Those Mormons Again.

The examinations which a few hours enabled us to make of the Mormons and their doings in and about Salt Lake City shows the Mormon problem to be as far as ever from solution. It is one of the great dangers that impends over the Republic. For as long as the Bible, Christianity and the doctrine of the Personal Immortality is sustained, the Mormons have the decided advantage of all "religious" sects maintaining those dogmas. Their avowed but doubtful "suspension" of the practice of polygamy has very greatly added to their power. And their secret, but well known alliance with the Republican party in the last election, puts them in the position of the most favored religion. We have only to compare the majority of 51,000 for Bryan in 1896 with the 5,000 for McKinley this month to see how well the state of Utah can be handled by the priesthood; and if you ask the reason in Salt Lake City, you are placed on the role of "blessed innocents." The policy of the "saints" is to become solid with the party likely to win, before election, and then to jump in on the winning side and realize. This is done on every issue, national, state, city and county, down to the smallest issue or officer.

The attempt, if it ever was made, to increase the population of Utah by general immigration is no longer keeping the Mormon minority where it was. The church imports its "converts" from nearly every part of the civilized world, and they being of the poorer classes, can be settled and made contented in a mode of life that would be intolerable to ordinary immigrants. Besides they have caretakers and friends of the incomers who mitigate their hardships, and the consolations of a religion are at once a home maker in this, as well as the next world. They have enough to eat here, and oceans of manna and nectar, all sure in the world to come; in which they are to be resurrected on this earth, in the body, and with all the family and saints to help to realize the glory of the Patriarchal system of the Bible, for Christ shall surely come just as he said.

All forms of Cristianity and Immortality are simply the feeders and confirmants of these delusions. This is a new and improved form of Bible Christianity, at every point, and it is almost exactly adjusted to the wants of the mass of the people they address. It is the Theocratic and Tribal Communism and Socialism of the Hebrew tribes and of the New Testament combined. Their Christian opponents having forced them out of polygamy, can make no further consistent case against them; and where the evil is to end, no one knows.

The Roman Catholic Christians present the same Theocratic difficulty in an enlarged form. It is the old story of "imperium in imperio"—the Republic with two Theocratic empires within itself eating out its vitals. The fact is now as plain as day that both of these concerns are sustained by Christianity. Indeed, they are the most taking forms of that craze. The Mormon saints in their late manifesto say: "Mormonism is not the work of men, but is the work of God. Its doctrines have been established for a wise purpose in Him to prepare mankind for Christ's second coming, and reign on earth.

In short, so-called Mormonism, broad in scope, tolerant, truthseeking, is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as such is destined to be the religion of the future. Its truths built upon direct revelation from God, are constantly gaining ground and correspond perfectly to the needs of the age."

The heaven of this religion is to be in no sky-parlor, but on the plains they till now, or elsewhere on this earth, when Christ comes to call "the quick and the dead." And they are all preparing for him by sending out colonies and missionaries so that they will have homes in Mexico and our states. The Temple at Jackson, Missouri, from which they were driven in their early history, they are now engaged in rebuilding. The common schools they favor and patronize, so as to get them in their power; but their education is always completed by their theology, or they say:

"Besides the institutions of learning founded by President Young, President Woodruff a few years ago, realizing that true education is based upon a correct theology, counseled the organization of a church school system which has grown until nearly all the states have their academies."

The cunningness with which this Theocracy works out its plans would give the Jesuits lessons in their "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" policy. The Salt Lake people are much amused at the way good Mormons were nominated on the Democratic ticket, to be defeated most strangely by the

Mormon votes, this time for a Republican. There is not time for more details.

Now a few words for the remedy. If the "God in the Constitution Fellows," were the only Theocrats to be met, the indifference of Liberals and Patriots might be intelligible. But back of them stand the Roman and the Mormon Hierarchies, and back of them all, there is of Christianity; and they all are the deadly enemies of this Republic, which is to be replaced by "thy kingdom come" and the "reign" of Christ on earth. With their ascendancy this Republic would not last one presidential term. They cannot be separated from Christianity, of which they are the most living parts. This fact can no longer be put out of sight. They can only be defeated by the defeat of Christianity. To do that the Religion of Science and Humanity, which is the only religion in harmony with a republic, should take its place. In a word, a Republican religion must take the place of the Theocratic religion.

Now that the election is over, is there not time for Republicans, Democrats and Populists to consider what the real danger of the Republic is, and to join in support of the Freethought, Liberal and Secular Congress and its auxiliary Unions, by whom alone that danger is really opposed?

The Mormons Not a Model.

It seems a little singular at first, that no great religion was ever started by a priesthood or by paid advocates or apostles. Paul, Mahomet, George Fox, and Joseph Smith seem but samples, not only of no pay, but of small means, and of less common sense. The Mormons seem to be working on a similar plan in sending out their missionaries. We were told that the Religion of Science and Humanity must have a similar unpaid advocacy in laying its foundation among the people.

If the new religion was like the old, based upon a craze of supernatural hope and fear, evidenced by nervous spasms, and all the result of childish illusions about the earth and sky and dreams and spooks, it might be so. But now the world of the intelligent is to be reached and moved, it can only be done by men of intelligence, scientific education, firmness of character, and love of their fellow men.

Men and women of that description must not only be favored by nature, but education must render the gifts of nature effective.

These results cannot be attained without means, time, study and sacrifice. One of the greatest blessings to the world of a Liberal University will be the possibility of