

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

SENATOR JOSEPH L. RAWLINS.

After fourteen days' actual contest in legislative session, and upon the 53rd ballot, Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins of this city has been selected as United States senator from Utah, for the first full term of six years to which the State has appointed such official. The senatorial contest has been, in many respects, quite acrimonious—probably more so than if one political party had not been so overwhelmingly in control of the Legislature as was the case in this instance. But now that the struggle is over, the general sentiment of the people will be for all to acquiesce in the result, and to work unitedly for the State's interest; it may be also noted that the great body of the conservative element of the State take the view that in the result attained the majority of the Legislature has chosen the better part.

Senator-elect Rawlins has a clean record as an able and ardent advocate of Democratic party principles. He is not by any means an untried man in legislative halls; on the contrary, he is the only candidate voted for during the contest who has had experience in the national Congress. In 1892 he was chosen as the Democratic standard bearer, and served two years as Delegate from Utah. His career in the House of Representatives was marked by energy, ability, and sincere desire to represent impartially his constituents and to maintain their rights. In this he was eminently successful.

The present election of Mr. Rawlins is on the platform of the broadest Democracy. He presented no claim from any other standpoint. He asked for no interference by the State with anything outside the domain of legitimate political operations. He did not ask the state to endorse him in a fight upon the internal discipline of any church or society, or demand of the state that it take up his quarrel and seek to dominate any church by endeavoring to rebuke it in his election. The struggle which he did make was as a Democrat for election by a Legislature heavily Democratic. There were other candidates on the same platform but only one could succeed, and the choice rested on him.

To say that Mr. Rawlins is without faults, to which his opponents have pointed, would be absurd; but such of his failings lean more to zeal in behalf of his constituents and to a magnanimity to prefer his friends before himself, than in other directions. Hence it cannot be said that there is serious complaint against his deep-seated earnestness to uphold the honor and dignity of the State and to consider the welfare of its citizens. On the other hand, such disposition properly directed should stand him in good stead in the trying situation which the representatives of Utah and other western states find themselves in at the present time, in the national Congress.

Judging Senator-elect Rawlins by his past record in Congress, we feel confident that his future service in

the high office to which he has been elected will be to the credit of our State in its share of maintaining the honor, dignity and prosperity of our great Republic. We compliment Mr. Rawlins on being chosen by the Legislature, and we congratulate the State that it has conferred the high office of United States senator on one so well known for his courage, zeal and ability.

DISPROVED BY THE RECORD.

A number of citizens have lashed themselves, and a number of others have permitted themselves to be lashed, by partisan whips, into a greater or less degree of excitement over the senatorial contest which was brought to a close last evening by the election of Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins. The ostensible reason for this ruffling of the social surface is the allegation that "Church influence" produced the result.

Must an appeal to the reason of these citizens be vain? Can they not be prevailed upon to cast one glance over the record? Will they shut their eyes and ears to all the relevant and competent evidence in the matter? For their own sakes we ask them to give a moment's calm consideration to a few facts that bear upon this Church influence issue.

Of the sixty-three members who compose the joint assembly of the Legislature, two-thirds, or nearly as may be stated, are enrolled as members of the Mormon Church; yet this body, having such a majority as this, cast fifty-one ballots for a United States senator without bringing into view the probable end of the contest. When the fifty-first ballot had been recorded, the final result was, to all appearances, as much a matter of doubt as on the day balloting began. Not till the fifty-second ballot had been cast did the beginning of the end appear, and even then most strenuous efforts were made by Mormon members of the assembly to prevent the result that was finally accomplished. On the fifty-third ballot, by a bare majority of one, an election was effected.

Balloting began on January 19th, and closed on February 3rd. On each week day between these dates, and including them, ballots were cast.

No sane man who knows anything of the proceedings of the joint assembly will deny that the contest on the part of each of the three leading combatants was most stubbornly fought, and that each faction exhausted its every resource, both of persuasion and generalship. In the skill and resolution each displayed, the struggle has seldom been paralleled. The strain, the anxiety, the efforts of members and partisan leaders were remarkable in their intensity, and the evenness with which the balance of power between the three chief contestants was so long maintained was positively marvelous. These facts are incontestible.

Now, if the Mormon Church possesses the influence over its members

it is credited with possessing, and if it be true that that influence was exerted to produce the result accomplished, how is it possible to account for the above facts, which it is impossible to deny?

Again, the record of the fifty-second ballot showed that Mormon opposed Mormon with resolute determination; that Mormons adhered to each of the three leading candidates with unwavering fidelity; that nearly all the shifting from one candidate to another, speaking now of the three leading ones, was done by non-Mormons, and that the consolidation of the non-Mormon voters in favor of one of the candidates intensified the deadlock. The record further shows that, in order to end the contest, which had become so long and costly as to excite the indignation of thousands of taxpayers, a number of Mormons sacrificed their own feelings and voted for a man who was their second choice; and that they did this in a pure spirit of patriotism, dictated by no influence except that of conscience.

For a long time there was coupled with the cry of "Church influence" the assertion that the "Church" desired the election of Judge Henderson; and it is undeniable that the most prominent Mormons in the Legislature voted for him solidly until his cause became a forlorn hope. Among Henderson's supporters was a Stake president, a counselor to a Stake president, and a Bishop. If "Church influence" was an element in the contest, why was the candidate who had such support in the rear of the race from start to finish?

"A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still," and politicians in search of material out of which to make political capital often are utterly unscrupulous as to their methods. But the proof that the senatorial contest was fought out on lines laid down by members of the Legislature themselves, that the Mormon members, at least, voted with absolute freedom and independence, and that the Mormon Church took absolutely no part, is mathematical in its irrefutable character.

NOT A FRAUD.

The article in the News has brought out information as to the real purpose and plan of what was referred to as the Atlas publishing company. Correspondents had inquired of us whether it was a fraud, and we had not been able to give the information, or learn anything of it. Now, however, we are in possession of facts upon which we can assure the people that the enterprise referred to is a legitimate affair. Its name is the County Atlas publishing company, instead of the one given to us, and its promoters are now issuing a county atlas of Utah county.

Some of the subscribers to the work must have got a misunderstanding of its scope, for its purposes are somewhat different to those stated in letters to us. For instance, instead of being chiefly of a biographical character, its main feature is descriptive of the various towns of the county, with plate of each, and of the entire county, made with great care and ac-