SENATOR CANNON AT THE THEATER.

Talks Vigorously on Senatorial Candidates and Pharisees.

HAS A LARGE AUDIENCE.

Strong Expressions Against Hon. H. J. Grant, John Henry Smith and Arthur Brown.

GETS HURRAHS AND HISSES.

Dramatic Climax to the Great Meeting —Much Feeling Manifested—Tickets Four Dollars Apiece.

Probably the most extraordinary and dramatic, not to say sensational, political meeting ever held in Utah was that at the Salt Lake Theater last evening on the occasion of the delivery by United States Senator Frank J. Cannon, of his mysteriously and much advertised speech on "Senatorial Candidates and Pharisees."

Numerically the audience was a very large one and represented the leading thought of the community. Notwithstanding the steadily descending sleet of snow and rain people came from all parts of the city. Many of them were unable to secure admission and were compelled to return to their homes disappointed. So great was the desire to hear what the Senator had to say that offers were made, say his managers, of $1 a piece for seats.

The meeting took on an air of excitement from the moment that Senator Cannon arose to speak. While the audience filed in the orchestra rendered pleasing airs and kept them present in good humor. The Senator sat for a few moments upon a centrally located front chair near the foot lights and then tripped lightly down the steps into the main aisle of the parquet where he was presented with a magnificent bouquet of roses by Representative Johnson of Weber in behalf of the Democratic league of Ogden. A large number of Ogden citizens were present and cheered and applauded vociferously. Nearly all of the members of the Legislature were in attendance, seats in the dress circle having been reserved specially for them. Senator Cannon's speech was received with both hearties and hisses, his friends contending that he had acquitted himself bravely and well while his enemies condemned him strongly. The former, however, were numerously represented, tickets having been distributed among them earlier in the day. The most exciting portion of the meeting came at the conclusion of the delivery of Senator Cannon's speech when Hon. Heber J. Grant arose to take his departure. It was quite generally suspected that he got up for the purpose of replying to the speaker's strictures. The latter took this view of the situation and contended strongly against Mr. Grant being permitted to speak. Mr. Grant says the rumors were wholly without foundation in that he never even dreamed of responding. He, however, seemed to enjoy the demonstration and stood silently in the aisle of the dress circle through the entire scene.

SENATOR CANNON'S SPEECH.

Senator Cannon's speech is herewith presented in full:

My Friends and Fellow Citizens—No verdict of all this world, however friendly to me, however exaltedness to me in its results, would be to me so much as the token of affection and regard of the people of the town where I have spent all the years of my boyhood. (Applause.) In this city I was born, and for Salt Lake, with all the wonder of her history, with the inspiration of her hills, her sun, her air, I have every sympathy. But for Ogden, which took me at 18, which has stood loyally by me until it made me a senator of the United States, and still stands loyally by me, despite the charges against me, I have a love which is full to overflowing.

My friends, before undertaking to speak to you upon "Senatorial Candidates and Pharisees," let me say to you what I thought would have been unnecessary, that what I shall say and what I shall do here tonight, I shall do on my own responsibility. I am ready to meet here or anywhere, any responsibility which any man may choose to bring against me for what I shall say or do. This course would not have been required, nor would this statement have been made, but that prominent men, among them the best men I know in this Territory, have told me they thought it wise to stay my hand and say what I should before some one's feelings. Tonight, just before I came here, the best believer in Mormonism the best man in this state, my own father, came to me and said: "Do some one and be patient, and do not say things that would wound us, and wound many a member that all our days we have been willing to wait for time to vindicate us." He is a good man, and God and time will vindicate him. I am a good man, and I am going to vindicate myself, and attack my enemies here and now. (Applause.)

Why do I take this step? Because any poor, weak words of mine can only reach me in the regard and confidence of the people of Utah? Not at all. Not to have contributed to me so much more than I deserve that I need to say nothing, but to vindicate myself in the especial sense of political preferment. I shall say it now as a duty which I owe to you. I say to your that in all the history of this State, the institutions which we love and which will make us grand, never were in such danger as at this time. I tell you that it is not the personality of any candidate for the Senate; it is the fight of progress against reactionism in Utah. It is a fight on the part of the men who have made Utah a power in the world against reactionists like John Henry Smith or Heber J. Grant. (Applause.)

IN THE OLD DAYS.

