

THE BOGUS "DEMOCRATS."

It must seem funny to the average Democrat to find himself read out of his own party by the Salt Lake Herald; so says the Tribune of this morning. But how funny it must appear to life-long Democrats to find themselves read out of the party by a self-appointed committee of rabid "Liberals," who have trained in all the local politics with the blackest of Republicans! The idea of half-a-dozen bigots, who have become cranky with anti-"Mormonism," attempting to force men who have been noted for many years as leaders in the party that founded the nation, to sign a document pledging themselves to opposition against a religious body, is supremely ridiculous, but no more silly than impudent.

The thing they call a platform" was not formulated by any Convention of Democrats, or Republicans, or Liberals, or any other party or alleged party. It claims to have been adopted by a committee, and that committee was never chosen by a party Convention. It is put together in such a shape that no party having any respect for its reputation for common sense would consent to endorse it. Take one sentence for a sample of many others of equal sense: "It is one of the claims of our republican institutions to increase the intelligence of the people." There's "intelligence" for you! One more: "We acknowledge the jurisdiction of future Democratic national conventions to re-state our political faith." What is the real object of this drive? Here it is, in the tenth section: "We also solemnly promise to support all nominations that shall hereafter be made by the party organized on this platform."

That is the milk in this poor little shrunk sour-scented cocoanut. With the advent to power of the Democracy will come prospects for office to these maggots from the corpse of the "Liberal" party, now rearing, and wiggling, and posing as the "only true Democrats" in Utah, who announce in the tail-end of the thing they call a platform, that "no person will be recognized hereafter as a Democrat who does not sign the same or in some equivalent way signify his adoption thereof."

"Recognized" by whom? By the great national party that has achieved success? Oh! dear no. "Recognized" by these products of the defunct, which in its lifetime aimed to destroy everything that was Democratic or Republican in this Territory. If there are any real Democrats in Utah, who are so lost to self-respect as to bow down before the edict of such a knot of creatures posing as dictators to freemen, they will proclaim themselves unworthy the name which is to be no longer a jibe for Radical politicians.

To be a Democrat is now to be in the fashion. And transformations into the semblance of Democrats will be common for former hangers-on to other parties. But among all the exhibitions of impudence and political acrobatics, none will exceed the spectacle of these whilom "Liberals," with such a record as they have made, jumping to the lead and dictating terms by which dyed-in-the-wool Democrats may be recognized as members of the party from which they have never departed.

The platform of the great national party last adopted at Chicago ought to be good enough for its members in this Territory. And the attempt to get up an anti-"Mormon" ring and dub it with the name of "Democrat," when the national party has refused to countenance such foolery, ought to be token enough to genuine adherents of the party that the self-appointed local platform manufacturers and shackle forgers are bogus and not entitled to recognition in any way whatever. Let them shout, burn torches, hire music, spit out their "Liberal" venom against the people (demos) of this Territory and vent their anti-"Mormon" intolerance as much as they please. But let no one who truly calls himself a Democrat join in their abuse, or cringe to their audacity, or conform to their impudent decrees.

PUNISH THE FRAUDS.

It appears that the plot of the sore-heads in Oneida County, Idaho, to overthrow the vote for the Democratic ticket has signally failed. Not only has John Hailey been elected as Delegate to Congress, but the Democratic county candidates have been elected. The frauds attempted by the anti-"Mormon" conspirators have defeated themselves. The registration law stood in the way of their purpose.

As we have previously stated, in several precincts the schemers polled large numbers of bogus votes, the total in several precincts being nearly double the number of genuine registered voters therein. This shameful business prevailed at the Singler election in 1882 but has failed at the Hailey triumph of 1884.

The returns from these precincts showing prima facie evidences of fraud, they have been thrown out of the count and this leaves a large majority both for the Territorial and local Democratic nominees. And now the sore-heads weep, and the baffled office-hunters howl; but their curses, both loud and deep affect, not the result and bring them but cold comfort.

We advised vigor and rigor against these frauds. We are pleased to see that they have been thus far circumvented. Now carry the war into Africa. Make an example of the rogues. Tackle them with the criminal law. The attempted frauds are more than an evil device affecting civil questions, they are criminal acts which deserve punishment. Put the rascals through.

A NEW ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION.

