

family and friends for the cause which requires him to do this if there be one. To merely present an effect and hold back the cause—to draw on what one has not but is looking for, and offer as the reason for doing so nothing better than that it can be done, is even less than we have rated it; it is not only not satisfying, it is mystifying.

Three years and five months ago the control of public affairs in Salt Lake City changed hands. At that time there were sinews of war on hand in sufficient quantity, it seemed, to constitute a steady fund which, reinforced constantly and increasingly as was well assured, ought to have served the city in much the same capacity that the hundred million gold reserve in the Federal treasury does the government—that is, to keep its finances securely at the high water mark. Population and values were steadily increasing and as a consequence more and more taxes were coming along without the necessity of raising the rate one farthing. Licenses were also swelling the fund in growing quantities, and as an inevitable adjunct the revenue through the channels of the police courts became larger, at least the cases were more numerous. Then through stocks held and ready to dispose of, special levies made for improvements and so on it had yet other and continuous income. Add to these the fact that the bonding power of the corporation—considered either as a municipality or a school district—had never been used and was equal in an emergency to all the exigencies that any of us could then possibly foresee, and we can understand how comfortable were the circumstances under which the “new deal” took hold of affairs here.

What is the sequel? There is no money in the treasury, although taxation has been doubly increased through additional and enhanced values and through raising the rate, and all this is gone; everything available from all sources has been brought in and spent; the city has been banded nearly to the limit and the cash thus obtained is nil; and the \$200,000 lump which the newcomers were entrusted with and which it was hoped would be as so much ballast to the craft—the means of enabling them to keep out of debt, disappeared with the rapidity and completeness of a snowball in a hot oven. Last week workmen could not get their pay in full—a grievous thing of itself; and when the people ask why this is, they are met with the cool statement that our resources are not yet exhausted!

We are not saying that the city government has been or is dishonest or incompetent, nor do we for a moment decry the improvements which have been made and which have added to the comfort and healthfulness of the citizen and caused his property to advance in value. On the contrary, we believe the heads of the departments in most cases and a majority of the others to be thoroughly honest and efficient, and what has been done for the building up of the city meets with our most cordial approval. But has all this been done with an eye single to economy? Not by a great deal. There has been extravagance, loose-handedness and we fear at times pecu-

lation in the management of affairs; while sinecures have grown up in places and payments grossly disproportionate to the service rendered have prevailed in others. There has been too much of a disposition manifested to make of the better places under the city a free-and-easy sort of thing, and the check-rein has too often hung loosely in the hands of the driver when it should have been tightened. Carelessness in the disposal of matters in which the greatest care should have been taken has been exhibited quite frequently, and public benefits which should have inured to the citizens' welfare have been disposed of with the most prodigal recklessness. As between such a condition and one of niggardliness and retrogression there is a broad field which we should like to see the city's custodians enter and occupy.

DISAPPOINTED IMMIGRANTS.

A local paper reproduced yesterday morning a document alleged to have been written June 25, 1893, to Governor Stone of Mississippi, and printed in the *Clarion-Ledger* of Jackson, Miss., its signers being J. Q. Stephens, Amen Glover and Daniel Glover, until recently residents of Lawrence county, Miss., but later converts to Mormonism and now unhappy residents of Mesa City, Arizona. The writers ask the governor for free transportation back to Mississippi, if not that, at least reduced rates, and above all they beg that a warning be given to all to stay in their homes in Mississippi, “as they are better off than in this country,” etc.

We do not know whether the petition is authentic or not, or whether indeed there are any such persons as the alleged signers of it. We do know, however, that there is no truth whatever in some of the statements contained in it; of such character is the assertion that “polygamy is not only preached but is practiced by the Mormons.” The petition says: “They [the Mormon Elders] said we would not hear profanity of any kind in Arizona as in Mississippi;” but, it continues: “The people are very profane and saloons and gambling are carried on every day in the year.” Now, to charge these conditions to the Mormons, as is here done at least by implication, is notoriously unjust. Mormons are not and never were addicted to such practices; and though they may have to live in communities where they prevail, their most bitter enemy has never accused them of being the friends or devotees or patrons of the evils named.

Again: “These Elders told us we could enter 160 acres in Arizona if we would go there; that the people would help us, that building material was cheap, and that water was on the land,” say the writers; that they were in all this miserably deceived and that the rosy picture has not materialized in any respect. Yet it will not be denied we presume that the land laws of the United States extend to Arizona, and under these, bona fide settlers can take up public land at the specified price and the usual restrictions; not even in Mississippi are settlers allowed to

take up land belonging to others or are they taught to expect that the water will be brought right to their doors or farms for nothing. As to the help that they say was promised them from their neighbors, we have yet to learn of a single instance where an honest, thrifty, willing and contented person ever asked it in vain in any of our communities. So that it appears the land is there, the water is there, the building material is there, and prosperous, friendly neighbors are there. If the discontented Mississippians haven't found all they expected, we venture to say much of it is their own fault. There are those who doubtless would prefer Mississippi to Arizona as a place of residence; all such, especially if they have no other motive in changing than to promote their own pleasure and add to their comfort, ought to have stayed where they were.

On the other hand, if the Elders of this Church are indulging in undue persuasion to make proselytes to immigration and colonization, they are going beyond the duty laid upon them. They are not sent for any such thing. They go out to preach the Gospel, to call men to repentance. The spirit of gathering comes to the believer unbidden and without forcing; and to the true believer there is less thought of temporal advantage than of the trials and temptations incident to life among the body of the Saints, for Zion is the very threshing floor of the Lord. We are sorry if any one has been led into a blunder such as this petition sets forth. But it sets forth so much that is manifestly untrue that we are forced to think the blunder, if any there was, has resulted from the conduct of the complainers themselves.

SALT LAKE'S COMET.

The Associated Press announces that a Salt Lake has discovered a new comet in the constellation Lynx, the position being imperfectly described as “ascension 7 hours 45 minutes north 50 degrees.” Information of the “find” was at once communicated by telegraph to Professor Swift of the Warner observatory at Rochester, New York, and it was by him located and observed. The new visitor within our sphere of celestial movement has a tail two degrees in length which is increasing gradually; it is already discernible with the naked eye and ought soon to be a conspicuous object in the evening sky. It is quite welcome, the more so because of the disappointment of last year, when what is supposed to have been Biela's comet ventured shyly within our confines only long enough to be shivered into atoms and disseminated throughout interplanetary space.

The name of the discoverer is Alfred B. Rordame, a musician residing at 135 east, Fourth South street. If his discovery “sticks” it will add quite an item to the prestige of this city and will obtain for him recognition among scientific circles where at present his name may not be known.

The Mount Pleasant city council has established fire limits and passed an ordinance prohibiting people from stacking straw sheds within the limits.