

out of the political controversy that for more than a year past has been going on in this Territory, it is the welfare and advancement of the majority of the people. That object, and that alone, has with us been ever in view during all the wrangling that partisan cotemporaries and partisan speakers on either side of the political line have indulged in. We have not espoused the cause of Democracy, because the Republicans profess, and have given some evidence of, a patriotic desire to bring about a condition of peace and prosperity. We have not taken up the cudgels for Republicanism, because the Democrats have proclaimed, and manifested some sincerity in, a like desire. We believe that either party has the power to help materially in the consummation of so desirable an object; and we certainly believe that both parties, working sincerely for the same object, have the power to accomplish it. If a conscientious adherence to this attitude permits us at this late day to only *claim* to represent the Mormon people, then have our efforts indeed been woefully misapplied.

Furthermore: The News in declining to champion the cause or candidates of either the Democratic or the Republican party has also declined to lead or participate in active opposition to either the one or the other. But that course has not taken us out of the field of aggressive popular discussion. The common enemy of both the national parties, the obstacle, as we believe, to the harmony and growth of Utah, has not received gingerly treatment at our hands. Not that its candidates have been unjustly assailed or railingly accused; many of them have been men of capacity and honor. But they have stood upon a platform whose props have one by one been knocked away, and were the representatives of principles that either called for the continuance of or return to the period of discord and strife, or were summed up in the one word "spoils." Our opposition to this party and policy has been unequivocal and unceasing; believing it to be antagonistic to the best interests of the Territory, we have fought it in all seasons and in every honorable way. We have not even desired its continuance beyond a specified election day in the hope that its strength would draw from another set of candidates and thus render more certain the election of a set of candidates for whom we might have favor. Our "sincerity" in this admits of no question, we think, even though it has not been of the partisan Democratic variety. Nor should we think that in any avowal of ours the Democratic organ could find the "mack of a sinister purpose." Hence to charge us with saying that which "would land the Priesthood and members of the Church in a body in the Liberal party, which has no other platform than Mormon-baiting," may be passed as a piece of amusing absurdity. If the Democratic organ will look at its inuendo, in the light of its own performances it will confess that it has been guilty of colossal impudence.

Coming back now to the main proposition — Liberal opposition to "imminent statehood" and the wil-

lingness of the News, speaking for the Priesthood and members of the Mormon Church, to wait for that boon until the non-Mormons shall want it: The position of this paper is consistent, sincere, and in every aspect of the case prudent. If we didn't believe the political atmosphere in Utah would be cleared and purified by the death of the Liberal party; if we did not have the confession of that party that it only lives to oppose statehood; if we did not feel that every honorable man is entitled to have all his doubts as to Mormon sincerity, idle and without foundation though they may be, forever settled and set at rest; if we did not feel that our present condition is much more satisfactory than that from which the Territory has but recently emerged, and is to be cherished as preferable to any possible return; if we did not feel that with each political party so closely watching the other good government will be pretty certain and rank abuses speedy of correction; if we did not believe that the territorial form if well administered can be endured as long and with as little discomfort by Mormons as by non-Mormons; if we did not believe any of these things but believed their exact opposite, then we might join in the clamor for immediate statehood — and not get it.

The Mormon people are patient as well as patriotic. They are not Democrats because of the Home Rule bill, nor Republicans because of the Teller statehood bill. They haven't joined either party in order to hasten statehood. As to how much injustice has been done the Democratic party by the statement of this paper that "in all candor we suspect both parties are playing largely for effect" in the statehood agitation, the organ of that party may recall its own statement, "rather no statehood at all than statehood at Republican hands with the understanding that Utah shall be a Republican state" — or words to that effect; and its further declaration that the Republicans would never have presented the statehood bill save to offset the home-rule bill; a declaration the Republicans meet by asserting that the Democrats only framed the "grotesque" home rule bill because they were afraid of straight statehood, and still wanted to make a bid for votes. If these various "elucidations" are not "confusing" to the average mind then we do not understand the term; and if they do not warrant the suspicion that both parties are playing with this question for effect, they at least go to show that each party thinks the other is doing that very thing.

We say again, the Mormon people will welcome statehood when it comes, and they will then shirk none of its responsibilities. They are not sighing for a greater burden of taxation, but will not refuse their share of it when their fellow-citizens announce themselves as ready to assume it. Meanwhile they are doing quite well; they are contented and prosperous; they are trying to live their religion and build up Zion; and they have little time and small inclination to rant about, breathlessly seeking an object which they have long lived without and to which a large number of their fellow-citizens have announced themselves as violently opposed. They can wait.

RASCALLY BUSINESS.

It is claimed that another chapter is added to "Two Centuries of Dishonor" by the report which has been made concerning the transfer to the white people of the famous Cherokee strip; it might as well be said in addition that not only the report but the actions to which it refers and a host of others of the same character and in the same vicinity are as disgraceful to the nation as they are contemptible and rascally in the perpetrators. The lands held by the Indians were wanted by the white exterminators, who were as at the beginning of the country, "smarter" and more capable of driving a bargain with but one side to it than were the owners of the soil, and there was no such danger to encounter as in the case of deceiving and defrauding a white man, who knows that the courts of equity are always open and willing to give relief. So the Indian, as usual, had to go.

An able authority on the treatment extended and kept up by the interlopers to the native Americans, a few years ago in a burst of righteous indignation declared the fact was that the United States government had not kept one of its treaties with the Indians. While this is perhaps an exaggeration, it is not as far from the truth as could be wished. Still, we would not burden the government with so much of responsibility for what takes place as that writer does. That it is morally responsible is unquestionable, but that it can control or be properly answerable for all the rascally transactions of its agents and frontiersmen is out of the question.

An exchange says: "As long as the country was in the business of stealing land itself this was probably unavoidable; but more recently it has made many pretensions toward reform, which no one can reconcile with the Indian commission's acts. To have made the recent report [on the Cherokee business] complete the commissioners should have stated who did the cheating and who pocketed the profits of the fraud." This is outspoken enough for the most exacting. There can be no mistake made as to the writer's meaning. And yet who can say that it is not substantially just and practically correct? The fact is, we have as a nation got to looking upon the aborigines as intruders instead of taking that unwelcome role upon ourselves; the native's rights to property or redress for grievances become less as his numbers and possessions become less, and every natural indication points to the flat of fate that he will soon have neither hunting ground nor habitation, himself living only as a sad and fateful chapter in a dark and dreary history.

THE MAYBRICK CASE.

There is something terribly wrong, one way or another, in the case of Mrs. Maybrick, now undergoing a life sentence in an English prison on a conviction of the murder of her husband by poison. If she is guilty, as the jury said she was, then the time and sympathy extorted from the public on both sides of the Atlantic consti-