

XIII after deep calculation found that the error of the Julian calendar amounted in the year 1582 to ten days, the vernal equinox falling on the 11th instead of the 21st of March, and as this caused much confusion in religious festivals, a correction was found necessary. He therefore ordained that ten days should be deducted from that year by calling the 5th of October the 15th, and in order to prevent a further recurrence of a similar necessity it was further ordained that every hundredth year (1800, 1900, etc.) should not be a leap year, except every fourth hundredth, beginning with the year 2000. It will therefore be seen that only every fourth year ending a century is a leap year, as commonly every fourth year is. It is nevertheless quite a notable event that an interval of eight years occurs between two leap years. Generations will pass away before it happens the next time, which will be the period between 2096 and 2104.

Those who celebrate their birthday on the 29th day of February should bear in mind this year that they will not have another chance in eight years.

#### A DUTY OF OFFICE-HOLDING.

Judge Howat's resignation of the high position of district judge for Utah having gone into effect, and the Governor having made a happy and satisfactory appointment to fill the vacancy thus created, the NEWS takes the liberty of expressing a thought upon the obligations of office-holding, which it is hoped will not be considered personal to any offensiveness.

We hold that a man who has accepted nomination to public office, whose election his friends and well-wishers have given of their time and means to bring about, and for whom a majority of the voters have cast their ballots, is under a moral contract with the people to perform the duties of the position to which he has been chosen until the end of his term. Public office is not a trust to be trifled with—to be accepted today and handed back tomorrow—to be considered a makeshift or a plaything which may be rejected or abandoned the moment something else is offered. American communities have a right to expect better treatment at the hands of those whom they honor with nomination and election to places of trust and profit; and while no bond may be exacted requiring that the candidate observe all the terms of the obligation which is assumed when he accepts the nomination, there is nevertheless an implied contract or pledge, which with all honorable men is as binding as a bond. It will be a sad day for good office-holders when confidence in their intention to accept and retain the positions for which they are named shall be shaken and destroyed; for then conventions will become a farce, campaigns a mockery and elections a delusion.

We prefer to make no allusion to politics in the discussion of this question, and yet such allusion in the case in point can hardly be omitted. In addition to the discourtesy shown to his own party, Judge Howat by his resignation offers a deliberate affront to hundreds of fair-minded men of the

opposition, who were so far above narrow partisanship as to work and vote for his success as against their own party's nominee. Without their aid he and his colleagues could never have been elected; and surely in Utah's political history no higher compliment was ever paid than to him in November last. With all respect to Judge Howat, we cannot but feel that the community has a just grievance against him.

But, it may be asked, shall a man be required to remain in a minor position when greater honors and advantages present themselves? Our answer would be, that no office in this free land is forced upon any man—if he doesn't expect to fill it he shouldn't accept it at all. And this applies particularly to an elective office. Supposing there were no provision for filling vacancies in such offices (except by a new election); is there any conceivable personal motive that would justify the incumbent in forcing that tremendous trouble and expense upon his constituents? That there is a provision for filling vacancies by appointment alters the case only in its minor aspect; for the people, having said by their own vote that they want a certain man in a certain office, his abandonment of the trust accepted makes it obligatory that some other man, perhaps on whom the people would not have elected or whom they do not know, receive the place at the hands of one man instead of at the hands of the majority of the whole community.

The compensation attached to the judgeship is low; but it has not been reduced any since the nominations for the various places were made last fall. If a candidate could afford to accept then, he ought to be able to occupy now. To decline after election because a better prospect of profit makes its appearance, is to us the unworthiest motive of all. Every circumstance, present and prospective, ought to have been considered before the acceptance of the nomination; having been accepted, nothing but the most extreme necessity should be deemed a sufficient cause for relinquishing it.

The NEWS has ever had the highest admiration of Judge Howat as a citizen and an attorney. It hailed his election as a triumph of judicial fitness over mere partisanship, and hoped for much good from his success. But a conception of public duty has required the foregoing criticism of his recent action, which, however, is to be taken in a general and not a personal sense. Nor do we desire that Judge Street shall feel affronted at any allusion to the manner of his selection. He is to be congratulated upon his appointment, and we sincerely believe, from all that we can hear, that no other name that had been mentioned for the place has met with so large a measure of public favor as his.

#### THE UNION ARMY.

Answering the question as to how many men saw actual service in the Union army during the Rebellion, how many of them were drafted and how many were substitutes for drafted men, W. E. Curtis, the Chicago

Record's excellent Washington correspondent, gives a great deal of valuable information, and a table of figures that will be found interesting. According to his discoveries, the records of the adjutant-general's office show that 2,763,670 troops were called for from the several states, not including the regular army; that 2,778,304, or 14,634 more than called for, were furnished of whom 46,347 were drafted, 73,607 were substitutes for drafted men and 42,581 were substitutes for men who were not drafted—that is, those who could not go to the war themselves, but voluntarily hired others to represent them. The following statement shows the number of men furnished by each state and territory:

State	Men Furnished	State	Men Furnished
Maine	70,107	Kansas	20,119
New Hampshire	33,937	Tennessee	81,092
Vermont	33,298	Arkansas	8,289
Massachusetts	146,730	North Carolina	8,156
Rhode Island	23,236	California	15,723
Connecticut	63,864	Nevada	1,080
New York	418,860	Oregon	1,810
New Jersey	76,814	Washington t'y.	984
Pennsylvania	837,536	Nebraska t'y.	3,157
Delaware	12,284	Colorado t'y.	4,903
Maryland	46,638	Kota t'y.	203
West Virginia	32,468	New Mexico t'y.	6,561
Dis. of Columbia	6,534	Alabama	2,576
Ohio	313,180	Florida	1,290
Indiana	196,463	Louisiana	5,221
Illinois	258,092	Mississippi	645
Michigan	87,364	Texas	1,965
Wisconsin	91,327	Indian Nation	3,330
Minnesota	24,020	Colored troops	99,357
Iowa	76,242		
Missouri	109,111	Total	2,778,304
Kentucky	75,760		

#### DANCING PARTIES.

To the Editor:

As the young people among the Latter-day Saints are proverbially a dance-loving community, and we in Vernal, being no exception to the rule, often participate in this form of recreation, I should be glad if you would give me a little information in regard to the kinds of dances and the method of conducting social parties as approved by the First Presidency of the Church.

There appears to be a craze at the present time for masquerade balls, notices of such frequently appearing in the various newspapers, together with comments upon the appearance made by the participants. It seems to me that several years ago special and specific instructions were issued by the Presidency of the Church, prohibiting the attendance of all Church members at such balls in consequence of the tendency to evil that was associated therewith; and also advising that but few round dances be indulged in at any of the parties attended by the Latter-day Saints.

As we are not quite through the season of amusements and recreation, please kindly state whether such instructions have ever been given, that in the future we may govern ourselves accordingly. And greatly oblige, yours respectfully,  
A SUBSCRIBER.

Our correspondent states correctly the substance of the instructions referred to, and never revoked, thereby responding himself to his request for information, made in the opening sentence of his communication. There was another and vitally important feature in those instructions—that regarding the class of persons admitted to dances under control of Latter-day Saints. We are aware that this latter instruction has been disregarded in too many cases, and those whose