It is the progressives in that sacred and their purpose fail, if their adversary is triumph we and all the things we love do fail, and the generation yet unborn will work out the destiny which we ourselves should have achieved, and so I consecrate myself to the destruction of this reactionary spirit in Utah, no matter whether it is promulgated by apostles or writer in any capacity. In state in this Union even as much to the nation as Utah. For the years, with one exception, I have been a senator in defense of every fight for the rights of Utah. I have sat in the Senate galleries in Washington in the old days, and have seen one great man of the country rise up and speak his word and cast his vote against Utah because of the feelings in his own state against us.

It seems to me that if those who are to come after us, the next generation, could ever know the right of American citizenship, that all our trouble and all our trouble would be repaid.

Standing in my place as a senator of the United States, the first time I rose to speak on any great question, this thought came to me: Utah, the desert, came out of the wilderness with her empty water jar and her dryer child, and the country opened the urns in love, and took it to its bosom, and made us a sovereign state, and cast to me, duty to God, duty to our country, to hold the gift pure and unspotted. (Applause.)

How shall we do it? Oh, it is a mighty authority that is vested in us, the authority of a sovereign state.

No man living can foretell, no one would dare to attempt the prophecy of what our career may call for in the early future. A state with two votes in the Senate and one in the House may even in the early years to come hold the balance of power in the affairs of the United States, and it follows, as night the day, that if we would be true to all the history of our past, if we would vindicate what has been done for us, our motives must be high, our methods must be pure. Are they pure?

VICTOR HUGO'S POOR MAN.

I said I was going to talk on "Senatorial Candidates and Pharisees," I will. Every citizen of the United States possessing the constitutional qualifications has the right to aspire to the senatorship; he has a right to utilize everything of habits, or advantageous possessions which he has in advancing his interests, so long as he does it honestly. He has a right, if he possesses the power of oratory, to say through the mouth of his friends, as one of my good friends and competitors does say, that he is a wonderful orator—brilliant, and dashing, is needed in the Senate of the United States. If he have wealth, he by the possession of wealth can, in Washington, entertain, and dignify the name of Utah, and you have the right to accord it or reject it, as you see fit. If he is poor, he hath the right to say with me what Victor Hugo said. I am going to read it to you, because I want the thought of the people of this State to be directed aright on this question, and don't know of anything that begins to compare with this apostrophe to poverty by Victor Hugo, while we are worshipping wealth, and while the materialists are bargaining off senatorships for money, let us hear what the master of literature said about the poor man:

"Poverty is a thing when it succeeds, has the magnificent result of turning the whole will to effort and the whole soul to aspiration. Poverty at once lays bare nature and renders it beautiful, and hence some indescribable marriage towards the ideal ensues. The rich young man has a thousand brilliant means of amusement—horses, shooting, dogs, tobacco, gambling, good dinners, etc., which are the occupation of the lower part of the mind at the expense of the higher and more noble part. The poor young man has to work for his bread, and when he has earned it he sits down and reads or contemplates, which feed gives him to look at the sky, space and stars, the flowers, the children, the humanity in which he is suffering, and the creation which he radiates. He looks so much of humanity that he sees the soul, and so much of creation that he sees God. He dreams, and he feels himself great; he dreams again, and feels himself tender. From the equilibrium of the man who suffers he passes to the compassion of the man who contemplates, and an admirable feeling is aroused in him—forgetfulness of self and pity for all. On thinking of the numberless of subjections which nature offers, given and hoarded on open minds, and refuses to closed minds, he, the millionaire of intellect, learns to pity the millionaire of money."

It is time the lesson should be taught in this State and in this country. Over to the west of us, in California, which has done so much for the world by its splendid name in the world for more than half a century, now, over in that State they have had senators. Turn your minds back a little. What names come out in the annals of the past from California as senators? Baker! Think of Leland Stanford, if you know that he was a senator from California, no man of millions. Baker! They cannot write the history of the world without Baker, while Stanford as a senator is already forgotten in the dark of a few years that have elapsed since his career terminated there. Magnificent as he was in other respects, a senator his millions were but a clog upon him.

SENATORIAL ABILITY.

