

EDITORIALS.

ON THE DEFENSIVE.

It appears as if the political conflict that constitutes a conspicuous feature of local affairs in Utah is irrepressible. There is no definite prospect of a cessation. There is one fact that may be set down in relation to it—the clash will not stop so long as the assaulting party keep up their attacks for the purpose of foisting themselves into power and enslaving the majority of the people. The latter desire to have it known that they are on the defensive, and will maintain that position, and that the other side of the conflict is entirely responsible for the disturbing condition which retards the progress of the Territory, and for whatever undesirable results may accrue. Not only are the feet of the majority firmly planted in a defensive attitude, but they will maintain that position, defending their rights to the last extremity. Were they to have any other determination and act on any other line they would be unworthy the heritage of freedom, by which they propose to stand. The schemes of those who would sink the sovereign people into serfdom and make them the subjects of plunder, spoil and abuse are more or less understood. It is not to be presumed that the proposed victims shall stand idly by and allow any intended victimization to be carried into effect.

AN OPEN FIELD.

Do the young men of Utah ever reflect upon the future possibilities within their reach? If so, they will be able to penetrate, with the mind's eye, the present comparative murkiness and catch a glimpse of the glowing beyond. The destiny of the work with which they are connected is onward. Developments here and elsewhere will cause good and capable men to be in demand. Compared with their value that of the gold of Ophir will dwindle into disappearance. The area of opportunity for usefulness will broaden, until all who are worthy will be able to thrust in their sickles and reap. There is no nobler field than will be found among the Saints, whose influence will yet be felt among the hosts of men.

The motto among the young should be—read, think, observe and work. Enter the avenue that leads to greatness or largeness. Although truly great men are often, if not always born so, the way to greatness is more or less open to all who are of sound mind. The eminence is attained by a process of addition, progress in moral and intellectual increase going hand in hand. A small man has limited information and narrow sympathies; a great man is his antipodes. The aspiration of true greatness is to be useful to his kind. That of true littleness is to be useful to oneself. It is not essential that a man should aspire to position, which is merely an auxiliary in the field of usefulness. The better course is to prepare, so that when circumstances or duty require position to be assumed, it will form the capstone of the comely pillar already erected. When he retires the structure remains.

Let the young men of Utah decide that with them the era of thought and progress has set in.

GRAVING A DECLINATION.

ASSURVATION and denial have become the chief arts of politics. If we may judge by the anxiety republican newspapers display in the desire to have Grover Cleveland peremptorily decline a renomination for the presidency, he is certainly the one man they fear most. The correspondents began, early in the spring, hunting down such a determination by the President. It was charged by a correspondent that the Land Office Commissioner, W. A. J. Sparks, had written a certain letter strongly anti-Cleveland and it had been traced to New York, and into the possession of Fred Stokes. After searches, talks, columns and columns of newspaper cheap talk, the whole thing fell through. Then it was alleged that ex-Representative Dorsheimer had received a letter from the President in which he stated he would refuse a renomination. Dorsheimer denied having received such a letter, or having heard anything which would lead him to believe such a letter had been penned. Senator George C. Vest is now frantically appealed to as one who knows of the existence of such a letter, and he makes a denial. When troubled with the gout Republican papers entertained grave fears that he would not survive; now that he gives promise of surviving they are worried lest he should be renominated. President Cleveland's is a singular position. Disliked naturally by Republicans, and also by some of his own party, he is recognized by the former as the most formidable and dangerous foe, by the latter as a man

many do not want, but without whom they are lost.

Parties are badly stretched and the times show us that party principle is not nearly so strong as men under a party name. Once grave and important issues are forgotten the past of the man and his promises have now become the weapons of defense and aggression, where once fidelity to fundamental principle was the banner under which parties gained a grand success or sustained an honest and noble defeat.

THE COMMISSION TO THE COERCION COMMITTEE.

THE reply of the Utah Commission to the coercion committee of the Loyal League appears in our columns to-day. It is a terse and pointed paper, showing unmistakably that it was framed by gentlemen well versed in legal logic. Having truth for its base and the reasoning being in harmony with the foundation, it is entirely free from ambiguity, going direct to the point at issue.

The first statement alone is a clincher, and has not been and cannot be denied by the coercers. The oath furnished by the Commission "is in accordance with the law." As this cannot be admitted by those who demand that it be changed and stretched, it places them clearly in the position of persons insisting upon more than is in accordance with the law.

