

business. This inducement to the office seeker should be removed, and now is the time for county commissioners to exhibit the firmness and consistency that will remove it. Sometimes there are men in office who in private life could earn double the official salary; but these men are seldom office seekers. Often there are officers who get more there than they could elsewhere, and that cannot be helped in all cases. The criterion is not altogether what a man might do in private business, but what in a business way the public should pay for the labor required. If a business situation pays an employee \$100 a month, a similar situation under public employment is not worth \$150. There is a relation between the fair average of business situations and offices requiring like ability and attention.

We hope the county commissioners generally will adhere to the business rule of paying a fair value for services rendered, and that no weakening to influences for an opposite result will be successful. Let us get on to a square business basis, and thereby keep out the professional place hunter as much as possible. Low salaries are a strong barrier against the politician for pelf.

COMMENTS ON THE ADDRESS.

The statement of the Church authorities read to and adopted by the general conference in this city April 6, has been commented upon largely by the press of the country, and, naturally, the views expressed differ according to the inclinations of commentators. As a general rule, the document is not looked upon with the alarm as well stimulated in certain local quarters for quite transparent reasons.

The Atlanta Constitution confidently says:

In a very few years the chances are that Utah will be a model American State.

The Denver News takes the following view, the only one consistent with the text and the spirit of the address:

This manifesto leaves the Mormon people free to think, act and vote as they please, and to ally themselves with any political party they desire to join, free from all interference and dictation on the part of the Church. This is broad enough for everybody, and places the Mormon Church in line with all other churches or denominations. The News sees no objection to the rule [about accepting political nominations]. As understood, it means that a Church official should not accept a political office without the consent of the Church, that is if he desires to retain the Church position. He could of course resign the Church position and accept the political position, if he so desires. In view of the peculiar organization of the Mormon church, the rule may be a very necessary one. It will tend to prevent a bishop, for instance, from using his ecclesiastical influence to further his political ambitions, and in this view of the matter the rule will operate to keep church and state apart. The tone of the address, as outlined in the telegram, is both patriotic and progressive, and thoroughly American in sentiment.

The Catholic Review may be considered eminent authority on the questions involved in the correct interpretation of the address, for the reason

that those questions are, notwithstanding all clamor to the contrary, of ecclesiastical, not political, nature, touching the duties of ecclesiastical officials in relation to the church, not to the state. The Review says:

On its face this rule [about political nominations] is fair. Indeed the Mormon leaders should go further and lay down the law that no clerical official in the Mormon Church should be a candidate for a political office. If that regulation were generally enforced, religion would be saved such scandals as last year shamed the state of Ohio, when a clergyman in the legislature offered to sell his vote for a bribe.

DISINTEGRATION "BEGINNINGS."

Those acquainted with the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, either as members of the Church or otherwise, must be amused, if their attention is attracted at all, by the statements now made in certain quarters and given voice through a certain class of newspapers that the present condition of things here "is the beginning of the disintegration of the Church." Such "beginnings" have been heralded almost without number, both before and since the Latter-day Saints came to Utah, and all have ended where they began. The only thing of a lasting character connected with them is the disappointment which attends those who hope for something tangible in the way of the promised weakening. But the Church doesn't disintegrate worth a cent; the reason therefor being well known to those who comprehend its genius, realize its purpose, and recognize the omnipotence of its Founder and Head.

"I," the conditions were as some folks affect to believe, there might be some occasion for speculation as to the outcome; but they are not, for the alleged conditions are descriptions by persons who, from ulterior motives, antagonize the Church, and these were never known to describe with accuracy its actions or objects. This class of persons are so excessively anxious for the "disintegration" spoken of that they seize upon every opportunity to misconstrue, even to their own minds, events which they hope may tend to their way of thinking, and do their utmost to give them force. But this overweening desire is soon manifest to that portion of the public who do their own thinking, and its doom to disappointment receives advance recognition. This is the case in the present situation, and in the midst of these prognostications of dire disaster to the Church, clear-headed and unprejudiced people note an effect of an entirely different character.

Men in a state of consciousness do not have their bodies racked with pain without having some knowledge of the fact. And if the Church were as greatly disturbed as some people seem to fancy, it would be likely to recognize that state of affairs in short order. The truth of the case is that there is no disturbance or uneasiness whatever, as to the Church's present or future condition, among those of the members who have been alive to an observance of their duties and obligations. These pursue the

even tenor of their way, and while they may manifest a curiosity upon and gossip to some extent over certain matters that may be brought forward from time to time, when it comes to action as Church members they are found at the post of duty on every occasion. This membership of which we speak is not restricted to any age or sex, but includes all, young as well as old; and specious pleadings to "young Utah" or any other division will not move them from the right. The "disturbed" element are operating on a somewhat different plane, and the inharmoniousness of such is seldom a suddenly acquired quality.

Instead of worrying over the prospect, the active, faithful membership of the Church sees in the near future, therefore, the brightest outlook ever beheld for the advancement of truth in the religious world. The newspaper and pulpit pyrotechnics that have attended the recent announcements of "the beginning of the disintegration" do not alarm anybody who is aware of the facts. There have been too many of those "beginnings" for even non-members of the Church to take stock in them in earnest; those who have leaned on them ought to have learned by sad experience that their support has been a broken reed, and should have become wary by this time. Whatever some people may think to the contrary, the outlook for the Church never was brighter and better than it is today; and it always was bright in the sure promise of success as the work of the Almighty.

"THE RETORT CIRCUMSTANTIAL."

The only significance that attaches to the News is that it is the organ of the Mormon Church, and the editor, in his present capacity, has not established any sufficient prestige either as an editor, an all-round journalist, a scholar, a moralist, or a broad man of affairs, to justify his bearing toward his peers or his superiors in the same profession.

It is hardly necessary to say that the foregoing is from our esteemed contemporary, the Tribune. It is so like a familiar whiff of the olden times that it will be readily recognized by all readers of that paper, which was never known to go very far—say about two days—in an argument without indulging in some such remarks as the foregoing. The News never had an editor about whom the Tribune did not express a similar or even a worse opinion, and it probably never will have, at least until there is a shining vacancy in the Tribune staff.

Seriously, however, the present editor of the News, while almost ready to admit his critic's strictures, begs to offer this in extenuation: The Tribune editor as an all-round journalist has established such an all-too-sufficient prestige; as a scholar his attainments are so exalted; as a moralist he is so immaculate; as a man of affairs his breadth is so prodigious, that there is really nothing left for anyone else to hope for, least of all a mere beginner in newspaperdom. He does us much honor in speaking of our "peers or superiors in the profession." As for himself, he knows, and so do we all, that in his profession he is absolutely without a superior, and it would take hard scratching to find his peer.