

attending to their duties, more susceptible to the whisperings of the Spirit, more devoted to the cause they have espoused, more experienced in detecting the tricks of the adversary and the wiles of designing men, than has been the case for many years. The reports from the Elders abroad are of a uniformly encouraging character and a spirit of honest inquiry and fair treatment on the part of the world appears to be manifest wherever the missionaries go. At home the Saints have been prospered in their basket and in their store. Some of them have had to learn bitter lessons, but they are all the better for the instruction. Those who have unwisely acted either in temporal or spiritual matters are themselves convinced of their errors, and are generally seeking to profit by the experiences gained. Fields, gardens, orchards, flocks and herds—all these have prospered and yielded abundantly. Truly the Lord has been kind to His people, and is bestowing in rich measure a fulfillment of the promises made to them and concerning the land of their habitation. It is doubly good for them to meet in Conference under such conditions, and, with hearts open to counsel, to join together in praise and thanksgiving to the Most High.

WHAT THEY SAY OF IT.

The opponents of non-partisanship in municipal affairs give an astonishing number of reasons for the action of the citizens' committee whose labors have called forth these maledictions. In some obscure and inexplicable sort of way the election of a United States Senator in 1899 is said to be involved in the question as to whether a political party administration or a business one shall control in the affairs of Salt Lake City. In an equally vague and intangible way there are dark hints that the move is intended to weaken or disrupt one party to the betterment of the other—one seeming to know exactly which is which in the matter of detriment or help since the same charge is made by partisans on both sides. Others insinuate a return to "old conditions," whatever that may mean, and the restoration of influences which political parties have no use for and are fearfully afraid of. Still others charge personal aims and intentions against the committee, suggesting that it has had private axes to grind and private reasons for its methods and nominations. The more bitter the partisan who expresses his disapproval of the reform movement, the more numerous and the more unworthy the motives he is able to ascribe to its promoters.

Some men who would be insulted if a doubt were expressed as to their fairness, become almost furious in their criticism and certainly dishonest in their insinuations against the citizens' committee. Rank partisanship has beclouded their vision and impaired their judgment. These are men, too, of high repute and excellent citizenship—they are not of the low, idle stripe of partisans. One of them admitted to the writer that many years ago he became converted to the idea of independent non-partisan government of cities; that in the abstract he believed in it now; but that there were no conditions here justifying it at present, especially as his party was in a fair way to win and its principles as well as its candidates could be safely entrusted with the reins of power. When asked what kind of conditions he thought would justify a revolt against machine administration, he only replied that he thought his party, in view of what it had done

elsewhere, was entitled to a fair trial.

Well, the people who do not stand on the corners talking politics, who do not follow around after brass bands, who do not manipulate others or allow themselves to be manipulated—the people who read, and work, and think, and suffer under maladministration, are just about ready to join wholesale in the movement for reform, with the determination that the government of a city being a business affair, it should be conducted in a business way by business men. This seems to grieve the politicians greatly, and we are just mean enough to say we are glad of it.

AN UNLIKELY PURCHASE.

The lucky speculation which Uncle Sam made when he bought Alaska from Russia, as developed in the seal, salmon and gold resources of the purchased territory, has seemingly fired some of his agents or representatives with the idea of spending a little more money in the same line. The piece of property in question is Greenland, which recent London advices intimated that Denmark was willing to dispose of at a good fair figure, and which this government is reported to have made an offer for. Of course the story is denied by those who ought to know the most about it, and in truth it may be doubted even by those most ready to accept sensational news, because of the grave foreign complications which such a transfer would inevitably produce.

Let us glance for a moment at the geographical aspect of the case. Greenland projects about as far south as Alaska—how far north no one accurately knows, nor, for present purposes, need any one care. It reaches down as a mighty peninsula as far as northern Labrador, almost to the latitude of the northern point of Scotland. Its southernmost point, if provided with a naval establishment of any reasonable proportions, would furnish a base from which the whole north Atlantic might be controlled—certainly the communications between Great Britain and Canada would be threatened and could be severed at any time. If ever it should come to a war between England and the United States, the possession of a station in South Greenland would be of the utmost strategic importance. Hence it is clear that even if this country could persuade Denmark into selling, and could agree upon and raise the price, the matter would be only half begun, because in no such transaction would England consent to be left out of the reckoning. Some months ago when there was talk in London about the purchase of Cuba by Great Britain, everybody knows how vigorously the United States was prepared to protest. With the same justification and with quite as much earnestness Great Britain might be expected to be heard in the event of any negotiation looking to our acquiring of Greenland.

THE SHOWMAN'S ARTS.

The showman is almost more in evidence than any other creation on this earth of ours. His instincts are the keenest, his ambition the most irrepresible; nothing is too solemn or too light for the exercise of his genius, nothing too important or too mediocre to escape his distinguished attention.

Formerly his traits were exhibited mainly in securing a control of places or persons or things to which attached a measure of public interest—and these he allowed the curious to visit and view—for a consideration. From the possession of the real thing,

whether animate or inanimate, it was but a short step to the pictorial representation and the wax-work facsimile. And now he has added, thanks to the photograph and the phonograph, these important adjuncts of realism, appealing to the sense of vision and that of hearing, which leave hardly anything to be desired in the line of accurate reproduction.

At perhaps a hundred places in this small city may be heard for five cents an echo—albeit somewhat squeaky—of the famous orchestral pieces, band tunes, topical songs and stump speeches which have met with popular favor on their original presentation. Last week we had for several nights a verisimilitude reproduction on canvas of the famous prize fight in March between Sluggers Fitzsimmons and Corbett. The voices of noted men, as well as views of noted incidents, are caught and preserved for the delectation or amusement of later and distant admirers, and the triumphs of science are a most ready and effective aid to the showman in his pursuit of paying novelties.

Like every good thing, however, these scientific successes may be made evil and base use of, for instance, as a gratification of a morbid taste and the less worthy passions and sentiments of mankind. Thus, the dispatches inform us that in the Luetgert case in Chicago, where the defendant is charged with having killed his wife and destroyed her body in his sausage factory, the phonograph or an instrument akin to it has been introduced as the most attentive and accurate auditor in court, and witnesses, lawyers and judge are expected to talk loud and clear enough to permit of everything being taken in by the vast ear of the machine. This is one step in advance, we believe, of anything yet attempted in this particular line of the show business, and it is one which most sensible people will hesitate about giving full endorsement to.

WHO ARE THE "DECEIVERS"?

Your correspondent writing from Society Islands in your daily issue of the 2nd inst. makes some statements which I trust you will grant me the space to correct. By numerical comparison the "Josephites" have rather the advantage of the L. D. S. Utah Church in those islands. Your correspondent claims 1,056 adherents, while by the report of our recorder at our annual conference of current year we have 1,946. That certainly gives us "a sufficient number of listeners to encourage" us. As to deceiving the natives no such an effort has ever been made. Our first missionaries landed there in 1873, since when we have kept up the mission. We could not call ourselves other than Latter-day Saint Elders without deceiving, for we have never gone under any other name, and our right thereto has been favorably decided in the courts. But we have never stooped to the subterfuge of passing ourselves off as Elders of the Mormon Church of which W. Woodruff is president, as implied by your correspondent.

With the desire for the elicitation of truth alone,

I am, Yours Respectfully,
J. W. WIGHT.

528 east, Second South street, Salt Lake City, Oct. 2, 1897.

We give place to the foregoing because we do not desire, either wilfully or unintentionally, to publish misstatements without correction, or to deny a hearing to any person or organization that may consider himself or itself aggrieved by anything that may have appeared in our columns. At the same time there are