There is a direct home thrust in reason number two. If the changes insisted upon are equivalent to the act of Congress they are a superfluity, the law of itself being all sufficient. If this equivalence does not exist the proposed alterations are illegal. That manner of putting the proposition made a clean sweep of the ground upon which the committee of coercion had planted their feet. The Commission take the consistent ground that statutory construction in which the exercise of the franchise is involved should be according to the strict language of the law, with a leaning in favor of political manhood. On the other hand those who undertook to coerce the Commission insist upon a departure from the language of the statute and a construction in direct opposition to political manhood. They demanded an interpretation and manipulation that would break the political equality of citizens, establish a caste with their own class in the ascendant, that they might demolish the rule in relation to majorities and ride into local power. Acquiescence with such a demand would be intrinsically illegal, not to say outrageous. The law is unambiguous, and there is no necessity for mystified interpretations of it. It is its own interpreter. Citizens of this Territory not specifically disqualified are, on taking the oath prescribed by law, entitled to vote.

The lateness of the application of the coercers, the nearness of the time for beginning the work of registration and the large expense that would cause as a consequence of a change would not, taken singly or in the aggregate, furnish a good and sufficient reason for the declination of the Commission to make the alteration, had the demand been in accord with a requirement of the law. Had there been ample time, and there had been no danger of encroaching upon the period devoted for registration and had the expense been ever so great, conformity with the outrageous political trick would have been most disgraceful. It would have practically placed the committee in the seat of the Commission and consigned the latter to eternal infamy. Fortunately, however, the latter resolved to be governed by the law in place of adopting the illegal formula of a bevy of political plotters which did not even have the merit of plausibility.

The Commission take the ground that Congress was not in the business of prescribing moral and religious creeds for citizens, and had not undertaken to penetrate the inner recesses of the human mind—a process outside the range of human mental philosophy—and deal with its internal condition. The mental status can only be judged, in human affairs, by outward manifestations. To attempt to define and legislate upon human thought and belief independent of action is a *prima facie* absurdity. Those who attempt it trench upon the divine prerogative. It involves an impossibility, indicates a despicable disposition to tyranny, is a manifestation of the acme of egotism, and may only be expected from such persons as are seeking to reduce the majority of the people of Utah to political slavery to serve their own ulterior purposes.

As far as the oath is concerned, Congress has prescribed it, and the Commission have framed it in exact uniformity with the congressional idea. Now steps in a Loyal League committee of perversion and coercion and demands that Congress be treated with contempt and that the Commission render themselves objects of the same sentiment by committing a most outrageously illegal act. That is the situation in a nutshell.

The patience and courtesy of the Commission toward the committee, considering the character of the demand made by the latter, has been quite marked. Patience is not easily exercised when a flagrant attempt is made to reduce those who are called to exhibit it to the level of catspaws.

LOOKING FORWARD.

THE faithful Saints are looking forward to gigantic changes and revolutions in the affairs of nations. They are at the doors. They also anticipate numerous and pronounced changes within their own community. The one class of progressive events is correlative to the other. The whole is to be crowned with the greatest culminating event connected with this creation in its temporal state—the coming of Christ.

It is held that the revolutionary epoch upon which the earth may be said to have already entered is necessary as a preparation for the second advent of the Savior, as there is to be a tremendous reduction of the human forces that are opposed to the genius of His government and an increase of that class of people who will be ready to welcome His appearance, that when he shall come, He may find faith on the earth.

Numerous agencies will operate to produce the many preparatory changes. They are defined in the revelations to the Church, and their introductory conditions or strong premonitory symptoms already exist and will continue to develop until all human things will be "in commotion." The nations will be wasted by war, in which all of them will engage. Secret combinations, seeking to overthrow social and political organization, will disturb the governments. Classes will clash with each other in violence, struggling for mastery. The earth will pulsate and rock to and fro like a drunken man, filling its dwellers with terror and engulfing many in the gaping crevices which shall open with the force of her throes. Storms will sweep over the sea, multiplying ocean disasters and increasing the danger of marine travel almost beyond conception, while the warring elements will contribute their fury for the promotion of destruction on the land. Failures of crops will cause gaunt famine to give its quota of affliction. The nations will waste away and such a time as has not been will exist.

Refuge from those great calamities will be found among those who receive and obey the fullness of the Gospel as revealed anew in this age, but they too must be chastened and bear the chastisement without murmuring, for the people of God must have experience to fit them for their high destiny. Hence the afflictions of the Saints, that they may be both purified and educated.

