

Written for this Paper

THE CRUCIAL HOUR.

"One swallow does not make a summer," nor does one calamity presage the end of the world, but both are sure to come in their time and season, because there is an inevitable order in things, so far at least as history or human observation extends, to say nothing of that prescient statement of the Seers who spoke by the Spirit, or the poet, who had it—

"There never was a valley but billions appear,
Nor a storm but was spent to a calm."

There are laws operating in many directions, whose existence, if acknowledged, are yet unexplainable, and so can hardly be formulated into certainty; but the resultant phenomena commands attention, and comment is like "darkening counsel by words," because memory is treacherous and wisdom is none too abundant in this strange probation.

Who can explain, for instance, why old fashions return by a circuitous route of years? Who can tell why intense periods of heat or cold seem to recur in a spasmodic way apparently, yet with somewhat of uniformity? Who can explain the universality of an epidemic, or its sudden disappearance? Why do cholera, fever, is, diphtheria, rage and pass away? What of potato rot, grape blight, rust in wheat, or the coding moth? What controls the arrival of the seven or seventeen year locust or grasshopper, and what is the law which suddenly operating bids them depart, hardly leaving a straggler behind? How is it that periodicity, marks the time of famine and distress in some nations? Whence comes the irrepressible drift toward war at times, towards religious excitement or political fever? What of business or financial extremes, running from the zero of intense depression, up to a tropical exuberance of activity and expansion?

These are queries of every day life and their limits and changes can be noted in individual experience. A lifetime may see each one come and go, with almost the regularity of the seasons, and the thoughtful, observant man can almost anticipate such change: "the prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself," was said of old, but in the hurry of these times but few anticipate or count ahead; the prophet of calamity is looked upon as a crank, and his warning voice as the croaking of a raven in the air.

This great nation, glorying in its strength and exalting in the magnitude and magnificence of its resources, thanks no man who points out its drift or danger. Yet prouder and more luxuriant nations have arisen and passed away; their grandeur and glory have become as a dream of the night, and exhortations of today tell more of them than was ever recorded on the page of history. If the leading men of today were familiar with the disintegrating forces which are working in this nation, if they could but see beyond themselves, it would need no prophet to point the necessity for national repentance and humiliation.

Those lessons of history, and facts of the present, should have more than ordinary weight with the major part of the Convention now fram-

ing in this city the organic act of a new and sanguine nation. Restrictions should be few as possible and interference lean to the side of encouragement. Regulations which savored of injustice elsewhere should be studiously eliminated, and a broad, liberal progressive air should permeate that instrument, which embodies the intent and aspirations of a people of destiny, a community which declares itself as pioneering the way to a higher and more enduring civilization. If these are not mistaken, they are called upon to rectify the mistakes of ages; to begin ahead of where their contemporaries have left off; to be as a beacon light set upon a hill; to lead and not to follow; to keep out of the old ruts, and propel the car of humanity on a road of such gauge and solidity, that no earthly power can bar its progress, or improve upon its methods. A little more originality and less copying, more of Utah and less of Wyoming, California or anywhere else, save as the avoidance of their errors and benefiting by their experience, may make the new State, commonwealth or nation an example and a standard for ages yet to come.

There are men in this Convention who believe in God, who believe in prayer, who believe in inspiration; and while it would be unbecoming in them to "strive for the mastery," in humility they can give color, tone, character, spirit and vitality to the whole assembly, spite of diversity of sentiment, capacity, interest or politics. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," continuance thereof no man can tell.

The people of this Territory do not want those who claim to represent them to lead them into Egyptian bondage. They want the highway opened into the promised land—if needed, by controversy, by faith, by determination, and by that light which pierces into the future—so that the garment which is being made may not be too contracted for the growing stripling, the certain giant of the mountain tops.

Now, ye patriots, let your efforts prove your anxiety and concern; understand that the State is for man and not man for the State; be brief, concise and clear in the provisions for future legislation; do not seek to say it all, or do it all; have the fundamentals right—details will belong to the people in days to come; but give the future workers such a lofty example of unselfishness, economy, perspicuity and patriotism that your convention may live in history as the embodiment of political honesty, purity and loyalty, and your declaration of constitutional rights and privilege as the best yet formulated, because conceived in the spirit of those who in 1776 bequeathed to a partly unapprehensive future the inspiration from on high. Insist upon the simplification of jurisprudence, that it shall be made familiar as far as possible to every student in our public schools; that these schools shall be made more practical by including industrial training, at least to the ascertaining of individual drift; keep official remuneration within the limits of State ability; make taxation as low as compatible with a nation of humble workers; and follow the lead of Congress by making income (over a

given minimum) subject to a graduated tax; give every tax payer a vote and representation irrespective of sex; limit the suffrage to those who have an interest in peace, good order and the stability of the State; if prohibition is impracticable, make the State the only purveyor of intoxicating drinks, and cause the profits thereof to sustain the burthens of all misuse or abuse thereof; let prison labor be expended on our public roads, and if there is a way to do it, make the penalty for violated law so swift and sure that no murderer can live six years after he is sentenced to death.

A late estimate of probable increased revenues by a capable legal gentleman is not calculated to assure the citizens of Utah as to the inestimable value of Statehood. Their government was originally economical, and what that was unable to supply, government provision was in many departments their benefactor. In Statehood that would be withdrawn, and it is not so clear with some but that "it is best to let well enough alone." For this as for many other reasons the people will estimate at near its true value the labor of the Convention. In making that estimate, being Democrats or Republicans will cut but little figure; loyalty to party will be far less than loyalty to themselves and their circumstances, and the value of Statehood with its increased powers and privileges may be offset by present advantages and prospects for the future.

If too much has been said—in said, on this topic, justification is found in its importance. If it is best "to bear the ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of," the citizens will do as they did over the county bonds—they voted them down, being satisfied to leave an untimely or illegal act to the day of convenience, if that should ever come. Utah has prospered in the past, will prosper in the future, because of the indomitable faith and industry of her people. But they want to live within their ability, to pay as they go, and to be under no obligation which reflects upon their self-reliance. They have sought to escape from this in years gone by, and if a billion dollar Congress, for partisan or economical reasons, wants to lift this Cinderella to the dignity of a princess, her outward show may not be as brilliant as her favored sisters, but she will be just as warm-hearted, as full of hope, and effort as if she possessed unlimited resources. Her dignity, her love of country, her aspirations for good government, and her local pride, will equal if not surpass the most brilliant of the family, the proudest of a wonderful group!

HEREIN IS WISE COUNSEL.

I learn by reading in your paper the report of the late Salt Lake Stake conference held in your city, that it is proposed and advised that many of the unemployed now in the city go to the country and engage in cultivating the soil—those who cannot find other employment in which they are more experienced.

Another writer appears fearful this advice may result in filling the country with tramps in search of places and work, unless some means are em-