I am not going to participate as to senatorial candidates. I have no grievance against the men of millions. I do have a profound determination that such as you, gentlemen of the Legislature, did not decide this question today or tomorrow, but that you go to your people before you do finally cast your ballot for any man. (Applause.) There are other qualifications than those which the millionaire possesses. Amen should, first of all, be perfectly truthful; truthful, as a good friend of mine says, to the verge of brutality, because the Senate of the United States is conducted purely and entirely on a basis of mutual consent, and the man who is not absolutely truthful will lose cast there inside of twenty-four hours, and never regain that confidence. Secondly, he should have ministerial ability, and commercial ability does not consist entirely of being able to pull friends out of the mire, or to help himself out of the mire, or to help up other people's financial anxieties. (Laughter and applause.)

That is the banker's province, not the senator's province. Amen to the gift of wonderful possessions to trace up the financial anatomy of one's friends, one might naively utilize the constitutional start with its wonderful opportunities to trace up people's money. But we do not want one from Utah. They have enough of that. We want one who can trace up the financial anatomy at the expense of the people of the United States. (Applause.) Yes, we want other in the Senate, I tell you that you people of Utah have the best ability in the Senate now that you have had for years. I think there are Morrill and Shoup and Dubois and other men than either one of the senators who sit there, but I am going to take you into my confidence while I tell you that of those three men and Utah can are not running now before this great assembly.

If you are going to pick out the best and ablest man in this State, call on the man who made the State.

Senator Cannon at this juncture was called upon to speak from the platform and said: "I cannot speak from the platform. I did not expect to see so many here tonight. I thought I would get a little audience of friends around me." Then, continuing, he said:

WANT PURE MEN.

We want pure men in the Senate, men whose personal lives are pure; if that is a synonym, pick out one. I understand that at a Republican club meeting, quite recently, I was asked to resign because I did not happen to suit the ideas of the people who passed the resolutions. I am going behind the people who passed the resolutions. Whatever other immorality I may have committed, I never spoke disparagingly of a woman in my life. (Applause.) She may say what she pleases, but the blind her petitions I see towering the form of Arthur Brown. (Great applause.) I say to you, Arthur Brown, You, want me to resign, Mr. Brown, I won't resign; nor will I try to live up to your idea of morality. And the rest of you! The men who have called upon women's skirts, you people who started this; you, Heber J. Grant, and you, John Henry Smith! (Applause.) You, John Henry Smith, who used to members of my family and west rockbottle beers over my fall and wonderland; and you, Heber J. Grant, a member of the Church to which I belong—I am a "Mormon" in every fibre of my being. I am a "Mormon." If I do not live its theology as well as you, I live its spirit of fraternity quite as well; perhaps better than you do. (Applause.) A part of its fraternity is to be just to all men, to be gentle and helpful in weakness. I want to ask you, Mr. John Henry Smith, and Mr. Heber J. Grant, when did either of you come to me in that spirit of fraternity, and say to me: "Reed, boy, we have entrusted you with mighty authority; live up to it; let us steady you a little as you walk across this dangerous path." Did you ever do it? No! Men say to me now that I must not allege you or any one here because of your favorite. Where did any one of you ask if my wife was sick, or if her bears were bleeding? (Applause.) I have seen my little children get upon their knees and pray to God for strength and courage with which to go to school in the morning on account of things that had been said about me. But I never asked for quarter. I never asked of anybody to plead with you to hold your tongues.

THE PHARISEES.

I think, perhaps, I have reached the subject of Pharisees in my talk. My friends, I think perhaps you will agree with me that as far as the sonnetship is concerned, I care very little about it. I think no man would have talked the way I have tonight who had any thought of offending, so far as he was concerned, the senatorial question, am doing a higher duty now and intend to do it to the end. The issue is not whether Frank J. Cannon shall be elected to the Senate, but it is whether the reactionists shall be permitted to do the things which would strike us worse than anything on earth. It is not the Roberts case, that it is to be settled, just like that (snapping his fingers). He will be seated or he won't be seated, but there is a greater question. Senator Platt, chairman of the Senate committee on Territories, took me to one side in Washington, and talked to me about the situation out here. He remembered the time when I went to him with other men and he sought him to yield whatever prejudice he had against the admission of Utah, because we were true. I have seen the charge made in the newspapers, and want the people here present to tell how to answer the charge if he should say to me: "After we took you into sovereignty, you sold out a senatorship to the highest bidder, Brigham Young, Apostle of the Mormon Church." (Applause.) I want you to tell me how I shall answer that. And the proper answer to that is of more importance to me than a seat in the Senate for life, and I will say that I have had all that I am entitled to. Those who don't like me we will say that I have had a good deal more. I am willing to retire; I was willing to retire long before this agitation came out. I am not willing to be succeeded in that exalted office by a man who cannot answer that Utah has built as I have not it in the Senate of the United States. (Applause.) And no man can do that who either buys the place or secures it by spoils of office. Gentlemen, I must stand the love and trust of this mighty people. The sole hope is for you, and if you people decide it, so will your children and so will all the people in the days to come in Utah be affected for good or for ill.