It is interesting to note the growth of belief in relation to the literal coming of Christ. It has spread considerably of late years and is gradually gaining ground. There are several causes leading to the development and increase of this phase of Christian opinion and expectation. One is the preaching of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It has been proclaimed by them since the organization of the Church in 1830, that Christ would come before the entire generation living at the time of the revelation of the fullness of the Gospel to Joseph Smith should pass away. That is to say, there would be mortals living at the time of the second advent who lived at the time of the introduction of the Gospel in these latter times. They have described the character of the precursory events and predicted their appearance and multiplication, and as they have spoken so has it developed. The signs of the times are significant. They have a striking resemblance to those which Christ described as the conditions that would precede His coming in power to reign on the earth. Reflecting Christians think upon these coincidental conditions, and although not possessed of the full blaze of Gospel light, faith finds a lodging in their hearts and they look for the coming of the Lord. This may be but the preparatory course to lead them to obey the truth as revealed anew in this age. The heaven is working, this being the day of the preparation of the Lord. When the Jews gather to their own land, a phenomenon that is to precede the second advent of the Redeemer, doubtless it will have the effect of still further increasing the number of those who have faith in the coming of the Lord. When people who have inclinations to religious views see one striking predicted event fulfilled, it strengthens their anticipation of the verification of others in the same connection.

An interesting paper, called *Messiah's Herald*, is published in Boston, by what is known as The American Millennial Association. It is devoted exclusively to the promotion and spread of belief in the literal and speedy coming of Christ and the establishment of a millennial reign. The organization appears to have a wide influence, and although it does not possess the Gospel in its power we wish it success in its sphere, as an aid in spreading faith in a fact of the future that is to startle this generation with its fulfillment.

Boston is worried a good deal over a bill which has just passed the Massachusetts Legislature. Heretofore that city has had a saloon for every 168 inhabitants, but the new law gives it one to every 500 people. There are now 2,300 saloons in the Hub. After the law passes there will be 700.

THE CONSPIRACY DEVELOPS.

THE public are aware that the Utah Commission issued a form of oath in strict conformity with the Edmunds-Tucker act to be subscribed to by those whose names are to appear on the registration lists. Copies of it together with instructions in relation to the nature of their duties and the manner of their performance, were placed in the hands of the registrars throughout the Territory.

It is also a matter of notoriety that a committee representing a knot of conspirators also formulated an oath in which they introduced matter foreign to both the letter and spirit of the law and demanded of the Commission that they discard the one they had shaped and adopt theirs. As a matter of course the Commission very properly resisted this illegal proceeding and impudent usurpation of their official functions.

It transpires that, being defeated so far as the Commission are concerned, the conspirators are still determined to usurp the position of that official body. They have undertaken to tamper with the appointees of the Commission—the registrars. It is announced in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, the organ of conspiracy, that the coercion committee have sent to those officers in the several counties the oath of their formulation. It is accompanied, doubtless, with advice to the effect that it will be the proper thing to do to repudiate the instructions of the official body which appointed them and place themselves under complete subjection to the Loyal League.

The insolence of this proceeding is only equalled by its outrageous illegality. It would scarcely be a step in advance of the present presumptive attitude of the conspirators were they to establish an office, organize as a Utah Commission and run a regular and systematic opposition to the one appointed and authorized by the government. This is really what has already been practically done. Such conduct is one of the grossest insults to a body of government officials that could possibly be offered, and the Commission owe it to their own self-respect as gentlemen, to the administration they represent and to the law, that they take vigorous steps to prevent this usurpative interference with officers in the discharge of their duties, and to prevent any mischievous results liable to accrue from it.

The excuse offered by the schemers, through their organ, is characteristic. It is to the effect that those who compose the committee of coercion have "infinitely more at stake" in the matter than the Commission. This looks like a frank confession of perfidy. The Commission have at stake their honor, their oaths of office, their duty as officers of the law. The coercion committee consider these as nothing. Such considerations do not amount to a featherweight with them. The stake with them is to usurp local office, and ride roughshod over the rights of the people. In order to do this they will override and insult officials of the Government or any others who may stand in their way by adhering to the performance of their duty. What other stake is it presumed that such men as O. H. Hollister, C. W. Bennett, W. H. Dickson, (the deposed District Attorney), R. N. Baskin, William M. McKay et al. would have outside of the one herein defined? Such men, by their unscrupulous methods, spiced by the most inhuman vindictiveness, show that for such as they are to grasp and hold the reins of local power would plunge the commonwealth into the direst misfortune.

LAND AND LIBERTY.

A CONDITION of affairs has lately come into existence in portions of this Territory which will probably spread to other parts of it, and which demands the serious and thoughtful consideration of that class of our citizens who may be properly termed the old settlers and founders of this inter-mountain commonwealth. We refer to the so-called "real estate boom." It is not our purpose to attempt any explanation of the causes that have produced the comparatively sudden and remarkable activity in the real estate market in this city, Ogden, and perhaps other towns in the Territory, but to insist that a well considered and a wise policy should be at once adopted and firmly adhered to by the class of citizens to whom we have alluded, in respect to this "boom."

