

which shall have been duly placed there by the owner.

It is to be hoped a fuller statement of the scope and effect of the decision will modify the conclusion which the newsgatherer furnishes, or that the Supreme Court of the nation will take the needed action to secure modification, as otherwise not only losses but trouble and mischief presently incalculable will surely result. It seems singular that any judge would construe a portion of the charter of the land so as to make it mean that the citizen's obligation to his fellow citizen is higher than that which he owes to the state; certainly such was not the meaning of the framers of that instrument nor has such been the practice under it for the long period of 120 years during which it has been in existence.

OUR MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Early in November next, the qualified voters of this and every other city in the State will elect municipal officers whose term of service will begin on the first day of January following. Although the scope of these elections by no means compares with that of a general election, even when they are all considered together, it still remains that to each city the matter is even of more consequence than are those which occur in the even-numbered years. There are several reasons for this, chief among which is the fact that the contest and the outcome thereof affect exclusively each place where they are held, whereas in all other elections such places are affected as only a part and parcel of the whole commonwealth. Distinctively local affairs require distinctively local consideration and all parties in interest should be interested.

In no place in our State is the issue of more consequence than here in Salt Lake City, this not only because ours is a much larger and correspondingly more difficult place to handle than any of the others, but for various reasons. The magnitude of our municipal obligations, existent and prospective, together with the means required to keep pace therewith, are matters of so much consequence that unusual ability and experience are needed to prevent the situation from becoming a crisis. It is one of those situations which require a type and a degree of statesmanship such as are usually looked for in national rather than in merely local councils, and even with the best of ability which can be brought to bear upon city affairs we are not apt to be extricated from the Slough of Despond for some time to come, if at all during this generation. What, then, would be our most likely portion with the city controlled by machine-made office holders, men who were given the places more because of blind and rank fealty to any particular political organization than by reason of any special or peculiar fitness?

It is not only our fiscal affairs that need consideration, though these underlie and in some manner influence most of the other propositions. There is, for instance, the question of police protection. Being deeply in debt and drawing upon the taxpayers until the limit has been reached if not passed, it still remains that the protective power at hand for whatever reason is inadequate to the proper safeguarding of the citizen. To enlarge the constabulary department means so much more expense which must not be thought of if there be any other possible resort. Cannot even the casual reader see in this situation a condition of things which calls for such consideration as partisanship

would not be likely to bring to it? And there are others, many of them.

The News can see but one way out of the difficulty, and it does not see it alone. It is gratified to know that men of all parties and varied social distinctions look upon the dilemma and the alleviation thereof in the same light that the News does. To obtain a proper view of the field it is first necessary to know what is not to be seen, and the first thing that occurs in this category is the political status which some few have tried to create. There is not a political question at issue and it would be quite impossible for the rankest and most irreconcilable party man to point one out. This being the case, and the whole matter demanding the best attention of all concerned, why not act accordingly and select our public servants in accordance with the demands of the place and the fitness of the person, no matter what his social, political or religious inclinations?

Those who think this paper has any ax to grind, any foes to punish, friends to reward or interests to promote other than are or should be everybody's, are greatly mistaken. We hope for the best for all classes in this and every other public matter and to such end will diligently be found working till the contest is over.

A FACULTY OF LEADERSHIP.

Discussing Mr. Bryan's prospects for the leadership of the Democratic party three years hence, the Springfield Republican goes into a clever dissertation on political consistency—that paste jewel that has never yet deceived the true statesman. Surely it is a jewel which makes up a very small part of the treasure of the average politician, and there is no risk in suggesting that in order to secure success Mr. Bryan need not always face the same way. It was Burke who said he could "change his front without changing his ground," and he did so on at least one great question. Gladstone and Salisbury and Chamberlain are living examples of self-reversal in policy and principle, either from conviction or a purely thrifty motive. Bismarck is a notable trimmer, yet one who has carried successful statesmanship further than almost any other man. Among leading Americans we have Jefferson, the strictest of constructionists, buying Louisiana without saying a word to Congress or getting a particle of authority; Calhoun repudiating protection and becoming a free-trader as soon as the question of slavery became prominent, while Webster on the other hand renounced free trade and became a protectionist as soon as New England manufacturing took its first great start after the war of 1812. Charles Sumner delivered some of his grandest speeches against war, yet in the Alabama claims controversy with England he was ready and eager to fight on the spot. Of living Americans, Mr. Carlisle was for free silver in 1878 but during several years past has been its bitterest opponent; and Mr. Cleveland, who in 1892 defined the test of Democratic loyalty and virtue as consisting of acquiescence in the decisions of the majority within the party, came out in 1896 in support of a platform and candidate that was an out-and-out bolt from the regular party's work.

Mr. Bryan has therefore precedent enough for any change in attitude he may see fit to assume. In nearly all these cases there has been no loss of political success. Moreover, it may not even be necessary perhaps that he should abandon in toto the issue on which he made his last contest. If that ceases to be the absorbing issue,

however, the next leader will have to hunt up and hoist into prominence some other issue on which to face the country. Has Mr. Bryan the sagacity and statesmanship to do that?

A GRATIFYING EVENT.

To the Latter-day Saints, it is a most gratifying event to learn that the venerable and beloved President of the Church, President Wilford Woodruff, has regained his health so far as to be able to address the congregation in the Tabernacle at such length and with such vigor as he did on Sunday. By the divine blessing he has recuperated from an illness which was very severe upon a person of his greatly advanced years; and the sincere wish of the Saints is that he will be permitted to associate with them in mortality for many years to come.

Today the Deseret News presents to its readers the full text of the remarks and testimony of President Woodruff, uttered at Sunday afternoon's meeting. Every Latter-day Saint who realizes the existence of certain facts, in religion's realm, knows that President Woodruff's words are those of an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such they are of vital importance to the whole world, and especially to the Latter-day Saints, who have a knowledge of the source of his inspiration and authority. Those words should be carefully pondered over by every Latter-day Saint; they should be read at and impressed upon all the congregations of the Saints, that every member of the Church may have the opportunity of listening to and profiting by this pointed and powerful testimony of President Wilford Woodruff concerning the mighty work which God is causing to be wrought upon the earth in these times.

POLITENESS PREVAILS.

It is extremely gratifying to cultivated people to know that the disposition in man which prompts him to be courteous is not falling off but rather advancing. Frontiersmen, mining prospectors and the advance guard in whatever lines of life are disposed to lose sight of the more technical forms of politeness and to forget piece by piece the lessons in correct deportment which they acquired in their earlier days; but so long as the native instinct to be civil until incivility is called for remains, the more substantial forms of good conduct remain and in most cases are ineradicable.

Kentucky is a state which is noted for the openhanded hospitality of its people, and this is generally dispensed in an unostentatious, unaffected manner which is the soul and substance of good behavior. But we read that even lynching, which is also tolerably common there, is done in so courteous a manner that the subject is left nothing to desire. For instance, last December a vigilance party at Owensboro did not violate the sanctity of Christmas Day by their act, but considerably waited till 2:30 next day before addressing themselves to the disagreeable but necessary task. Even then great consideration is said to have been shown for the religious needs of the prisoner. The report says that "he was given ample time to pray." But when he had finished his petition the lynchers proceeded resolutely and he was strangled to death. Even during the operation of choking the alleged murderer to death no disturbance occurred. The dispatch states that "the lynching was the most quiet and orderly, perhaps, ever conducted in the state, and few persons