

be leaders of political thought in this part of the world have something yet to learn. People cannot eat silver, sleep silver, talk silver or even think silver all the time. It is a great question and vital. But the government of Salt Lake City in the interest of the taxpayers and of honest, clean methods is not dependent upon it as an issue in any particular whatsoever.

#### "APPOINT GOOD MEN TO OFFICE."

For people in this community to flare up in indignation or affright over advice to the above effect, emanating from any man or any place whatsoever, is one of the signs of the tightness of the grip which partisanship has upon its devotees; also of a suspicion which, whether baseless or not, still exists in an active form. We take it that no citizen who calls himself respectable will find any fault with such counsel in the abstract. No man claiming to be honest and free will deny that so far as his vote and influence go, he has always done the very thing above counseled—he believes in it heartily and wholly. Yet it seems more difficult to remove one whisper of suspicion as to the meaning and motives of such advice in this community at this time than to furnish a volume of explanations and assurances, any of which, without that suspicion, would be ample and satisfactory.

President Woodruff's words if uttered by the minister of any other church and from any other pulpit in Utah, would have created no excitement at all, neither would they have been criticized; for as they stand they embody the essence of good patriotism and good citizenship. Had he been anyone and anywhere else he might have said all he did say, all that he is misquoted as saying, and more than that even, and still have escaped the flood of complaint that is now turned loose upon his devoted head. The truth is that the head and front of his offending, in the eyes of the rebellious and disturbing element which feeds on strife and fattens on discord, is that he is the leader of the Latter-day Saints and preached in their chief place of assembly. It is less what he said, and still less what he meant, than what he is and where he said it.

The element referred to will not be satisfied with any explanations, however clearly and honestly given; and it is useless to waste effort upon them. But there are thousands of others, better citizens, who, while they remember old conditions with their strifes and bitternesses, and thus cannot entirely eradicate a dread of anything that in the remotest degree seems to look to a revival of those conditions, would, from the depths of their hearts loathe any selfish attempt to restore them. They have had enough of such trouble. They want peace. They want all classes to work together in harmony for the common welfare and for the prosperity of our city and State. To such people the "News" would speak in all frankness and sincerity, appealing to their reason, their sense of justice and their manhood. We ask them in calmness to indicate wherein there is ground for the suspicion that the Mormon people have been advised to draw away from their political parties, or that they are going to do so. Has not the same falsehood been told before, only to be nailed in the most positive manner at the ballot box? Have any people ever been more true in sticking to their parties and supporting the party candidates than have the Mormon people? It is the testimony of leading non-Mormons themselves that their own class have not been nearly as steadfast in

support of party nominations as have the Mormons. When an Apostle or a High Priest or a Seventy or a Bishop has been beaten at the polls in almost exclusively Mormon communities by apostates or non-Mormons who have been on the ticket of the opposite political party, as has been the case in numerous instances, there would appear to be no ground for a charge of disloyalty to party or an intention to break down its lines. As between "Mormons" and "Gentiles" on the tickets, the latter have never been discriminated against by Mormons. What sense is there in assuming all at once that this is going to be entirely changed? What honesty is there in attaching to President Woodruff's words a construction and a meaning so utterly false as the insinuation that the Mormons are advised all to flock to one party, their own, and that national parties will have no standing in the community?

We are pleased to see that the more reputable and consistent people and papers that have expressed themselves—those who think with their brains instead of their mouths—utterly scout the dangers and the policy which a few soreheads and fire-breathing malecontents imagine and point out. This is creditable to their heart and mind. The other class, numbering some who do not yet know that the war is over, and some who never fought at all but think they are cut out for fighters nevertheless, and who hunt their holes at the first smell of powder—these can be allowed to go on with their harmless bluster. It seems to please them, and doesn't need to do anybody else any harm.

