



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Wednesday.....Oct. 24, 1866.

REASONS AND CAUSES.

That the original settlers of this Territory accomplished a great work, in conquering the obstacles with which they had to contend, and turning a desert wilderness into a fruitful land, no one can gainsay. That the difficulties which had to be encountered were of no ordinary character, those who are acquainted with the wildness of the unbroken lands and sage plains around us cannot help knowing. Roving bands of Indians disputed with crickets and wolves the occupancy of the country, and looked with jealous eyes on those who came to settle here and cultivate the soil. The dry, arid waste had to be watered from the canyon streams, which were directed from their natural channels by artificial ditches and innumerable sects, dug for the purpose by immense labor. Settlements were formed under the most disadvantageous circumstances. Large tracts of land were broken up, irrigated and brought under cultivation; and all the facilities for internal communication, and commerce with the outside world, had to be made.

While thus engaged in peaceful industry, the people were happy, because they were virtuous, and prosperous because they were energetic and persevering. Peace reigned throughout our settlements; temperance, quietness and good order characterized the people; and the entire community increased in the possession of those virtues which are the true basis of a nation's greatness and glory.

By the exercise of a wise policy Indian difficulties were few and attended with comparatively little loss of life. There cannot be shown in the settlement of any other State or Territory in the nation, so little trouble with the aborigines and so few lives lost in encounters with them, during the same length of time, as the history of this Territory reveals since its settlement less than twenty years ago; and this because of the wisdom manifested in dealing with them. And there cannot be shown in the record of any other Territory in these western regions, so little violence and disorder, so few breaches of the peace, unlawful acts, disturbance and reckless brawls, in the same length of time, as the record of Utah will show. We are willing that the records should be opened, the calendars examined and the naked facts brought side by side, because we know they would substantiate our statements. And yet we have had, at times, a large floating population of transients, including desperadoes, gamblers, rowdies, and similar reckless characters, whose wanton and unlawful acts were deemed sufficient, in some other places, to demand the organization of vigilance committees to overawe and restrain them.

These facts, which cannot be successfully disputed, furnish the strongest answers to the repeated accusations made against the people of this Territory; and one reason why we do not reply oftener to such accusations is, that no unprejudiced honest man or woman can come here and travel amongst the people without feeling and seeing the

truth of that which we have said. No community such as we have been represented to be could show the evidences of virtuous industry, energetic perseverance, peace and good order which abound on every hand throughout the Territory. And none but a mind beclouded with prejudice or sunk in corruption could fail to recognize them, and award that just credit to our citizens which is their due.

Men whose whole energies are devoted to industrial efforts have no time to become slaves to ungoverned lusts and the baser passions. And the entire history of the world proclaims, that an agricultural population, such as the people of this Territory have of necessity had to be, never were capable of the turpitude and enormities with which we have been falsely charged. The very nature of their occupation induces thoughts and habits of peacefulness, quietness, and sober demeanor. It unfits them for acts of violence and deeds of wickedness. It induces calm contemplation, and gives a strong vitality to the better portion of human nature that is but seldom found in places where masses of mankind are closely crowded together. Nay, it is admitted by social philosophers, that if large cities were not recruited from the health, purity and innocence of the country, the race of human beings inhabiting them would rapidly dwindle, and in a few generations die out.

The very circumstances, then, in which we have been placed in this Territory, if there were no higher motive actuating us to do right, would have thus far effectually precluded the existence of such a state of society as unscrupulous enemies have said and say is to be found here. And we are satisfied that their baseless assertions can have no weight with any, except such as have no knowledge of us and the circumstances which have surrounded us, or those who are as dishonest and degraded in spirit as they are themselves.

Various causes exist why these slanders are uttered and repeated. Every person here knows very well that one is a desire to stir up strife, so that, through troops being sent here, contracts may be obtained, and Uncle Sam fill the safes of those who get them with a portion of his revenue; consequently, there is considerable wire-working and puppet-pulling to accomplish this object. Another cause is, that the fine houses, delightful orchards, and splendid farms around, are viewed with covetous eyes by individuals who are too lazy to be at the labor of breaking up unclaimed land and making similar improvements for themselves. And they think if they could excite a national crusade against us, that we would sooner leave our habitations and improvements, as we have done before, than relinquish our faith. Another reason is, that some specimens of embodied littleness have been sent here, who seem to imagine that every person should fall down and do them reverence; and when they have found that our citizens judge of men by their worth, and respect them for their merits, they have joined hands with the others, betraying a strong desire to compel an influence which they have lacked the honorable qualities to freely obtain.

We expect to live through these, and other causes of opposition, and continue as we have begun, seeking to do good to all men who will permit us to do good to them, laboring to subdue the earth, build cities, work righteousness, and develop a state of society in which truth will be loved for itself, virtue be practised for its holy and pure results, and the will of God be done on the earth as it is in heaven. We will honor the Constitution, honor its provisions, revere its principles, and cling with the tenacity of life to the heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers, who framed that Constitution and laid the foundation of the nation of which we form a part.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION AGAIN.

