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UTAH AND STATEHOOD.

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* has been a very pronounced and badly informed opponent of the people of Utah. It has never understood the situation here, but has been led by the misstatements of local prevaricators, giving little or no heed to the facts set forth by "the other side."

Recently it published the views of a gentleman from the minority who, in very emphatic language explained the changes that have taken place in Utah affairs and the necessity for supporting the movement for the establishment of national party politics in this Territory. The *Inter-Ocean* endorses these views but does so in a hesitating sort of way and with a kind of tremor lest the "Mormons" are not acting in good faith. It is easy to see that, in spite of its adoption of the idea that party politics would be good for Utah, it is still influenced by the falsehoods which have so long impressed its editors.

The *Inter-Ocean* says:

"The question in its practical bearings is simply this: Shall Utah be admitted to statehood?"

That is *not* the question just now. It may be before many years have passed. It must be at some time in the not distant future. But today it is not in dispute. It has only been thrust forward by the opponents of the movement for organizing the people as Republicans or Democrats. It is raised by the "Liberal" ring, including Federal office-holders and their hangers-on, who fear the loss of their positions. It is held up in *terrorem* over the nation, by bigots and malignants who hate the "Mormon" people with a venom that is not surpassed by anything in the history of religious or political antagonisms.

The question today is, shall the people of Utah divide as Republicans and Democrats, or shall the old intense Mormon and anti-"Mormon" spirit prevail, to the holding together of organizations in which national politics are ignored for the perpetuation of merely local contentions? There is no other question of present political moment before the people here. State-

hood is a comparatively remote contingency. It does not enter into the immediate subject of controversy.

The facts are that after the "Mormons," by manifesto of their President which was adopted and confirmed in General Conference, had formally declared against future polygamy, prominent "Gentiles," both Democrats and Republicans, came out in an attitude of friendship and announced their willingness to receive the "Mormons" into political fellowship, because of their submission to the laws of the land. The "Mormons" in the same spirit of amity stepped forward to unite with those gentlemen, and the consequence was the gradual but rapid dissolution of the People's party, as its members went over to the Democratic or Republican organizations.

Statehood was not broached. And when the subject was thrust forward by the opponents of this movement it was met with the remark that there was nothing alarming about it, but when it should come it ought to be welcomed rather than shunned. Some leading advocates of this movement went so far as to say that the people were not only not anxious for statehood, but for the present preferred the cheap form of territorial government, or at any rate did not intend to ask for statehood again, to be snubbed as in times past.

The actual facts are as we have related. Today the living question is one of national party interest. Shall the people be Democrats or Republicans? A free field is open to both parties. There is nothing in the way of either but the old, bitter, unreasoning, untruthful and unrelenting anti-"Mormon" faction, which is opposed to anything and everything that is likely to be fair towards the prosperity of the people of Utah. Its leaders and chief advocates want to have control of every thing here, and are and have been determined to fight and misrepresent and abuse and besmear everybody who does not work to further their ends. This is the simple truth, that is the actual situation.

The very possibility of statehood, no matter how distant unless it shall put them in domination, is worse than a nightmare to them. Hence their malignant animosity, and their pretended fright, and their bitter defamations of men engaged in the present movement whom they once covered with fulsome praise.

Statehood is a probable consequence of the divergence of the people of Utah into the Democratic and Republican alignments. But it is not an immediate probability. It is not in the present programme. First let this party question be settled. Then it will

be time to consider the other. The *Inter-Ocean*, like most of the influential papers of the country, sees that Utah, with its population and resources, "in a general way ought to be given all the rights of a State." And therefore in considering this national party subject, the question of which party will gain the future State suggests itself. But really, as the *Inter-Ocean* admits, it has "nothing to do with the case."

On the main question, the only one now at issue, we are glad to see that the *Inter-Ocean* is sound. Referring to the sentiments of the gentleman interviewed on this matter, it says:

"He thinks the time has come for the voters of Utah to range themselves under the head of one or other of the two great parties. That is undoubtedly true, and such affiliation would be a step in the right direction. There is nothing to be gained by perpetuating the animosities of territorial issues. They are bitter in proportion to their narrowness. Let the citizens of Utah forget their ecclesiastical likes and dislikes at the polls."

This we cordially endorse. This is what both progressive "Mormons" and reasonable "Gentiles" are working for. All who are opposed to it are irrational and mistaken in their obstruction, or they are intentionally hostile to the material interests and political redemption of Utah.

NO DISCIPLINE.

WHATEVER may be the result of the school election, one thing has been made clear and that is the need of better organization for work among both Republicans and Democrats. There has been plenty of talk but very little management. The two parties have been engaged in making converts and organizing clubs, but have not yet come down to that drill and routine necessary to an effective campaign.

The disbanding of the People's party left the masses of the voters without leaders and without discipline. A large number of them have not yet joined either organization. And those who have, are not yet so organized as to be ready to cope with a thoroughly disciplined enemy, marshalled under one unscrupulous, wily and experienced political boss.

The consequence is that the citizens' ticket is supported by voters who have practically no guiding committee and no definite regulations. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, etc., who support the non-partisan movement for school trustees, do so in a kind of go-as-you-please fashion. And while the "Liberal" faction, with its officers and whippers-in and all the machinery wherewith to "run the election," is engaged as a compact unity to rush everything come-at-able to the polls, the anti-"Liberal" ele-