

kept French novels out of the hands of your daughters. Why? Because you did not desire to have the minds of your children corrupted. You did not want the imaginations of your sons inflamed by sensational fiction dealing in the exploits of highwaymen, detective and Indian-killers, nor did you want your daughters' minds to be poisoned by the insidious influence of French fiction.

Is it, then, consistent for you to expend money for, and bring into your homes, reading matter that is written and published for the express purpose of setting your household at enmity with that of your neighbor? Is it consistent for you to furnish your family with literature the express object of which is to convince you and your sons that certain men who hold the Holy Priesthood, and have been called by revelation to occupy prominent and responsible positions in the Church, are unworthy of respect or confidence, and ought to meet with the opposition of members of the Church? Ought you to give your wives and daughters literature to read which is replete with arguments going to show that the men in whom they have heretofore placed unbounded confidence, as divinely-appointed shepherds of the flock, are no longer worthy of being listened to and respected?

All members of this Church, heads of families especially, are under solemn obligation to guard their own minds, and the minds of all under their care, against being contaminated by error, falsehood or unjust prejudices, wearing any form or emanating from any source. A Latter-day Saint is required to cleave to the truth and shun its opposite under all circumstances. This rule of their lives cannot be modified by the exigencies of politics, nor can a departure from it ever be justified on political grounds. A newspaper which, for any purpose, publishes what is false, or distorts or perverts the truth, or seeks to destroy the confidence of the community in men whose past lives have proven their integrity, ought not to be read by the members of the family circle of a Latter-day Saint.

The sooner the people withdraw their patronage from the publications referred to, and thereby cause them to die of inanition, and compel their editors to seek other vocations, the sooner will a cloud be removed from the happiness and prosperity of the people.

LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

An attempt is being made to introduce partisan politics into the control of the public schools. The purpose comes from the politicians and not from the people. There are schemers who think to strengthen themselves by means of the patronage connected with the schools, provided they can but secure control of that patronage, and they are the ones who want a partisan school election.

The voters of both parties should see the danger that menaces the schools, in this nefarious plot, and should come to their rescue by thwarting it. There can be no motive on earth for desiring partisan control of the schools, except the use that could be

made of the patronage a partisan school board could control. In other words a partisan school board is wanted in order that the school system may be used as a political machine.

The people should sit down on the politicians who are trying to work this dodge, with crushing force. If partisan primaries are held, let non-partisan ones be promptly called also, and let the people show their resentment towards the schemes of political plotters by rescuing the schools from their grasp. If the voters of this city know where their own welfare and that of their children lies, they will see to it that no man takes a seat in the school board who is not solemnly pledged to a strictly non-partisan administration of his position.

The campaign committees of the Democratic and Republican parties who are to hold an adjourned meeting next Thursday evening to consider the subject of a non-partisan school election, will be condemned by an overwhelming sentiment among the voters of the city if they shall refuse assent to the proposition; but if they shall decide that the election shall be non-partisan a like measure of enthusiastic applause will be given them. A strong majority of both parties will endorse and sustain at the polls, their action, and the political schemers will be defeated, which is almost always a result fraught with benefit to the people.

Whether or not the campaign committees agree to keep the schools out of politics is of little consequence if the people will do right. The people rule in such matters, if they so desire, and politicians and committees will be but grasshoppers in a hailstorm if the voters will but do their duty. Keep the schools out of politics!

THE CZAR AND HIS POLICY.

The remains of the late czar being conveyed to their final resting place and the affairs of state assuming their usual aspect, the time has come to look for some definite declaration on the part of the new ruler of Russia, indicating the policy he is likely to follow. The question is whether he will continue the course of his father to oppose all measures looking toward the self-government of the people, or take up the work of progress and liberty where it was left by Alexander II and Loris Melikoff when the nihilists' bomb shattered the imperial body and with it the hopes of conservative Russian patriots.

If the dispatches on the subject reflect the sentiment of Nicholas II, there is ground for the hope that the young czar will not disappoint those who have counted on him for a revival of liberal reforms in the antiquated empire. He is said to have expressed his purpose of abolishing the secret court police on the ground that that institution is utterly useless, should fate have decreed a violent demise for him as for his grandfather. He has also declared in favor of the liberty of the press. These two measures, should they materialize, would form an excellent starting point for further progress in the same direction. With the press at liberty to discuss freely everything pertaining to the welfare of the country, he would be able to form an adequate idea about the real needs

of the people better than through any other medium. Public opinion concentrated and reflected by the press, no longer obscured by the fog of arbitrary censorship, would be the light by which the ship of state might be guided with absolute safety along the shores of murderous radicalism where, so far, the imperial pilots have sailed guessing their course and consequently more than once stranded. A free press would be the most potent factor in educating the people and preparing them for other benefits of civilization, and it is self-evident that a ruler who earnestly sets his heart to gain the confidence of his subjects by inaugurating measures for their benefit will have less need of a secret court police. A monarch who trusts his people and deserves their affection will find thousands wherever he goes in his country, ready to stand up for him voluntarily and protect him with their own lives, if need be, while tyrants have cause always to tremble in the midst of enslaved multitudes. If the czar has mastered this lesson during his travels in foreign lands, he is better capable of ruling his millions than was his father.

Yet the problem is by no means a simple one. It seems that right on the threshold of his reign he is met by demonstrations of a rebellious nature in two directions. A movement among the Poles has already resulted in numerous arrests. To this comes the news from Finland that many Finlanders refuse to swear allegiance to him. The former have always been more or less bent on attempts to recover their independence, and the latter have been so unjustly dealt with in later years, that it is no wonder if their ancient valor and love of liberty should give some sign of resenting a treatment of that kind. If the czar is wise he will grant to the unfortunate Poles all the demands they can consistently make and allow the Finlanders to develop on the basis of their own laws and customs, as guaranteed by the existing treaties. In this way he will secure peace at home and render Russia, united and prosperous, an irresistible power among the nations of the earth.

As indications point to a deviation from the internal policy of the empire, they also indicate some change in the external attitude of the country. A dispatch says the ministers of foreign affairs and the war department have resigned. De Giers, it is well known, has exerted all his influence generally for the preservation of peace. He is the Gladstone of Russia. His ascendancy to power has always been taken as a sign that peace was to reign, while his absence from the cabinet was regarded as a sign of a rising war cloud. The reason why he resigned at this time does not appear, and it would be unsafe to build any conclusion thereon as yet. It is hardly probable that the young czar entertains any ideas of disturbing the peace of Europe. Still, with the oriental war in progress and the diplomacy necessary to avoid complications, it is rather a matter of regret that the experienced statesman did not see his way clear to maintain his hold on the wheel of the government. It would have been more reassuring to those who regard the present outlook as one full of dangers.