The inventive power which is one of the grand developments of the nineteenth century, is often prostituted to purposes of destruction, while its intent in the mind of the Great Author of all intelligence who has imparted the gift, was undoubtedly to bestow it for the benefit of mankind. Among the latest engines of destruction is a remarkable automatic torpedo. It is a cigar-shaped vessel in the process of construction at Hartford, Connecticut, and is thus described: It is thirty feet long with a diameter in the centre of thirty inches, and combines a very powerful explosive with ample propelling and steering machinery. Six engines develop 1,000 revolutions of the screw per minute, the motive power being carbonic acid gas. Moving three or four feet below the surface of the water, and guided by an operator from the shore or vessel by means of an electric wire, it is expected that the speed obtained, which is at the rate of a mile in three or four minutes, will make the almost invisible craft an effective engine of destruction against the most powerful ironclad which is unprepared for its mysterious approach. The torpedo, which is of the well known Lay-Haight pattern, is made of copper. It is to be offered to a foreign government for trial, with a view of securing a contract for a number of similar weapons.

AN UNSAVORY AFFAIR.

We have received, as intimated in yesterday's issue, a communication from "A Private" of Company D., Sixth Infantry, stationed at Camp Douglas. It quotes a notice which appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune a few days ago of a marriage performed by a Methodist clergyman of this city, the presiding elder of that church in this District, the Rev. Mr. Iliff, being out of town at the time. The parties who were wedded were a private soldier of the Sixth Infantry and a colored prostitute. Some person sent to us the same notice that appeared in the Tribune, but we threw it into the waste paper basket.

Our correspondent goes into detail and states, beyond the fact of the marriage, that the soldier for whom the ceremony was performed was grossly under the influence of strong drink at the time and therefore not in his right senses. He characterizes the whole affair as most disgraceful, and passes some severe strictures upon the clergyman who officiated, and further states that the Sixth U. S. Infantry feel disgraced by it, as it might be considered a reflection upon that part of the army, notwithstanding that the men as a body look upon the affair not only with regret but disgust.

We did not publish the communication in full, because of its severe reflection upon a minister of a religious denomination, and our not having heard anything from the other side of the question. Since then we have seen the gentleman who officiated at the marriage, and he states that the male principal in the affair was not, so far as he could discover, under the influence of liquor to any extent. He also says, in further extenuation, in reference to the miscegenation part of the matter, that he thought the soldier, whom he describes as of dark complexion, was a colored man. In addition the gentleman regrets exceedingly that he performed the ceremony; he is sensible of having made a mistake, which he would not commit again under similar circumstances.

We consider this explanation due to our correspondent in view of our declaration under the circumstances to publish in full his communication, which is forcibly written and extremely caustic. We will further say that no people of sense will be so unjust, and lacking in the power of discrimination as to condemn a whole regiment or any part of it on account of one soldier connected with it being associated with a very disreputable affair. The Sixth Infantry need not pay attention to the animadversions of people of such small judgment, who, however, are in our opinion, comparatively few. And as the gentleman who performed the ceremony under such improper conditions acknowledges his error, we do not consider that it would be proper for us to flaunt his name before the public in that connection, that having been already done by the paper in which the notice appeared.

As we have stated that no stigma should attach to the Sixth Infantry as a body on account of the ill conduct of one of its soldiers, so do we also in reference to the Methodist Church. No blame should attach to that religious body on account of an error committed by one of its clergymen.

STILL HELPLESS.

MANY of our readers who have taken a deep and pathetic interest in the details of the massacre of Latter-day Saints on Cane Creek, Lewis County, Tennessee, will regret to learn of the continued helpless condition of Sister Condon, whose two sons were murdered by the mob.

It will be remembered that the unfortunate lady was shot in the thigh when the assassins poured their parting volley through the window of the house. It was stated in the first place that the wound was merely a flesh one. It was much more severe, however, than at first supposed, the thigh having been broken by the missiles of destruction and death.

Several surgeons were called in to give skilled attention to Sister Condon, but either through a blunder or from intentional malpractice, they failed to properly adjust the limb, the bone not having been set. As a consequence the injured member remains useless.

We have been informed that the surgeons, imbued with the same diabolical spirit that impelled the murderers, purposely neglected to give Sister Condon the professional treatment her case demanded.

This seems too inhuman for belief, notwithstanding that it would appear that almost anything is possible in the line of cruelty where so demoniacal a crime as the massacre can be committed and condoned, and the red handed murderers go free without any practical attempt being made to bring them to justice, and vindicate the law as well outraged humanity. We will, until it is otherwise positively demonstrated, incline to the belief that the failure to properly treat Sister Condon's case was on account of ignorance of the principles of surgery rather than the result of unadulterated malice.

NOVEL BALLOT BOX.

In the State of Massachusetts a new kind of ballot box was used, for the first time, at the recent election. The voter deposits his ballot face downward on an inclined plane, and the turning of a crank carries it between a pair of rubber rollers, when the ringing of a bell announces that the ballot is within the box. On one end of the box is a registering machine, in plain sight, containing numbers, the register advancing one every time a ballot goes through. This arrangement seems to cover about all the requisites of a convenient and desirable ballot box, and many experienced politicians think there is no apparent reason why the whole country might not adopt it with advantage.