Our Territorial press is almost a unit in "booming the boom," as the popular phrase has it. Organs of the enemies of the people, and papers hitherto classed as the latter's friends and champions, vie with each other in stimulating the activity and increasing the excitement of the real estate market, until what might almost be termed a craze in real estate is threatened. The occasion calls for sound, far-sighted statesmanship on the part of those who lead the people, and upon the empire-founding people themselves, who inhabit these mountain valleys. This question demands from them an answer. Is it wise to encourage extensive and numerous transfers of real estate in this Territory?

In framing the reply to this grave query, the events that led to the creation in this region of the commonwealth now occupying it should, and if the answer is to be a wise one, must be considered. If motives of speculation and adventure led the pioneers of '47 to undertake their wonderful march to these mountains; if similar motives led the people, of whom they were the vanguard, to follow them and make the pathetic history which narrated their toils and sufferings, their heroic struggles and endurance, in wrenching from the rocks and barren deserts the materials from which to construct homes; if the wrongs which that people endured, were traced in the hope that a future boom in real estate would bring a recompense, then "yes" should be the answer to this query.

But if the motives that led the refugees here, who have since become a mighty people, were a desire to seek a place where they could worship God unmolested, and where they might be able to establish a perfect system of civil and religious liberty, whose benefits should be extended to the utmost limits of their political sway, and be bequeathed to their posterity, then the answer should be an earnest and solemn negative. Why? Because the class who are now seeking to gain possession of the land in Utah are strangers to the masses of the people, and not their friends; and under a republican form of government the owners of the soil rule the land.

The voters who are still permitted to rule the Territory, under the unjust restraint of the national government, would scornfully repudiate the charge of being willing to sell for money their votes. Yet this is exactly in effect what this real estate excitement is leading many of them to do. They would indignantly repudiate the charge of being willing to part with their liberties for a pecuniary consideration, yet this is what they do when they sell to strangers their lands.

Voter of the People's Party, remember this: When you sell your home, you sell your right to rule your home. Is not a solemn responsibility involved in such an act? More than this; when you sell your own home, you sell your power to aid in protecting liberty in the homes of your brethren. A deplorable illustration of the truth of these declarations will certainly transpire shortly, unless the calamity is forestalled by a checking of the present current of events. We refer to the city of Ogden. The friends of liberty and good government retain power in that city by a majority so small that if a score of business men adverse to it were to buy locations there and begin operations with an average of half a score of voting employes, the result would be a revolution so disastrous to property interests, saying nothing of the other harm that would be done, that all the money paid for real estate in the transactions so resulting, would not offset a tithe of the damage, and yet the People's Party of Ogden, whose thread of power is so slender that ten times twenty votes would supercede it, and let fall its hopes and liberties, presents the extraordinary spectacle of a press and prominent members who are urging it to its downfall by inducing men within its ranks to sell their property, with which must also go political power to strangers.

New England Philanthropists furnished money to send hundreds of families to settle in Kansas, for the sole purpose of counterbalancing the pro-slavery vote, that the cause of liberty might be thereby advanced. And yet we have men in the People's Party, to whom has been confided for preservation and perpetuation, a liberty infinitely more sacred and exalted than that sought to be thus advanced, who would jeopardize it for money and population, that they might gain what the generous New Englanders so freely gave from such an opposite motive.

It must follow "as the night the day," than when the landed interests pass from the old settlers of this Territory to strangers, political power will pass too, and then what has become of the objects for which so much toil, treasure, suffering and blood have been devoted in the establishment of a free people in these mountains? Those objects will have been sacrificed. Members of the People's Party in Utah who, under the circumstances that exist here to-day, will sell for money their inheritances to strangers, have not yet learned what liberty is worth; but the immediate consequences of such folly will be an experience that will teach them this great lesson.

A METAL TO SUPERSEDE IRON.

THE announcement is made in an eastern journal that aluminum is now produced by a firm in Ohio at about one-tenth of the former price of that metal. If this should prove to be correct, and we have no just reason to doubt it, the importance of the fact can scarcely be over-estimated.

As most people are aware aluminum is a metal somewhat resembling silver, but considerably lighter. It is briefly described in Ure's dictionary as "The metallic base of alumina, a white metal but with a bluish tinge, and remarkable for its resistance to oxidation, and for its lightness, having a specific gravity of only about 2.6." It is also said to have all the ductility and ten-