#### OUR NAVAL STRENGTH.

A Spanish grandee is reported by telegraph as having said that there was not so much to be dreaded in a war with the United States, the navy of his country being as powerful as ours, and so on. Perhaps it is as well to consider both sides of such a case before getting well into it, and the Spaniard's remark may have some usefulness in causing that to be done. A full consideration would undoubtedly develop the fact that a war with Spain, impoverished and enfeebled as she is, would be by no means a summer pleasure party, especially on the sea. On land, if the Spanish were the aggressors, they would simply "march through a slaughter house to open graves," but if our forces sought to effect a landing over there and follow it up with an invasion, there would unquestionably be some very hard fighting.

And yet, the Spanish navy is in no material respect equal to ours although, perhaps, ranking next to it. The exact situation is as follows:

	Spain.	United States.
Armored ships.....	11	33
Guns of same—heavy.....	154	168
Light .....	168	513
Unarmored ships .....	63	33
Guns of same—heavy.....	146	192
Light .....	160	359
Armored gunboats .....	2	...
Guns of same—heavy.....	3	...
Light .....	9	...
Unarmored gunboats .....	40	28
Dispatch vessels .....	2	1
Torpedo boats—No. 1.....	60	18
No. 2 .....	19	9

The real test would presumably lie between the armored and the torpedo vessels, this country being considerably ahead in the matter of the former and still further behind regarding the latter. In addition to this statement it should be known that five armored ships are not yet com-

pleted, but are in that advanced stage of construction at which completion could be reached in something of a hurry if the emergency should arise so they are properly counted. The question, then, rests largely upon the respective armament and equipment of the floating destroyers. It should also be known that we have nineteen port defense ships to one for Spain, while in the matter of cruisers, that nation has six ranking as "first-class 'a'" to five for the United States. As to guns, Spain has 960, this country 1,640—an enormous advantage in our favor—and we spend about \$4,000,000 a year more than it does on naval architecture, no insignificant item by any means.

There are two other important entities to be considered in this connection—personal fighting qualities and constructive ability. As to the former, it is idle to underestimate either, for both can and will when necessary make a severe battle; as to the latter, Spain is nearly if not quite in a state of inertia, while the actual existence of war seems but to impart an inventive and constructive stimulus to the people of this country. In substantiation of this it is only necessary to point to the War of the Rebellion, in which the Union side engaged almost without fighting craft on the water to begin with; but it was not long so; as if by magic and quite unlooked for, all at once appeared what little could be seen of an ugly-looking float with a tub-shaped contrivance amidships. It didn't look as though it was capable of doing much damage, but it did any amount of it. It fought a draw with and disabled what was considered an invincible Confederate war vessel after the latter had sunk the best ship in the Union service and some others, and then proceeded to clear out all hostile elements from its neighborhood. It was followed in rapid succession by several more, each equally effective, and soon all the coast from Maine to Texas was held by the Union cause. Spain would do well to "look a little out," and something in that line might not be amiss on this side of the water.

#### RALLY!

By non-partisanship in municipal affairs, as the "News" understands the term and contends for the principle, is meant the selection of the best available men for city officers regardless either of their politics or their religion. We interpret the phrase to mean that no amount of party activity or prominence need be considered when the matter of qualifications is under review—that such activity or prominence does not in any way demonstrate or guarantee the possession of fitness for the place to be filled. Those who advocate non-partisanship on the lines herein indicated insist that fitness should be the sole qualification. Those who advocate it from any other view either fail to comprehend the true spirit underlying the movement here and elsewhere, at home and abroad, or they are selfishly false to what its honest promoters are striving for.

By this principle of non-partisanship in city and school affairs, this paper is today as resolutely determined to stand as ever before. If anything, it is more zealous in the cause than ever—this for the reason that under existing conditions there are frequent charges of bad faith, occasional manifestations of unwarranted suspicion, and now and then covert threats as to what will happen unless the "News" changes its tune. The "Deseret News" is not and never was built on any such lines. It has tried to be true