THE SCHOOL TAX QUIBBLE.

The right of resident taxpayers in a School District to vote as to a tax on their property for school purposes, is now under advisement by the Utah Commission. It is singular what notions people obtain in regard to the powers of that Board of officers appointed under the provisions of the Edmunds law. We should not be at all surprised if irrigation disputes were brought before them for settlement, or if cases of divorce or feuds arising "in the marriage relation," were submitted to them for a ruling.

We are not aware whether, in the arguments, pro and con, on the school tax question made before the honorable gentlemen on Wednesday, the question of jurisdiction was presented. It seems to us that it should have preceded any controversy on the main question. For, if the Commissioners have no jurisdiction over educational affairs and questions of local taxation for school purposes, any contention about the nature of a tax meeting was entirely superfluous. For, what is the use of a decision on any matter of law from a body having no lawful authority to decide it?

The powers of the Utah Commission are clearly defined and therefore virtually limited by Section Nine of the Edmunds Act. It has no powers whatever, other than those therein enumerated. They consist simply of appointing certain officers by whom elections of every description in this Territory shall be conducted, and, in the case of the election of members of the Legislature only, canvassing the votes and issuing certificates of election. If that Board has any other lawful powers we have not been able to discover them. There are some things which the law says they shall not do, and it may be argued that they may therefore do the opposite of the things that are forbidden. But even taking this extreme latitude, the authority thus inferred will not reach the case under consideration.

When the Commissioners arrived in this Territory the subject of voting at school meetings was mentioned to them and considered, we believe informally. And the conclusion reached, as we understood from those gentlemen, was that, as our school meetings are much in the nature of the common town meetings in various States, and that there is nothing political in their character, and that the law regulating them is a school law, sepa-

rate and distinct from the registration and election laws, they had no jurisdiction of the matter, and that therefore even the meetings at which elections for School Trustees were conducted were outside of their supervision. Hence they appointed no officers to conduct them. And indeed it would have been difficult for them to have determined what officers to appoint, if they had imagined they had authority in the premises, seeing that the law does not create or make any provision for such officers.

But the idea that a meeting for the determination of a school tax in a district, at which duly resident taxpayers meet to pass a regulation affecting their own property, is to be placed under the regulation of the Utah Commissioners, appears to us supremely ridiculous. And it is very certain that no mind that has not been blighted and obscured by the effects of "Liberal" training would ever seriously entertain such a notion.

Now we defy the most impudent and "Mormon"-eating survivor of the defunct "Liberal" wreck, to quote any provision of the law creating the office of Utah Commissioner or defining its authority, which, either definitely or by implication, places the control of a meeting of tax-payers to determine on the rate per cent. to be assessed for a school tax, under the supervision or regulation in any shape or form of the Utah Commissioners. Further, we defy any such relic of the odorous departed to show that the Utah Commissioners are endowed with judicial powers for any purpose whatever.

We say, here, that if there is any real question at issue in this matter, it is one that the Utah Commission has not the authority to determine, and that if they should render a decision favorable to the erratic genius that sprung the question, it wouldn't be worth the ashes of a ballot cast for James G. Blaine at the recent election.

Bank directors, railroad companies, joint stock associations, corporations of every kind in the Territory, might as well apply to the Utah Commissioners to determine whether polygamist stockholders should vote on questions affecting their property in such organizations, as for the opposers of education to gravely ask those Commissioners to rule upon the right of a taxpayer to vote as to a tax in the district in which he resides and has property to be taxed.

It makes no difference whether a taxpayer in a school district is a "Mormon" or a "Gentile," a polygamist or a monogamist, a citizen or an alien; if he is a resident of the District he can vote at a school meeting on the question of a tax on his property for school purposes, and his vote is just as good as another's, whoever he may be. This is according to the spirit of the law and is embodied in its letter. The question sprung is but a quibble and its interest is to evade, if possible, the payment of a lawfully assessed tax in the interest of education. All the bluster and pretence to the contrary are nothing but the old tactics of the poor party now lying cold and dead and forsaken and unburied.

A SOUND DECISION.

JUDGE EMERSON'S course in the First District Court on Wednesday in deciding that an open venire for jurors should not be issued in the court over which he presides, was such as we might expect from His Honor, viewing his long judicial career in this Territory, and the few mistakes he has made in the administration of the law. When we have had occasion to oppose his rulings we have not been slow to express our opinions.

