

Written for this Paper

A CHILD FATALLY BURNED.

A sad fatality occurred at the residence of Elder H. M. Hodges here, last evening about 7:30. Mrs. Louisa Hodges had gone down town from the mill site in the canyon, to transact some business with her sister, Mrs. Lamborn, and left the house in charge of her daughter, Mary. Just before the accident, the little two-year-old girl, Hortense, (now dead) went to her mother's bed, while the young lady retired to her own room and both went to sleep. The deceased, being the baby of the family, and of course the pet, had contracted the habit, natural in such cases, of getting up and going to the kitchen, and having her mother go and lie down with her till she would sleep again. It is fair to presume that, last night, she got up for this same purpose, and went out in the kitchen, all others being asleep. There was a lamp left on the table, so that Joseph Hodges, who was to run a night shift at the adjoining flouring mill, could go and get his supper, etc.

Perhaps never till the day of judgment will it be ascertained just what the child did, but so far as I would judge, it must have been about as follows:

There was one of these safety burners on the lamp; in the burner there is a leaden tube through which oil could be poured, instead of having to take off the burner to fill the lamp as with common burners. I apprehend that the dear little girl must have turned over the lamp in her hands. The oil, escaping through the tube, ignited, and then the little unfortunate let the lamp fall to the floor. Willie Webb, a sixteen-year-old nephew of Brother Hodges, relates that the first he heard was the falling of the lamp—this aroused him from his slumber in another part of the house—and he aroused Mary. Mary grasped her sister and took her across the road to her brother Williams' residence. William was also asleep, and as soon as he could awake he brought the little child into the house, very badly burned all in front of the body and face and forehead. It was a sad sight to behold and heartrending to hear her cries.

Immediately all that could be done for her was done, and she appeared to be out of pain, but this was but the forerunner of her death, which transpired at about six o'clock this morning.

Mary Hodges's hands were burned very badly and she suffers excruciating agony. Dr. Hoover has been summoned from Montpelier to attend to her case. Sister Hodges was brought from town immediately after the accident, and Brother Hodges was summoned from his ranch at Garden City and arrived just in time to see the last quiver of the lips of his beloved child.

I happened to be at the house where the child was brought and the calamity well nigh unnerves me. But in considering all the circumstances it is a marvel to me that the house was not burned down and the young lady and the child had not all been burned to a crisp. Brother and Sister Hodges have the sympathy of the whole com-

munity in this hour of sad bereavement and trial.

Only perhaps half an hour before the occurrence the child was dancing and singing and enjoying her life as none but children can, and within ten short hours her body became a corpse. How uncertain is mortal life and who of us are prepared for immortality. Perhaps very few on the earth except these innocent infants.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH IRWIN.

LAKE TOWN, Oct. 18th, 1894.

THE INDEPENDENT VOTER AS A POLITICAL FACTOR.

The independent voters, as I propose to consider them, have shown themselves able on several occasions to overrule and control the results of political combinations, and in a manner entirely unexpected and unforeseen by the political leaders of either party, who have had to abide by their decision when the circumstances were such that the leaders did not dare to override the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

As a class they do not identify themselves with any political party as such, but consider themselves free to vote for such men and such measures as may in their judgment be the best for the good of the whole. They are often men of business or craftsmen who wish to attend to their own affairs, and who, while they do not mix up with and talk politics on the streets, are intensely interested in the problems of government and in having honest and capable men in office, which is not the case with the usual politician who prefers men whom he can use for the promotion of his individual schemes, either political or otherwise. In fact it is well known to them, that when a man makes the loudest professions of intense patriotism and a desire to serve his country, especially when his enthusiasm causes him to abuse every one who does not agree with him, he will require the most watching, as he is more than likely to be studying his own personal interests in preference to the public welfare.

They are not indifferent but simply despise the men and the methods which lead and prevail in the usual political management. They sometimes attend but do not frequent political meetings, as I once heard an engineer remark that he did not propose to furnish packing for other folks' pumps, or make up a tail for another party's kite. They do not enthuse with the rabble who form the bulk of the torchlight and other processions, and pack the primary meetings and conventions; but when a political party think that they are so solidly in power they try to ride the country, the subjects of our article vote very unitedly to kick them out, as was exemplified a few years ago when a party tried to saddle the force bill on the nation with the evident intention of perpetuating themselves in power.

The present practice of noisy primaries and conventions appears to be a great waste of energy, judging by the results. A few weeks since about 300 men from each party met, one in Provo and the other in Salt Lake City,

at a great expense for transportation and other necessities, with the result of nominating about six men each, a striking example of the mountain bringing forth a mouse, while to the ordinary observer it would appear to be of little moment which may be the victor in the contest. In such conventions it is often apparent that a few persons arrogate to themselves the right to lead, without any apparent qualification for so doing except unbounded assurance and presumption, and such leaders are not accepted by our independent voters. They are not generally in favor of or opposed to bounties being given, but reserve to themselves the right to vote in each particular instance on what they consider the merits of the case, and when bounties are given, they believe in the policy of Russia, which while giving a premium on home built ships, demands that the means so given shall be expended at home and that the means shall not be sent abroad unless it is certain that the articles cannot be procured at home.

It is not apparent from past conditions that either of the two great parties is unqualifiedly in favor of woman suffrage, but both are anxious to take the credit of joining in a movement which some of them see is bound to succeed, although the opposition are worthy of admiration on the same principle as a certain old lady admired Satan, because of his perseverance in a hopeless cause, where he did not have the satisfaction even of being in the right.

There is one thing which may safely be predicted in the event of woman suffrage becoming an accomplished fact, as it has already been proved in other places, viz., that the saloon and gambling element will be kept in the background and will not be permitted to run the government, as they now do to a great extent in some cities. It will also be found that men who are not above reproach will be left out irrespective of their party affiliations, and especially so when their offenses have been to the injury of the other sex. In Colorado the gang and machine politicians have already shown themselves opposed to the women's recently acquired right being freely exercised, as they realize that they and their methods are doomed to be relegated to that oblivion from which, for the credit of the state, it would have been better if they had never been allowed to emerge.

In writing the above I do not endorse or disparage the voters referred to, but call attention to an element that is seldom reckoned upon. It must be apparent to any one who has studied the results of the presidential election in 1884, and since, that it is not the Republicans or the Democrats who carry the election, but a minority holding the balance of power and who vote with either party as they think best at the time of action.

WM. J. SILVER.

While en route to Portland, Or., on the Southern Pacific train on Wednesday night, the six-year-old daughter of Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, of San Francisco, fell out of the car window while the train was running twenty-five miles an hour. The train was stopped and the child was picked up unhurt.