

(COMMUNICATED.)

THE PARTISAN CRITICS.

If anything had been required to demonstrate the hollowness of partisan politics, the last day or two has furnished the proof thereof beyond all contradiction. Desperation is written in comment and criticism because of the fatherly counsel given by an aged, revered and experienced man, one who knows of the bitterness of partisanship, whether in politics or religion. The common sense quality of that counsel should be applauded by every right-thinking man, and the one or the party which perverts from its righteous intent the spirit or the words uttered, is endeavoring to mislead, to divide on points and principles that are in no way affected save in a partisan direction.

The splutter and half-covered inuendoes extant mean one or two things. First, that partisan division is a good thing, per se; second, that it is criminal to select a good man for the business control of this or any other city if outside of a special political complexion. But there is another inference which a thinking voter could easily have suggested to him if the question were in debate: that is, the fear (which implies confession) that the party in opposition feels as if it lacked that element which is desired; else why should it squirm and get mad at so sensible a suggestion?

Men are wanted in the City Council and in all municipal offices who will make the growth, prosperity and well being of this city their prominent thought; who will have pride in securing an economical and progressive administration; who will not burden the laborer with taxation beyond his capacity and drive him from the city into the country, where public demands are less onerous and oppressive. To compel this is to "kill the goose that lays the golden egg," and to make a community of extremes, the pushing well-to-do, and the plodding slave; it is the willing yet independent toiler and producer, the one who is able to live in his own home and save a little from his earnings for a rainy day, that constitutes the bone, sinew and life of all well-regulated and intelligent communities.

Self-defense should tell all such to avoid the bums, the ward heelers, the professional politician, the adventurer, the transient man, the one without anything at stake, the one who is in politics from what there is in it, for the spoils of office and a living at the public crib; for none of these classes care anything for the future. Salt Lake City is no more to them than Buffalo or Seattle, save for the profit it can bring to them. The saloon element is too strong in this city; when the owners or keepers of these places boast that they can control so many votes, there ought to be inquiry as to the status of those votes, and if the qualification is not what it should be, let there be a revision as soon as practicable.

At a certain convention recently held here, the principal speaker unconsciously befogged his audience most completely: not but what the speech was good from a partisan standpoint, and at some other place and time might have been considered a masterpiece; but the welfare of this city, its deliverance from political place-hunting sharks and cormorants, the necessity for strict economy and reduced taxation, and the deliverance of its poor were unthought of in the verbiage of questions which, while of national importance, were altogether out of place when municipal well-being should have confined the speaker to the issue then on hand. Strangely

enough (yet not strange) this harangue colored and permeated the entire convention. Candidates were commended because they belonged to "the party," others because they had worked for "the party" and some recognition was their legitimate due.

Is it not true that an intelligent community freed themselves from this humbuggery and nonsense, and that known men should be elected because of their experience and their interest in public affairs? Then, outside of this, it was a discredit to the convention to nominate an individual for the chief officer of this city whose record is but of yesterday, one who until very lately has not paid a dollar of taxes into the public treasury.

The business of our municipal servants is not to legislate on the tariff, on lead, or silver, or any other national issue, whether accepted or controverted. What is needed is home men to work for home interest, to do this not for the stipend, but for the honor thereof; and if those are elected who will do this, no good citizen will ever ask their politics, because to be a believer in one or another confers no special qualification for any purely local office.

Under present conditions an alliance with one of the great parties seems indispensable in the councils of the nation; but some day perchance intelligent representative men will gather with enough mental pliability to be moved upon by argument, logic, statistics, observation and experience, particularly in regard to great and grave questions which must come up for some time yet in a nation which in many things is only feeling its way—a new nation, so to speak, developing on untried lines in finance, jurisprudence, national comity and many other directions which are not germane to the present thought.