The grounds of his decision, however, ought not to be misunderstood. Judge Emerson did not deny an open venire on the ground of its illegality. That question was not decided in his refusal. The matter is virtually before the Supreme Court of the Territory for consideration, and he is one of the Associate Judges of that Court. The granting of an open venire in his own Court would be a virtual settlement of the question in controversy which he is to sit upon with his associates in the Supreme Court. Therefore whether he is opposed or favorable to the open venire, his decision yesterday was wise and proper. But it does not prejudice the question nor commit him to any conclusion in regard to it as a Justice of the Supreme Court. It remains open, to be examined without bias, and free from the trammels with which any decision on the merits of the case in his own Court would have tied it up.

Our views on this question have been ventilated and the public know how we stand in relation to it. That common law practice should be introduced in the face of contrary statutory provisions, seems to us a new departure in jurisprudence and it is certainly an innovation in Utah. But in endorsing Judge Emerson's action, we do not consider it a decision tending to determine the question either one way or the other.

A SENSATIONAL STORY PROBED.

An absurd story, patched up and colored for sensational purposes, in relation to a young woman being rescued at New York from the "Mormon" emigrant company which arrived here yesterday from Liverpool, was recently

published in the New York Sun and telegraphed over the country to the newspapers. The narrative embodied a large amount of falsehood, relieved by a very limited quantity of truth.

The name of the young woman is Lavinia Coop, and she is not a member of the Church. Her stepmother, Mrs. Smith, of Ogden, paid her passage to Utah twice. The first time she did not respond, but finally concluded to do so. She appeared to be satisfied until just before landing in New York, when she was enticed into a part of the Arizona, occupied by a number of Irish emigrants, who were holding a concert and carousing.

When the vessel reached the port she was surrounded by a crowd of steerage and a few intermediate passengers who had persuaded her to remain, by telling her some ridiculous stories about Utah.

When Elder J. A. Smith, who had charge of the company of Saints, approached the crowd he was met with shouts of derision, and they told him she was not going to Utah. Addressing her, Brother Smith asked if that was her decision. She made no reply, the crowd answering for her. He then requested a private interview with her, which the crowd would not allow. He applied to the purser, Mr. Hammill, to interpose, which he did, and the interview was had in the presence of a lady passenger not of the Utah company, when Lavinia Coop, on being asked whether she proposed going west to her mother, intimated that she did not, her reason being that she objected to the Mormon religion, concerning which she had heard some fearful stories.

Shortly afterwards Brother James H. Hart, the Church emigration agent, came along, and he and Elder Smith at once placed the young woman in the hands of commissioners, that she might be protected from designing knaves, among whom was evidently an Irishman who had been on a visit to his native country and returned on the Arizona. He hung around the girl, even after she was in the hands of the commissioners. When the company left she was under the protection of those officers.

When the company reached Ogden Mrs. Smith, Lavinia Coop's stepmother, was in waiting for the train, and was greatly disappointed when she found that the young woman had stopped behind, having made preparations to receive her and make her in every way heartily welcome and comfortable.

The statement to the effect that the Elders returning with the company on the Arizona drank champagne and gambled is totally false. The abstemiousness and freedom from every unseemly and disreputable habit of the missionaries is a matter of remark wherever they travel, their abstinence not only extending to strong drink, but as a rule even to tea, coffee and tobacco, and the statement in relation to gambling is most ridiculous as applied to men who travel without purse or scrip and endure untold hardships for the sake of their religion, which forbids all such practices.

The Guion Company, who have carried the Church emigrants from Europe for nearly a quarter of a century, recognize the Elders and Saints as the most exemplary passengers traveling by their line. Mr. Ramsden, the company's agent at Liverpool, has over and over again voluntarily expressed himself, privately and otherwise, to that effect.

The sensational story concocted out of the incident concerning which we have given the genuine details is but another instance of wholesale lying against Latter-day Saints, a people who are everywhere spoken against falsely, because a great many people in the world love falsehood and spurn the truth.

THE IDAHO IRON-CLAD.

At the late election in Idaho, a ludicrous attempt was made to imitate the Utah anti-"Mormon" anti-"Marriage Relation" test oath. A slight alteration was made in the form to give it a tinge of originality, but it would probably have been as well to have adopted the Utah iron-clad. Here is a copy of the Idaho article:

OATH.

TERRITORY OF IDAHO, } ss.
County of Oneida. }

I—do solemnly swear that I am a citizen of the United States, and above the age of twenty-one years; and that I have resided in Idaho Territory continuously during the four months last past, and in this County for thirty days last past; that I am not now and have never been either a Bigamist or a Polygamist. That I have not now and have never had more than one living and undivorced wife at one and the same time. That I have never cohabited with any other woman than my lawful wife since my marriage to my said wife. That I have never entered into the relation known as the "celestial" or "mormon plural" marriage, and that I am not now living in that relation, so help me God.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this— day of — 1884.

Supervisor.

It appears from this peculiar oath that bachelor voters in Idaho are a privileged class. "I have never co-