

In this city against the "political filth" that recently overwhelmed us had been honest, the doom of sewer politics would have been sounded long ago.

### THE COUNTY COLLECTORSHIP.

THE learned and lucid opinion of Judge Zane which appears in full in another part of this issue of the WEEKLY, deciding the case of the Collectorship for Salt Lake County in favor of the defendant, Leonard G. Hardy, is quite a blow to the "Liberal" candidate and the "Liberal" faction. Notwithstanding our sympathy for the defeated party, we cannot resist a feeling of satisfaction that our views of the case have been correct. In commenting upon the suit planted by the "Liberal" candidate to gain possession of the office and the answer of the incumbent we said:

"There is enough ambiguity in the sections of the statute involved to give reason for these opposite opinions. However, we incline to the view that Collector Hardy's position is the stronger, because all the provisions of those sections can be carried out from his standpoint, while on Mr. Williams' ground supported by the Attorney, one provision might be entirely contravened, namely, that which declares that the County Collector shall be elected biennially, in the even numbered years. If that provision stands, as we think it must, then the elections in the odd numbered years are void and there can be no election for County Collector until August, 1892."

It will be seen from the text of the Opinion that this is the view taken by Judge Zane, which he substantiates by arguments and citations that appear to be unanswerable.

But the "Liberal" organ replied to our mild expression of opinion in a sneering article, exhibiting much ill-feeling and asked:

"By the way, if the News is correct, why does it call Mr. Hardy 'Collector Hardy?' If it is 'inclined to believe' the election of Mr. Williams is void, was not Mr. Hardy's election both times void?"

It will be seen now that we called Mr. Hardy "Collector" Hardy advisedly. He was the incumbent of the office, whether the claim of his alleged successor was valid or not. The newly elected officer, even if legally entitled to the place, could not enter it legally until next June. And as the case turns out, it is "Collector" Hardy to all intents and purposes and will be until June 1893, providing he lives so long and does not resign the office.

The election of Mr. Hardy was both times void the same as Mr. Williams' one election was void. And that was

the gist of the whole argument in favor of Mr. Hardy. He held the office by virtue of his appointment by the County Court, which was good until his successor was elected and qualified, and as no legal election has taken place since his appointment—the elections having been held in the wrong years, he held over and will still hold over until his successor can be legally elected and installed.

The "Liberal" candidate was a little too anxious and the "Liberal" organ was a little too spiteful. Both have received a set-back. Of course we are sorry for both, but not so grieved as to lose any satisfaction over the thought that we were right, and that an officer who has served the public honestly and faithfully and has the full confidence of the people, will remain in the important position of Collector for Salt Lake County.

### A STORY-TELLING COMMISSIONER.

THE Utah Commission has been holding a session in Chicago. That seems to be a favorite spot on which to draw up reports to the Secretary of the Interior concerning the situation in Utah. One of the Commission, who really knows the least about this Territory and the "Mormon" question, seems very fond of imparting what he calls "information" on those subjects to newspaper reporters. He has been "interviewed" many times, and always contrives to convey through the press ideas that are entirely incorrect and misleading. They are usually couched in language that exhibits considerable bitterness as well as lack of knowledge or a desire to misrepresent.

The "Liberal" organ of this morning has a special dispatch from Chicago conveying what purports to be remarks made by Col. R. S. Robertson, who is said to have "made 'Mormonism' his study and to know more leaders in the Church than any other man not within its pale." And here is a specimen representation of his wonderful acquirements: He states that in "a recent book which he obtained with great difficulty, President Wilford Woodruff, the wily leader of the Mormon Church," relates the following experience:

"Brethren, that you may all continue to know that I the keeper of the keys to all the holy of holies, and the sealing ordinances of God, am possessed of the great power of the clasped hands, north star and ever-seeing eye. I state that I went to Tennessee and while sojourning at a place not far from Nashville, an angel appeared unto me, commanding me to reinforce my faith. I was conducted to the entrance of a dark and gloomy cave, ordered to follow my conductors and fear not. O, ye of frail faith, listen! As I looked, I beheld a lighted room. The change had been in-

stantaneous. There, crawling over the floor, were myriads of hissing, snarling, darting reptiles, snakes and vermin. The very air appeared full of poison and threatening voices. I shuddered.

"Enter!" said the spirit, and I obeyed. Instantly the hissing monsters jumped into the air, striking at nothing; but, for the last time, their bodies swelled up and then there were reports like pistols. The bodies had turned black and had burst. No enemies remained to molest me.

"That was a preliminary to what was to befall me that day. In the course of my travels that day I encountered a Baptist minister, who sought to crush me. Again the spirit ordered me to advance. As I did, the mortal met the fate of the snakes. His bursted and blackened body fell by the wayside, etc."

The recent book which the veracious (?) Commissioner obtained with so much "difficulty" is called "Leaves from my Journal." It was published in 1882 by the *Juvenile Instructor* office and has been on public sale there, at the DESERET News office and the book stores ever since. Now let us see how fairly Commissioner Robertson represents what the "wily leader" actually wrote in his journal as published in the "recent book:"

"In the early days of the Church, it was a great treat to an Elder in his travels through the country to find a 'Mormon;' it was so with us. We were hardly in Arkansas when we heard of a family named Akeman. \* \* \* We arrived that night within five miles of Mr. Akeman's, and were kindly entertained by a stranger. During the night I had the following dream:

"I thought an angel came to us, and told us we were commanded of the Lord to follow a certain straight path, which was pointed out to us, let it lead us wherever it might. After we had walked in it awhile we came to the door of a house, which was in the line of a high wall running north and south, so that we could not go around. I opened the door and saw the room was filled with large serpents and I shuddered at the sight. My companion said he would not go into the room for fear of the serpents. I told him I should try to go through the room though they killed me, for the Lord had commanded it. As I stepped into the room the serpents coiled themselves up, and raised their heads some two feet from the floor, to spring at me. There was one much larger than the rest in the centre of the room, which raised his head nearly as high as mine and made a spring at me. At that instant I felt as though nothing but the power of God could save me, and I stood quite still. Just before the serpent reached me he dropped dead at my feet; all the rest dropped dead; swelled up, turned black, burst open, took fire and were consumed before my eyes, and we went through the room unharmed, and thanked God for our deliverance.

"I awoke in the morning and pondered upon the dream. We took breakfast, and started on our journey on Sunday morning, to visit Mr. Akeman. I related to my companion my dream, and told him we should see something strange. We had great anticipations of meeting Mr. Akeman, supposing him to be a member of the Church. When we arrived at his house he received us very coldly, and we soon found that he had apostatized. He brought railing accusations against the Book of Mormon and the authorities of the Church.

"Word was sent through all the settlements on the river for twenty miles that