

A RULE OF RUIN.

While the Supreme court of California is taking vigorous measures for the suppression of stock gambling, the council of Oakland have been considering an ordinance against public pool selling in that city. But the ordinance has failed.

There is a useful pointer in this to the corrupt tendencies of municipal government. It adds Oakland to the list of cities which are ruled by the vicious element. An act of the council expressly licensing gambling houses, would not more squarely give notice to the world that the gamblers of Oakland are running the city.

The *Chronicle*, in speaking of the rejected measure, declares that a large majority of the citizens were in favor of its passage. The experience of other cities that have had their struggle with vice shows that an ordinary majority in such a case will not count. The vitality of this pest of society is such that you may chop the body asunder and with the head intact and the mouth in a vigorous condition it will revive, and before you can turn round it will swallow you at a gulp.

This is what it has done for San Francisco, for Chicago, for Sacramento and for New York. Cincinnati and Denver are in its clutches, and we might say in its jaws, for while they are still making a show of resistance the monster has got a foul grip on them that makes struggling a vain endeavor.

Salt Lake City is not exactly turned over into the hands of the gamblers, the rum-sellers and the habitual patrons of vice, but it is getting there fast. As with Oakland, the element of decency and good order is in the majority, but the minority seems to be invigorated with audacity more than sufficient to equalize things. Just now it is making a "Liberal" effort for supremacy and if it succeeds will in a short time do very much as it pleases.

THE WAY THAT WILL WIN.

THE political organizations recently formed in this Territory are making exertions, to draw into their ranks those former members of the People's party who are as yet undecided as to their future party affiliations. They are each achieving some success. We are of the opinion that they would make better headway if their advocates would confine their arguments to facts, figures, legitimate inferences and logical conclusions, with such illustrations, humorous and otherwise, as will serve to convey fair impressions of the princi-

ples of their party and the weakness of the claims of their opponents.

Some of the orators and writers on either side are getting down to the level of the mere partizan, misrepresenting the doctrines, aims and acts of their adversaries, and using the common clap-trap of electioneering tactics. It will be a matter of great regret if former members of the People's party shall indulge in this kind of humbug and deception.

Whatever errors political parties may have imbibed, it is not true that either of them has in view the destruction of this nation, the overthrow of the national government, or the establishment of a monarchial or other form of despotism. The Democratic party does not want anarchy, the Republican party does not desire absolutism. Both parties accept the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof as the supreme law of the land, and neither aims to destroy it. They merely differ as to its scope and meaning and the powers intended to be vested by it in the Federal authorities.

To ascribe all the troubles that have come upon the country, or the persecutions suffered by the "Mormon" people solely to one party, or the other, is to ignore the facts of history and make accusations that cannot be established by the facts. It is unwise to do this. It is equally foolish to attempt to make the principles of a party responsible for the acts of its members, when its platform contains nothing to warrant the charge.

The "Mormon" people have suffered so much from this sort of misrepresentation that no person claiming connection with them should resort to it for any purpose. And the thoughtful among them will be much more strongly attached to a party that does not depend upon such methods to win converts, than to one that has no better arguments than such as these in its support.

It is alleged that the masses of the people of Utah are ignorant of politics. And it is claimed that the present movement is a campaign of education. Some of the political soldiers engaged in it are moving fairly on this line. But others are deploying in various directions, pursuing devious ways and resorting to the tactics we have described. This will not win.

If there is not sufficient difference in the principles of the two parties to make one appear preferable to the other by fair contrast, then the division between them is without sense, and a waste of time and means and energy. The people are not hungry for buncombe, they are looking for light.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

THE organ of the ring "Liberal" faction is endeavoring to make it appear that the present movement on national party lines in the Territory is a "Mormon" scheme to secure Statehood. Persons not acquainted with the origin of the movement would be led to believe from the statements daily repeated, that the Mormons started it and induced some unsophisticated and some office-seeking Gentiles to join them in the attempt to establish "a Mormon State."

How do the gentlemen who were the prime movers in these political organizations like this kind of treatment? The "Mormons" have become accustomed to the lying and abuse of the ring organ and they care little or nothing about it. But the "Gentiles" who came honestly to the conclusion that local strifes ought to cease, that local parties were a detriment instead of an advantage to the Territory, and that Utah's future would be bettered and brightened by the union of its citizens with the great national parties, are now having a slight taste of the stream of bitterness and mendacity which has been poured out for years for the "Mormons" to drink. What do they think of it?

Observant people on the spot know that the present political movement was started, not by "Mormons" but by "Gentiles," most, if not all, of whom had been associated with the so-called "Liberal" party. The "Mormons" had nothing to do with it. The leading idea of its originators was, that while Utah's politics were simply a struggle between local parties for local supremacy, having no connection with or recognition from either of the great national parties, her progress would be obstructed and she would be hindered from attaining that greatness and prosperity to which she is entitled by numbers, wealth, intelligence and resources.

They perceived the fact that the barrier which heretofore had hindered affiliation with those parties had been removed. That the "Mormon" people had voluntarily yielded to the demand of the nation in reference to it. And that there was nothing now in the way of those harmonious relations with the rest of the country which have been for years declared to be desirable.

They saw still further that the so-called "Liberal" party had become simply a party seeking the disfranchisement of thousands of good citizens solely on account of their alleged belief. We say *alleged* belief advisedly, because many of them do not enter