

cold storm, every cold night, only postpones the day of danger; indeed, it adds to the apprehension that exists, for it either increases the sorrow in the mountains or gives assurance that the sun's rays will be still hotter when they get a chance.

For their own sake, and for the sake of the city and its inhabitants, the NEWS implores the authorities to go to work and do something. If nothing more, let them ask questions; or if they are too proud for that, let them at least cease to be obstacles and get out of other people's way. We demand that our servants whom we pay shall help us, or that they will free us of their officiousness and presence and permit us to help ourselves.

THE CITY POSTMASTERSHIP.

We do not know how many candidates there are for the position of postmaster of Salt Lake City, nor do we know or particularly care who they are; they are one and all good men for the position, doubtless, in this respect resembling the present incumbent and his predecessor, and most of those who have preceded them. Their fond expectations being admitted, and their fitness generally conceded, we are somewhat reluctant to remind them of a ruling recently made by Postmaster General Bissell which seems to have direct reference to their case.

It appears that an Illinois congressman was persistent in requesting the appointment of a certain Democrat to a fat postmastership in his district. "But the present incumbent has not served his term out yet," replied Mr. Bissell. "Perhaps you do not understand the circumstances," suggested the congressman; "the incumbent was appointed only a few months since to succeed a Republican who had died just before the expiration of his term, and who was put in office peremptorily by the Republican administration three years before Mr. Cleveland's appointee to the same office finished his term. Is it the rule of your office to respect tenure of office to the extent that a Republican appointee, named only to fill a vacancy, shall be considered as having entered upon a full term and be permitted to serve undisturbed till it is ended? The case I have cited shows that the postoffice department under the last administration did not do business in that unbusiness-like way." "That is the rule, nevertheless," Mr. Bissell is reported to have rejoined; "and the conduct of the last administration which you refer to so approvingly may have constituted one of the chief reasons why the party of that administration was turned out of power." The congressman is said to have bit his lip in anger, and, holding his tongue, retired from the Bissell presence in disgust.

We quote the incident for the pecuniary and mental benefit of local aspirants for places already capably filled and still unresigned. Why may not what is given as a rule in the Illinois case be the rule in Utah also? Mr. Nash, the postmaster of Salt Lake City, has scarcely entered upon his term, if by the latter is meant the date of his appointment without reference to the unused remnant of his predecessor's hold on the place. If

they could be convinced that three years or more must yet elapse before their claims can be considered, certain Democrats that we hear of would wisely decide to quit office-seeking and go into some kind of business. They ought to thank the NEWS for pointing out what their duty and prospects in the premises are.

THE NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

John W. Judd was yesterday selected by President Cleveland as successor to C. S. Varian in the office of United States attorney for this Territory, the change to take effect so soon as the appointee may qualify. This of course cannot be until his commission arrives, but we may say with safety that the new official will enter upon the discharge of his duties some time during the coming week.

As to the question of fitness, nothing need be said regarding the new attorney; his abilities, his experience and his personal integrity are too well known to make comment thereon otherwise than so much surplusage. He has the poise of mind, the directness of purpose, and that sense of impartiality and fairness which should characterize every agent of the people whether in their individual or their aggregate and official capacity. In this respect Attorney Judd ought to be superior to some of the prosecutors we have had, who seemed to imagine that it was their official duty to be partisans in the work of investigating charges and prosecuting individuals—as if the Government's or Territory's were the only side of the case they were supposed to know anything about. Of course they should recognize that public policy does not become strengthened through the conviction of the innocent or subjecting any one to annoyance or disadvantage without sufficient cause—that, in short and in reality, a prosecuting attorney should represent the people whether it leads him to either prosecute or defend one charged with crime.

In all this no reflection upon Mr. Varian or any of his assistants is intended. He has discharged his duties—unpleasant enough at times, no doubt—in a decidedly able and impartial manner and he retires with the respect of his legal associates and many others who know him. The NEWS tenders its congratulations to him on his restoration to private life, and to Judge Judd it wishes every success in what we believe to be his first experience as a prosecuting officer.

A LIGHT THAT DOESN'T ENLIGHTEN.

In a recent editorial in the New York Sun on "The Mormon Temple," the disposition to be unfair, to join in with that class which has made anti-Mormonism its study by day and its dream by night until the mind has become so warped that it is incapable of even an involuntary impulse the other way, is so manifest that any unprejudiced reader must be struck with it at a glance. It is the more marked because following an introductory

paragraph of unusual fairness—one in which the writer's native honesty and disposition to be fair evidently have away; all or nearly all after it is so much pandering to the ignorant prejudice of a misguided populace, and as such is undignified, uncalled-for and strangely incongruous.

The paragraph spoken of is as follows:

The faith or foresight which induced Brigham Young and his little band of Mormons to lay the foundation of a vast Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City forty years ago, was justified in the dedication of the completed edifice last Thursday. This huge Temple has cost more than \$5,000,000, or more than any other religious edifice in the Union, though the estimated cost of the cathedral of St. John the Divine, to be erected in this city, is about \$7,000,000. It [the former] is of a structure so massive that it will remain for centuries, unless destroyed by accident or intentional violence.

It will be observed that there is no special praise in these lines whereby they commend themselves to our attention; they amount to simple statements of fact, containing nothing by way of endorsement or censure, and factious to be good enough in any case whether used as swords or shields. But facts long continued relating to a cause which a majority of the world's people have elected to be unpopular might militate against the popularity of the paper; and doubtless realizing this, the writer within a few lines thereafter switches off to the track on which the approval of the greater number will not be a matter of question. He says—"The day of the dedication of the Temple was also the sixty-third anniversary of the foundation of Mormonism. In 1830 Joseph Smith printed and published the Book of Mormon, which he professed to have discovered at Manchester, a hamlet in western New York, under angelic direction and guidance. His story was that he found it buried in a box, and that the revelation was written on thin gold plates."

The Sun every day prints as the truth matter reported to it, when its only evidence that such is the case is the unsupported statement of the person who claims to have seen or heard the things spoken of, and in most cases such person is utterly unknown to the journalist. But that it cannot—or affects that it cannot—believe statements duly verified by reputable men when such statements happen to be an endorsement of the correctness of the history of Mormonism as told by its founders, is apparent in the lines which follow:

Really it was a manuscript written fifteen or twenty years before by a cranky preacher as a historical romance, of which Smith had obtained possession. He was an almost illiterate young man, of a bad inheritance of qualities, but at once he found many people who were ready to accept his imposture as a veritable message from God. One of the earliest accessions to the new religion thus fabricated was Brigham Young, a painter and glazier from Vermont, in which state also Smith himself was born.

Not only does the Sun repudiate the evidence spoken of—evidence made good in accordance with the forms of law and which would be received in any civilized court—but it proceeds upon a plan peculiar