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AN UNPROFITABLE CONTROVERSY.

WE notice that some of our country contemporaries, following in the wake of certain political speakers, have been waging a controversy over the politics, actual or supposed, of the martyred Prophet Joseph Smith, some claiming that he was a Democrat, others that he was a Republican, or would be one if he were now alive in the flesh. With all due respect to both writers and orators, we ask, is not this a rather unprofitable and useless subject for present discussion?

What does it matter to any one today, what views were entertained half a century ago, concerning political parties, one of which was not then born, by an honored and venerated gentleman who has been forty-seven years dead?

Suppose the Republican party had been at that time a reality, or that any then existing party held similar principles to those now entertained by the Republican party, and it could be proven beyond dispute that Joseph Smith favored it, would that be reason enough to induce living, thinking men to join that party now?

If it could be shown that Joseph Smith was a pronounced Democrat, would that be argument why any person should be a Democrat today?

We do not see why his politics fifty years ago should be sufficient to influence the political choice of any citizen at the present time. And this for two reasons: First and foremost, because no man should be a Democrat or a Republican simply for the reason that some other man was one. And second, because times and parties and circumstances change, and every man ought to act in the living present and not be tied to dead issues.

Joseph Smith never required anybody to pattern after his politics or vote as he voted while he was living, and we cannot see why any reasonable being can desire to induce people to do so now he is dead.

Certain it is there was no Republican party in existence during the lifetime of the Prophet. The Whig party was

active then, though it is dead now. Some of its principles have been adopted by the Republican party, and it is claimed by adherents to the latter that the Democrats have borrowed, some say stolen, part of their modern doctrines from the Whigs. However that may be, great changes have come to the country during the past half century, and to go back fifty years and try to dig in such doubtful ground, to discover something that if found would have no practical or rational bearing on the present, seems to us great waste of time, and work unworthy of live men with the important questions of the day before them.

On all such questions the advice of Paul of old is good; and we quote him for those who look for light in the distant past: "*Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*" We say to our friends, investigate, learn for yourselves, seek for light to your own eyes, decide on your own judgment and do not be drawn into doubtful controversies over dead matters and dead men, in view of living issues and present circumstances.

So far as the Church is concerned, it tells no man what party he should join, or what ticket he should vote. Its members are perfectly and absolutely free on these matters. Living or dead, its leaders have no strings upon the people in politics, and those who attempt to pull the people by fictitious cords, in our opinion are in very small and unsatisfactory business.

UTAH AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

CENSUS bulletin No. 85 is devoted to agriculture and irrigation in Utah. It is a valuable condensation of facts relating to this Territory. Even comparative figures with results in Arizona and New Mexico are also given.

There are in Utah Territory a total of 10,757 farms, of which 9,724 are cultivated by irrigation. The average size of irrigated farms is twenty-seven acres. The term "irrigated farm" includes only the area on which crops are raised by irrigation. They are classified as follows. Five irrigated farms of 640 acres or upward; thirteen of from 320 to 640 acres, sixty-five of from 160 to 320 acres. The remaining 9,641 farms, under 160 acres in size, comprised over ninety per cent. of the total irrigated, and average twenty-five acres each. Salt Lake county has the largest number of irrigators, 1,264, with an acreage of 25,392; averaging twenty acres to a farm, and averaging in value of products \$26.73 per acre. Sanpete comes next, and Utah a good third.

The smallest number of irrigators is in San Juan county, being only thirty-eight, with 777 acres, averaging twenty acres to the farm.

The average cost of water right is \$10.55 per acre, and the average cost of preparing the soil for cultivation, including the purchase price of the land, is 16.10 per acre. The average present value of the irrigated land of the territory, including buildings, etc., is reported as \$34.25 per acre, showing an apparent profit, less cost of buildings, of \$57.60 per acre. The average annual cost of water is 91 cents per acre, which, deducted from the average annual value of products per acre, leaves an average annual return of \$17.12 per acre.

Utah had in 1889, 263,473 irrigated acres, Arizona 65,821, and New Mexico 91,745. The first cost of water in Arizona is \$7.07 per acre, in New Mexico \$5.58, and in Utah \$10.55, while the annual cost of these Territories is respectively \$1.55, \$1.54, and 91. The average value of products per acre is \$13.92 in Arizona, \$12.80 in New Mexico and \$18.03 in Utah.

Mr. Porter, the superintendent of the census, says:

"The invariable tendency to describe as 'irrigated' all land to which water has been applied within any recent period by artificial means, land to which ditches so far destitute of water have been constructed, and even land for which water rights merely are claimed, has placed the Census Office under the necessity of absolutely restricting itself in its official bulletins on irrigation to land on which crops were actually raised by the artificial application of water during the census year 1889."

The use of flowing wells for the irrigation of gardens, orchards and vineyards was considered, so important that at the taking of the agricultural census, the enumerators obtained the number of artesian wells owned by each farmer. The total number was 2524. Facts concerning the depth, cost, flow, etc., were obtained from the owners of 987 wells. The average depth is 145.54 feet, and the average cost \$77.80 per well, the average cost per foot in depth being 53 cents. The diameter of these wells ranged from one and a quarter to four inches, or, in a few cases, to six inches or more, the average being from one and three quarters to two and one-half inches. The average amount of water discharged by these wells equals 26 gallons per minute.

Each successful flowing well will irrigate 4.74 acres, averaging a cost of \$16.37 per acre. It should be noted, however, that this average cost is estimated exclusively from successful flowing wells, and that a large amount of money has been expended in sinking wells without any return.

These flowing wells are confined