

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.  
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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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A UTAH GENIUS.

"THEY do these things better in France," used to be an English adage, and the saying is not unfrequently repeated in the United States. This aphorism may be applied to the treatment of art and artists. It is a very rare (if not unknown) thing for a State or a City in the Union to take public charge of a genius in any branch of art, and provide him with the means of fulfilling his "manifest destiny." The work of a true artist is appreciated by the public, and his talents claim for him and are accepted as a passport into the highest society, but he works out his own salvation, often with "fear and trembling," receiving no assistance from the great public, and, as a general thing, no especial interest is taken in his career. But in France, art is held in high esteem, and the State encourages artistic genius. A youth who exhibits unusual talent in any particular direction is an object of public interest, and is considered of value to the community. He is taken hold of by the State, trained and educated at the public expense, and every opportunity given him for the attainment of excellence until he reaches full maturity. Public work is provided for him. If he is a sculptor, monuments, statues, ornaments for palaces and public buildings are obtained from him; if skilful with the brush, paintings are given him to execute. The theory is that his work will enrich the nation and add to the national renown. The genius in art is prevented from entering the army, because his services and exceptional skill and taste are worth more than his life to the country.

This is one reason why France is foremost among the nations in everything artistic and tasteful. Some day this nation will no doubt take a similar course with its sons and daughters, gifted with remarkable powers and exhibiting the tokens of rare genius. If the State assumes the common education of the masses, there is no reason why it should not especially care for special cases promising unusual returns for the public benefit.

Utah is not yet a State, and perhaps it is too much to expect that she will set an example, in the encouragement of genius, to the older portions of this great country. But we expect one day to see the State of Deseret leading out in everything that is for the advantage of the body of the people, and giving aid and assistance to struggling genius when a public good is to be achieved thereby.

Just now we are moved to these reflections by the case of young Dallin, of Springville, Utah County, which we brought to the attention of our readers some time ago. The boy, of his own volition and choice, took to moulding forms and figures, and in the execution of his voluntary work showed such great skill that what he did was the subject of general admiration. It was considered a great pity that his talents should remain without careful and experienced culture, and he was sent to Boston to study in the School of Sculpture, under Professor T. H. Bartlett. We learn by letter from that gentleman to Brother D. O. Calder of this city, that the boy is making first-rate progress and shows admirable pluck as well as a real genius for his work. He is but 17 years of age, and among strange people and strange sights, he sticks to his studies and his work with commendable perseverance, which has called forth the eulogies of his instructor, who thinks that he will make a mark for himself and the Territory to which he belongs. Now it appears to us that a young artist of this stamp should receive encouragement. He needs the sympathy of

his friends and associates, and the assurance that he is kindly thought of. And this could best be shown in a substantial manner. Without some help he will not be able to continue long at his present studies. His parents are by no means wealthy. His mother is straining every nerve to supply the necessary means for his board and tuition, but is not able to secure it. We do not propose to ask any gift for him, nor to treat him in any respect as a pauper. But we suggest to our public-spirited men who have means to spare for occasional luxuries, the propriety of encouraging him and art, by giving him an order for the model of a statue or monument or some piece of ornamental work.

He could execute plaster models for architectural adornments for public or private buildings. He could make many little artistic objects for the mantel-piece, cast in bronze or made in terra cotta, which would be suitable for the office or the schoolroom. By advancing him the money for some small objects of decorative art, or in part payment for some more pretentious piece of work, he would be assisted to pursue his studies and no one would lose anything in the transaction, but the generous individual as well as our Territory would be credited with an appreciation of art which might well be imitated in older parts of the Union.

We bring this matter before the attention of the public, and hope that Utah's first representative in the great art of sculpture will not have to slide back into the ordinary avenues of common life, for lack of a little substantial assistance in this critical period of his career. Any one wishing further particulars can obtain them of D. O. Calder, at his music store.

A SENSIBLE CONCLUSION.

THE City Council on Tuesday evening took action in regard to the proposition for lighting this city with electricity. That is, the city fathers concluded to wait awhile and investigate, before committing themselves to a contract involving changes that are yet within the lines of experiment, and that would conflict with an agreement by which the city is morally bound for more than a year to the gas company.

The petition presented, which will be found in the minutes of council proceedings, contains several suggestions well worthy of careful consideration. It places the subject in a plain and forcible manner before the council and the public; and forces the candid mind to the conclusion that this city had better "go slow," in taking hold of a system that has not yet been sufficiently tested to be safely pronounced successful and desirable in exchange for gas.

The closing suggestion will be received with favor by all public-spirited citizens. If the electric light, on a free and full investigation proves to be that which this city wants, and can adopt with benefit to the public, why should not the management and manipulation of the new illuminator be entrusted to our own citizens, who can handle it at least as well and quite as cheaply as strangers who have no stake in the country, and who have no object in view but the profits to grow out of the business? If the Gas Company will supply the electric light for as low a figure as anybody else can offer, seeing that the city and others identified with the Territory hold stock therein, why should not the Gas Company run the electric light, for city and business purposes—always supposing it is the thing that is wanted—and at the same time keep its gas interests for household and other use, and thus preserve existing benefits, while furnishing all that others want to introduce to the gas company's ruin and consequently the city's disadvantage?