GRANT-KIMBALL LETTERS.

On Jan. 11th, just as this question was to be brought forward for discussion, a question which belongs, not to Apostles and not to business men, but to the Legislature, which cannot absolve itself from the responsibility, nor permit another to discharge its duty, Mr. Heber J. Grant addressed certain letters to J. Golden Kimball, which were printed. With all due respect to the vigor of attack made upon those letters by the Salt Lake Tribune and by other newspapers in this State, they have never been assailed from the quarter which should have resented them. I believe no man living can have a higher veneration for the leaders of the "Mormon" Church than I have. I have sat on Brigham Young's knee. I know the wonder, the splendor of that man's career. John Taylor was my family relative, and my father was his first counselor. Wilford Woodruff was the gentlest and tenderest friend I ever had in all this world. I know Lorenzo Snow. I love him, honor him, for the splendor of his attainments, for the purity of his mind, for what I know of his high motives, so that what I shall say will be said with a full consciousness in your own minds that I do not speak as one who had the "Mormon" Church, and that whatever I shall say is as a "Mormon" and the sincerest and most.

I waited day after day after the Grant letters had appeared. The Tribune was quoting them and attacking Mr. Grant, and I said to myself, waiting for a word to come from that place where the word should have come from in my humble judgment. I am not a good man, and I cannot see things plainly, but it seemed to me as though the "Mormons" should say: "Heber J. Grant, we will not tolerate of this sin." They are the people who should have said it. But it is for me, as a senator of the United States, in this hour, to say to you that I shall not keep silence unless you correct this wrong. Utah, the youngest of the states, the fairest, the richest, and the one which has done most to settle her sovereignty of all the states, will go down a kite and a cyclone unless you repudiate this thing before the world. The sorrows and tribulations of the past will be like a summer morning compared with the storm which will come upon your hearts if you do not now disclaim and repudiate from political and official authority.

I want to ask you what you would have thought and what would have been said of Pat Lannan had he written letters like this? What the News would have said and thought of it. If Parrots had he written letters like this is politics.

"Heber J. Grant & Co. invested $45,000 in the Salt Lake Herald at the time that we took it, and we would have made and have since paid $10,000 in dividends, and subsequently assigned their stock, without remuneration, to Mr. Cannon, on account of not being able to pay any more assessments. As I owe as per sent of Grant & Co.'s business, you can easily see that our charge in Democratic extravagance account' is second to that of Messrs. Chambers and McNamee. I am one of the straws that has nearly broken my business back, and I need material prosperity to help strengthen that part of my anatomy, hence my desire for the election of Mr. McCune."

Suppose Pat Lannan had said that ten years ago. We would have said that he wanted to sell a senatorship for his own private pocket. Would not we have said it? What would the News have said, the Deseret News, even with its present editor? It would have said that this is what the Saints got for admitting Gentiles into Utah.

"At the time of the Moses Thatcher fight two years ago, President Woodruff told me that of all the men mentioned as prospective senators, he would prefer Mr. McCune."

A dead man is to be dragged in to the ceremonies of his coffin to strengthen some man's broken financial anatomy. Whatever I shall say now, or at any time, on this issue, I never will say or have a thing as Heber J. Grant said when he dragged President Woodruff's name into this controversy. And here is the worst of all:

"If King had money, I do not doubt that he would use his money as well as his time for his own advantage, and I would say it was all right. To allow our man to use his time to try to get into the United States Senate, and to secure his opponent of dishonesty because he used his money for the benefit of his party, is to my mind simply ridiculous."

Of course it would be ridiculous. When a man has a mind so stunted as is expressed in those letters, anything but the use of money, for any purpose, is simply ridiculous.

THE SPEAKER'S OWN SINS.