The thinkers of this city are in no mood today for the cajolery of politicians. They will not thank any man who by misrepresentation may seek to divert the attention of the people from matters of importance to the vagaries of politics. They will listen to the primitive Pioneer of these valleys when he asks for peace, for economy, for union, for consistency, for reflection. Nevertheless if this advice is unheeded, for years to come the solemn warning, "the last words," will ring in the hearts and well up in the aspirations of the best men and women of the State, irrespective of party, religion, political, financial or social, for they are the words of a friend, of a father in Israel, of a patriot and of a prophet of God.

Taxes and bonds are a lien on every piece of property in this city. The indebtedness is a practical mortgage, and there is on every day's labor a sure and oppressive garnishee. Indeed, many a home has been sold for taxes, and if lack of employment continues they can never be redeemed by the owner, or, if redeemed, the expenses of sale and usurious interest are in many cases more than the tax, and in all cases quite a serious addition. This is in the main the result of irresponsible party mismanagement. Let the people now try non-partisan business candidates or nominees, if only as an experiment, for surely incompetence is neither chronic nor universal in a community, if enlightened only by "the things they have suffered."

In all this no man is asked to forego his opinions or convictions, or to renounce his allegiance to party where fundamental party principles are involved, or where they are at stake; but that procedure is recommended which men adopt and follow in selecting a cashier, a superintendent, an artisan, a school teacher or a ploughman,

viz., honesty and ability, sustained by all other qualities which generate confidence and make personal responsibility a matter of fact, rather than affiliation with organization, whose claims and theories are of no value whatever where the service is required. To con over the political leaning of nominees, where this point claims to be and is really ignored, is not worthy of comment or criticism; cull the men, sustain and elect them and so establish once for all, that politics as such have no place in our local affairs!

OCCASIONAL.

CONFERENCE IN TEXAS

Delhi, Texas, Sept. 9, 1897.

On Saturday, September 4th, at 11 a.m., the Lone Star conference conference convened, with President Hyrum Andrus presiding. At the opening session there were present the following Elders: Hyrum Andrews, Joseph Coulam, Jens Hansen, Levi J. Taylor, Albert Harris, William H. Anderson, Orson P. Nelson and J. L. Workman; Elders Wm. H. Jardine and Arthur V. Lee arrived just in time to take part in the evening session. John W. White and Francis C. Lee had gone to the railroad station twelve miles away to meet President Jack, who had been delayed on the train. They arrived during the evening session; accompanying President Jack were Elders Joseph W. Hess, John J. Gallacher, Ralph J. Harding and Peter C. Clarke, who had been laboring in the northern conferences of the mission.

Elder Jack brought with him a spirit of love which was diffused among the Elders and felt by all those assembled. A spacious arbor had been built by the appreciative people of the neighborhood, who tried to do all in their power for the Elders to make our conference a success, in return for which they were given a spiritual feast by the servants of God. It grieves the hearts of the Elders here that they cannot make this good-hearted people realize the necessity of embracing the principles of eternal truth. Many are on the very water's edge, but cannot muster courage enough to make the sacrifice. We all have faith that their eyes will be open to a full realization of the truth soon. Our labors, however, were not without fruits, for one honest soul who loved the praise of God more than the praise of man, came forth and entered the door into the fold of Christ. Nine public and seven Priesthood meetings were held during the four days we were in session. Although this is the busiest time of the year, cotton picking taking all their attention, we had large audiences. Many came for miles around; old gray-heads would sit and listen with wide-open mouths and extended ears to the precious words of truth as they flowed from the mouths of the inspired men who had freely received and who freely gave. On Sunday afternoon we held our Sacrament meeting. Many strong testimonies were borne by the Elders showing that God had looked after them. One thing that caused our hearts to swell with love toward God was to see the newly made converts stand up and with words of boldness declare that the Holy Ghost had rested upon them, for, said they, "We feel a spirit now that we never felt before; we feel the spirit of love and joy in our souls;" which Elder Jack explained was far greater to them as a testimony than outward signs which would fade away. The people of this community have received such a demonstration of the power of God that the storms of time will never be able to erase it from their minds. Our last Priesthood meeting was occupied in organizing a new conference, which will be desig-