

AN ERA OF MISRULE AND CORRUPTION.

IN February last, a short time subsequent to the municipal election, when the reins of the city government were wrested, by fraud, from the hands of the majority of the citizens, the NEWS published an article under the head of "A Prospective Contrast." At this time we consider it appropriate to reproduce a portion of it, which is as follows:

"From the day of its founding until now, the government of this city has been honest and economical to a degree which has made it remarkable, not to say a model, among American cities. Associated with this honesty and economy has been a degree of good order rarely equaled in a city of similar size, embracing such a variety of population as has existed here for many years. It is granted that the liquor traffic and the social evil have at times flourished to an extent which overstepped the limits of good order, but this was owing to the aid and comfort they received from authorities higher than the city officials. But as a rule, immorality and vice have been compelled to hide themselves within extremely narrow limits.

"Taxation has been very low, ridiculously low many people have said. The highest rate ever fixed for a city rate was, we believe, seven and a half mills, and that was on a low valuation. Usually the rate has not exceeded five mills, and that has always been on a low valuation until since the event of a boom tendency, two or three years ago. Salaries have also been low, never higher than business establishments pay for similar service. A disinterested, genuine and paternal regard for the peace, welfare and prosperity of all classes of citizens has characterized the city government under the administration of the People's Party until now.

"We may confidently look forward to the drawing of a contrast between "Liberal" rule and that which has been under the People's Party, so vivid as to impress all beholders, and throw a lasting glory upon the latter. We believe that the People's Party is destined yet to receive the support of the lovers of good government of many shades of religious belief and political affiliations, and that such a contrast as we have described, when drawn, will and must tend to increase the strength and spread

the power and principles of that party."

It will not be out of place to now present proofs indisputable of the correctness of our position. With regard to oppressive financial burdens provided by the present municipal government, the evidence was furnished in the shape of the unheeded protests of hosts of non-"Mormons" against the oppressive taxation imposed upon property owners. That which now is uppermost are the depths of vice, immorality and lawlessness into which "Liberal" rule has plunged this fair city.

The following came to hand by mail, this morning:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
December 27, 1890. }

Editor News:

Dear Sir:—You are hereby respectfully requested to be present at a meeting of the citizens of Salt Lake City, to be held at the First Methodist Church on Monday evening, December 29th, to consider the state of morality in this city; to protest against the granting of any more licenses to saloons, and to respectfully request and demand that the existing laws against gambling houses, brothels, the selling of liquor to minors, and Sunday selling be strictly enforced.

By request of citizens.

GEO. F. WANLESS,
I. HUSE, Jr.,
C. H. PARSONS,
Committee.

In all the Protestant churches yesterday, resolutions on the subject were presented and unanimously sustained by a rising vote. They are in form as follows:

"Whereas, It is reported on good authority that there are now over eighty licensed saloons in this city; that these saloons, or many of them, are kept open on the Sabbath day, and sell liquor to minors, contrary to law; that the laws against gambling houses and brothels are broken with impunity, and that, apparently, no determined efforts are being made for the enforcement of law against these forms of vice and crime. Therefore it is the sense of this congregation that the city government should strictly enforce existing laws against houses of prostitution, gambling, keeping saloons open on Sunday, and all other forms of vice; also, that it is the sense of this meeting that no more saloons should be licensed in this city.

"It is doubtful if the M. E. Church will begin to hold the throngs that will turn out to protest against the present state of affairs in our city.

"Will the Mayor, Marshal and Council heed the requests?

"All the better element in the city is aroused to the need of the enforcement of the laws. Again we ask that every man and woman turn out, and let every voice be for better government. It is asserted on every hand that the gambling houses are as open as the dry goods stores; that hundreds of young men are trapped therein and lose all.

"Then the Sunday closing law must be enforced. Nine-tenths of the saloonkeepers themselves would, we believe, favor it and be glad to close up and stay at home one day in the week.

"Oh! men and women, as you love your sons and desire a purer moral atmosphere in this city, turn out and fill the house.

"Every one will count for right and law.

"At the M. E. Church this (Monday) evening, at 7:30 p. m.

"CITIZENS' COMMITTEE."

The following is an extract from a published account of remarks made yesterday by a clergyman of the First Congregational Church:

"Mr. Thrall made an earnest speech in behalf of the resolution, setting forth the evils of the drink traffic, the growth of houses of ill-fame and the increase of gambling dives in this city. The Liberal party was pledged to give this city a good government, a pledge that should be carried out, and it was the duty of the Christian people of Salt Lake City to call upon the City Council to enforce the law."

In an account of the proceedings in the First Presbyterian Church, the following occurs:

"Dr. McNiece, after announcing the various meetings of the week, said that in this city there is a feeling of distress over public affairs and the manner in which the officers of the city government were administering the laws. If the laws were properly enforced there would be less deprivations committed. He told of how people had been held up during the past week until there was no feeling of safety among good citizens, and all this because the laws are not enforced. He classed the actions of the city government as disgraceful, but insisted that this did not apply to all the members of the city government, since a minority are trying to stand up for good government, and these have asked the people to aid them in doing this. Some of the officials had said that unless they were sustained in their efforts by the Christian and moral people they should resign their positions, and this, in the opinion of Dr. McNiece, would be a calamity. He then referred to the Variety Theatre asking for a license to sell liquor, and appealed to the people to aid in preventing a license being given to them, and said there were already too many saloons and brothels in the city. After reading a resolution on this subject formulated by the ministers of the various churches, and urging all to be present at the mass meeting tonight in the Methodist Church, he called for a rising vote on the resolutions, and all present stood up."

Now comes the Salt Lake Tribune—the leading "Liberal" organ—and makes the annexed statement editorially:

"We are in receipt of an invitation to the meeting to consider the state of morality in this city; to protest against the granting of any more licenses to saloons and to request and demand that the existing laws against gambling houses, brothels, the selling of liquors to minors, and Sunday selling be strictly enforced. There would be no occasion for the issuing of a call of that kind if the officers of the city were performing their duty, especially the officers of the police department. It has come to us through so many sources that we are convinced of its truth, that hush money has been effectively used with some of the force, and where a blackmail has not been submitted to, undeserved punishments