We are gratified to see that the City Council has taken the course which we have advised from the beginning of this controversy; that is, concluded "not to be in a hurry." We are not opposed to the electric light, as our readers are all well aware; we are not against the Brush system, nor in favor of any other system. We are simply for waiting and investigating, with a distinct intention of being on our guard against the wordy claims of those who represent any of the rival machines for electric lighting, and particularly when they resort to dis-

genuous methods to force patronage or attract attention.

The central tower plan is yet of extremely doubtful efficiency for street lighting, and the erection of several lamps at different points has yet to be proven economical and useful in comparison with the much more easily managed, distributed, regulated and controlled illuminator, which as yet holds its own for public use in all the great cities of Europe and America.

We are in favor of deliberate investigation, without haste or anxiety, and in the event of a decision in favor of the electric light, no matter which of the different systems may be adopted, of giving to our own citizens the opportunity of handling the new illuminator and receiving the profits accruing, in preference to outside parties, who can do no more than those whose responsibility is beyond question, and who are identified with us in all that goes to build up and benefit the community. The matter is assuming a proper shape

DO THE PEOPLE RULE?

A COMMUNICATION from Ephraim, Sanpete County, will be found in another column. It touches on a sore place in our territorial system. The practice of ignoring the wishes of the people most affected by the appointment of an officer, is anti-Republican, anti-Democratic and anti-American.

Ephraim has been for some time afflicted by a postmaster who has disgraced the position he held. "Woe unto the drunkards of Ephraim," is a scripture saying not intended in this case, but still very applicable to that official and his chief associate, if the statements of Ephraimites—"Mormon" and Gentile—are to be relied upon. A change was greatly needed, but that change should have been made in the interests of the public, and not for the personal benefit of an individual recommended only by parties not immediately concerned.

If the appointment is not yet made, the people of Ephraim should at once take steps to make their wishes known at headquarters. A petition signed by the citizens of Ephraim should be forwarded to the P. O. Department at Washington, and our Delegate should be made acquainted with the facts and the desires of the people. If the requests of the public are treated with contempt, as they have been in some other instances, the petitioners will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that they have made an effort in the right direction; whereas, if they do nothing, while their opponents are active, they will deserve to suffer the consequences.

The office of Postmaster in a country town is not one of great magnitude, and may seem not worth struggling for. But the people are frequently subjected to repeated annoyances from petty postmasters, who take delight in showing their opposition to the masses of the citizens here, by small discourtesies and frequent covert insults.

In a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," it would seem that so small a position as the office of Postmaster would be filled by the people's choice, even in the anomalous political organization we call a Territory. But in this "greatest government under the sun," things are done that would not occur, nor be endured if they did, under some of the much-abused monarchies of the old world. Yet this is a free republic, where the people are supposed to rule in all things.

A NEW PAPER.

THE first number of the Bear Lake Democrat reached us this morning. It is dated October 23. It is a weekly newspaper, with patent outside, and lively, newsy and substantial inside. It is a large eight-column sheet of four pages, published at Paris, Bear Lake County, and edited by J. C. Rich and J. H. Hart. It is Democratic in politics, as its name denotes, but announces its intention of being outspoken in relation to any thing it considers wrong in any party. We notice contributions from the pen of L. O. Littlefield, who is a pleasant writer as well as good printer; the names and talents of the editors are well known in the

community, giving promise that the Democrat will be ably managed and become a power for good in Northern Utah and Southern Idaho. The Democrat publishes the party ticket for Bear Lake County, as follows:

For council, William Budge; for representatives, J. H. Hart, J. C. Rich; for sheriff, C. Wallantine; for treasurer, J. U. Stucki; for assessor, L. B. Hunt; for probate judge, Geo. Osmond; for auditor and recorder, J. C. Rich; for county commissioners, C. C. Rich, C. E. Robeson, Jno. A. Hunt; for coroner, Leonard Floyd; for surveyor, E. N. Austin.

Precinct officers—Paris precinct: for justice of the peace, J. U. Stucki; for constable, John Welker.

St Charles precinct: for justice of the peace, L. B. Hunt; for constable, Swan Arnell.

Montpelier precinct: for justice of the peace, David Osborne; for constable, John Bagley.

The Democrat contains a complete refutation of the slander, still repeated by papers without conscience, that Hon. George Ainslie was nominated for Congress, at the instance of the Delegate from Utah, while the people wanted another man. Mr. Hart, who was quoted as making a statement of that kind, is one of the editors, and he effectually disposes of that whole cloth falsehood.

We recently referred to the frauds committed on the people of Oneida County, and advised our friends there to make a stand against the party that had committed the outrage. The Democrat speaks strongly on the same subject and says:

"There they have had the experience of being repeatedly and systematically defrauded out of their rights and liberties for ten or twelve years. They have seen their candidates duly elected and then denied the right of exercising any of the functions of the offices. They have seen the public funds of the county recklessly squandered and the school funds in many districts stolen outright, and not any redress could be obtained, while the rascally perpetrators of felony and fraud, who by every known rule of law and justice should be in the penitentiary, walking the streets in the best of stolen clothes and snapping their fingers at the honest portion of the community whose ballots they had burned before being counted, or substituted fraudulent ones in their place."