Here is the most wonderful parliamentary body in the world, the Senate of the United States, whose walls rang with the voices of Webster and Conkling, and I am sorry to say to my own there whose great qualification is that he leaves up Mr. Grant's financial anatomy. (Applause.) Oh, how you talk! I have a right to say that to you now. Whatever may have been my wrongs, my sins, they have not been those of disloyalty to you, and as they relate to me and to my attitude toward my God, I will answer them to Him. (Applause.) I have the greatest right, perhaps, of any man within this State to say my warning to you. You pick out of this state the greatest and best you can have, and send him to the Senate. Six years is the term. And what may not six years bring upon us. A year, twelve months last past, has been a political revolution in the world. Has it not? Don't degrade the method by which men shall be selected for office in Utah. Keep the Church in line with progress if you can; keep politics on a high plane. Let every man, Jew, Gentile and "Mormon," who is a progressive, come back and say: "The destiny of this State is ours, and we will carry it forward as long as we have breath." (Applause.) Let us say to the unorthodox in the Mormon Church, let us say to them: "You have no part in this; the destiny of Utah is entrusted to our friends. think of this wonderful opportunity six years ago. In this house I spoke from this platform. A little over five years ago, six years ago, rather. I did not know, and did you, that we would have statehood. We were just then trying to evolve ourselves; but, oh, what promises and pledges we had have been made to make if we could have been seated at that time. There is not a man or woman in this audience, including Mr. Smith and Mr. Grant, but would have stood up and said: "If we can have statehood we pledge ourselves to the highest methods in politics."

A man owes highest duty to the state; this state owes its devotion to the country, and God is over all. If we be just.

This ended the meeting proper and the audience commenced to rise. Mr. Grant was among the first to get on his feet. It was thought he did so with the intention of speaking, but this was a mistake as the gentleman was simply straightening up after having put on his rubbers. Senator Cannon was one of those who suspected that he was about to attempt a reply and springing from his seat and going forth to the footlights said with great earnestness:

Mr. Grant, you cannot talk in this meeting. I am willing to give fair play to any man. You may speak in all the tabernacles and meeting houses in Utah. You may do it at your command. You may speak in them in preference to any other place, and I will follow you. I will answer you on this subject, if not in the tabernacle, then in the meeting under the stars, and I have and now consecrate myself and my services to the destruction of your methods. Mr. Grant (with great earnestness), you cannot speak in this meeting.

The uproar that followed is probably without parallel in the history of Utah meetings. Cheers and hurrahs were freely mingled with yells of derision. "Let him!" "Give the man a chance." "Let him defend himself." "He an American!" "Let him speak!" "Let him speak!" Then a semblance of quiet came, and Senator Cannon, directing his remarks to the great audience, declared:

My friends and fellow citizens, for the long years that I have known Mr. Grant, has sounded me he has said within the confines of the fraternity in which he is, he should have had some rights the things which he have done wound. I came and hired his theater tonight in order that I might, before all the world, look into his teeth his own iniquity, and he shall not speak.

The audience is now dismissed.

The orchestra, which had been endeavoring to play down the tumult and excitement, struck up the dismissal music of the occasion, struck up another air, while scores of persons spread upon the stage and crowded around the Senator. Meanwhile the multitudes of persons who filed the main auditorium and galleries filed out into the lobbies, commenting variously upon what proved to be one of the most extraordinary meetings ever held in the Salt Lake Theater.

MR. GRANT INTERVIEWED.

Emphatically Denies that He Has Ever "Hounded" Senator Cannon.

Hon. H. J. Grant was seen by a representative of the "News" today and asked if he cared to be interviewed in regard to the accusations of Senator Cannon to the effect that he had "hounded the Senator for the position years," or any other period. Mr. Grant replied:

"I do not let me say that when I arose from my seat in the Theater last night at the conclusion of Senator Cannon's speech I had absolutely no idea of responding to the charges against me. Such a thing never entered my mind. It was Senator Cannon's meeting and not mine. He had a right to say whatever he pleased. He said it and I did not care to reply. I simply got on my feet for the purpose of putting on my rubbers. Mrs. Grant arose with me and started to put on her wraps preparatory to going home. When Senator Cannon commenced his second speech I sat down and put on my rubbers and stood up and said: "If we can have statehood we pledge ourselves to the highest methods in politics."

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