These are only a few of the infamies perpetrated in Oneida County, which are matters of common fame too well authenticated to be denied, and form sufficient reasons why a change should be effected.

We wish the Democrat success in its work, and hope that it will be able to overcome the difficulties of publishing a paper of its dimensions in a sparsely settled district; and to show more fully its aims and policy, we clip the closing paragraph of its first editorial:

"The Democrat will be devoted to religion, politics, agriculture, science and literature; and will present abbreviated the news of the world. Should we fail in our first efforts to attain to the acme of journalism, we hope our friends will grant us such immunities as are accorded to provincials. We hope, however, with the indulgence and support of our patrons, the criticisms of our contemporaries and our own devoted efforts, that our journal will rank amongst the foremost moral, religious and political reformers of the age, and be known as a fearless defender of the rights and liberties of all classes of our fellow-citizens."

THE MORMON QUESTION.

THE St. Louis Republican has had something to say on the "Mormon" question lately, and has discussed it in a better manner than is usual with our opponents. The common style is to abuse us without stint, accuse us of crimes we never thought of committing and intentions that never entered our souls, and then call on the Government to convert us with prisons and chains or bayonets and field guns. But the Republican recognizes the worth of the people who have been the means of opening to colonization the vast region now occupied by two States and half a dozen Territories, and also the aims of the adventurers who start the villainous stories concerning the "Mormons" and who lust for their possessions. We clip a couple of paragraphs from the Republican as a sample of its utterances on this subject:

"Facing these facts, what is to be done? The 'do nothing' policy has failed; what shall be the character of the 'do something?' If the Mormons were a worthless class of citizens we might, and undoubtedly would, offer them the alternative of contenting themselves with one wife or departing in peace—or otherwise as the necessities of the case required. We might, and undoubtedly would, say to them: 'Conform to our marriage laws and stay; continue to defy them and you must go.' But they are an exceedingly valuable class of citizens. They have displayed an energy and skill in colonization, under the most unfavorable circumstances, which has provoked the admiration of the world. They have literally made 'the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose,' and in an inhospitable desert—compared with which the New England of the Pilgrim fathers was a paradise—have reared a flourishing commonwealth which foreigners cross the Atlantic to see.

"How can we bring the Mormons into what may be termed keepable shape? How can we eliminate polygamy and yet not drive away the polygamists? It is to be hoped that the government, in any dealing with the matter, which may be attempted hereafter, will always remember that the strongest opposition to the Mormons comes from those who are hungry for the Mormons' property, and that it will not be unduly influenced by these wolves in sheep's clothing. No action can succeed, or ought to succeed which is not based upon justice, honesty and honor."

THE WORK STILL MOVING.

IT appears that in spite of opposition from the German authorities, the work of God on the continent of Europe is still progressing. Elder S. L. Ballif writes from Berne, Switzerland, a letter to the Millennial Star, which appears in that paper of October 11th, to the effect that several baptisms had taken place in Berlin, Ludwigshafen, East Switzerland and Geneva. In Nurnberg several persons had applied for baptism. Permission had been given by the police authorities to the Saints to hold meetings in Berlin, but they were not allowed to advertise them. Three adults and three children were about to emigrate with the last company to Utah from Prussia, and the same number from Switzerland, with seven adults and four children from Italy.

Elder Van Dyk, writing from Zwolle, Holland, on the 4th of October, states that he had lately baptized four persons and two others were ready for baptism. The prospects in Holland were good and more Elders were needed.

Elder Wm. R. Webb reports seven more baptisms in the Newcastle and Durham Conference, many strangers attending the meetings of the Saints, and a favorable change of feeling in some persons who had formerly been opposed to the latter-day work.

Elder John A. McAllister gives further details of the opening of the work in the Orkney Islands, where meetings were being held in the midst of some opposition, and hundreds of tracts and pamphlets distributed.

Elders John Urie and David Urie, missionaries from Utah, arrived on the S. S. City of Berlin, on Monday October 4th. Both were in good health and spirits and had a pleasant trip from home.

The Star announces the following: Francis Cope is released from the business department of this office, to leave for home on Saturday, Oct. 30th, on the S. S. Arizona.

C. W. Hulse is released from being a traveling elder in the Manchester conference, (on account of ill health,) to return to Utah with the company that will leave Liverpool Oct. 23d.

Lyman R. Martineau is appointed to succeed Elder Cope in the business department of this office.

John Urie is appointed a traveling elder in the Glasgow Conference, to labor under the direction of Elder D. C. Dunbar.

David Urie is appointed a traveling elder in the Glasgow Conference, to labor under the direction of Elder D. C. Dunbar.

A locomotive on the Wabash railway, the other day, ran from Homer, Ills., to Catlin, a distance of 14 miles, in thirteen minutes by the watch. This is pretty good speed for an American railroad.