Perhaps in no other city have there ever been made as many and varied efforts to properly control the sale of intoxicating liquors, as in Great Salt Lake City, although its municipal organization is, like the Territory of which it is the capital, but of recent date. Every means that wisdom has suggested up to the present have been tried, and that wisdom not simply of a theoretical kind, but drawn from wide experience of the evils of intemperance witnessed in other and older cities. At times the sale has been entirely prohibited; licenses have been granted to a few; then they have been more general; again the City has placed the vending of liquors solely in the hands of its own agents, that it might be the better controlled, keeping open one or two bars; and again the bars have been closed, and only one place has been allowed to be open, where liquors could be obtained. Once again has the sale of intoxicating drinks been entirely prohibited. The only place that was authorized to sell them has been closed by the City, and there is now no place within the municipal limits where they can be lawfully obtained.

That a revenue is derivable from the sale of liquors is apparent without argument, whether that revenue comes in the shape of profits to the City treasury, as was required by the municipal ordinance, when sold exclusively by its own agent or agents, or in the form of license fees from those to whom the right of vending them was granted. And as an extra police force is always required, to maintain order, where such stimulants are easily obtained, justice to the sober, orderly and temperate portion of the citizens, would seem to demand that any profits arising from selling liquor should pass into the hands of their representatives, that such a force might be maintained without increasing taxation upon them for that purpose.

Those persons who are in the habit of using intoxicating drinks are not, at least in this community, among the number who contribute largely if at all to the revenue of the city by paying taxes. As the amount of taxes increases with the increased value of property, and as property becomes more valuable in proportion to the improvements made, it follows that the sober, industrious portion of our citizens, who keep adding to the beauty, comfort and value of the property they possess out of the proceeds of their industry, instead of spending that means to gratify a false appetite, by their very temperance increase the value of the taxable property. On them, therefore, falls the burden of taxation. And it seems unfair that their sobriety should be compelled to pay for a restraining force, in the form of extra police, to keep persons of intemperate habits within proper bounds, who by that intemperance dissipate the very means that would add to the taxable value of their property, supposing they possess any. But nearly all the disturbance, produced by intemperance, which has yet been seen in this city, has been caused by transients and persons owning no taxable property here. This makes the case still stronger; for no just person would for a moment say that sober tax-payers should be burdened to keep in order drunken non-tax-payers, if it could be avoided.

To license freely would be to increase intemperance. This, past experience has proven. To license private citizens is to call upon the sober and orderly portion of the community to pay for trying to keep the intemperate and disorderly within something like proper bounds, while the parties licensed are reaping the profits; for the license fees would not cover the increased expenditure that would be required. To confine

the vending of liquors to the agents of the City, is to throw the profits into the City treasury, and thus make the fund from the evil, that is demanded to keep it in check. Add to this the fact that the City, and every citizen and inhabitant thereof, are directly benefitted by any surplus revenue thus arising, through public improvements, repairing streets, building bridges and other works for the benefit of the City, without increased taxation, with improved morality and order through controlled appetites, and the argument in favor of the City being the sole manufacturer and vender of liquors within the corporate limits is strong beyond controverting.

But there is a higher and nobler aspect of the question than the one of revenue, and that is the preservation of morality, temperance and good order. It was to subserve this object that the City Fathers restrained licenses; and it was also for the same object that the only place where intoxicating drinks were sold has been closed. The sense of the people, publicly expressed a few weeks ago in mass meeting assembled, is strong against the existence of places where immorality can be increased and iniquity be strengthened. They are opposed to the establishment of dram-shops, bars, tippling-houses, gambling halls and every similar institution. The City Authorities are their representatives and selected agents, to labor for the good and well-being of the entire community within the limits over which their jurisdiction extends. But there are uses other than that of drinking as stimulants, which is simply their abuse, to which intoxicating liquors can be applied. They can be used occasionally, if wisely, as medicines, for washing, for fomentations, and for similar purposes. This seemingly would require their being sold, so that those who actually desired them for such purposes could obtain them. Again; there are people who come here who have been accustomed to use them as stimulants, who strongly desire to continue using them moderately, and who look upon it as a heavy curtailment of their accustomed habits to be denied that privilege. There are others who crave for them to excess, and who will try any and every means, no matter how illegal or degrading to have them.

To meet the craving of this last class, who of all others should be most strictly restrained, illegal venders of the articles disregard every righteous injunction and precept, violate every ordinance and transgress every law which forbids their sale, and carry on a secret traffic, to make money from the degradation and ruin of fellow-beings. We have no language in which to express the loathing with which we view them and their nefarious course; and we trust our citizens will be true to themselves and their expressed declaration, and ferret out all such infamous dens that the law may have due course upon them.

With regard to the other views of the question presented, it is difficult to say which is the wisest course to pursue. What the future action of the City Council may be on the matter we cannot say. Whether it would be best to grant a few licenses, or to continue the exclusive prohibition of selling liquors, their collective wisdom may determine. But from the knowledge which the people have in the wisdom of those to whom they have intrusted the municipal affairs, we are satisfied that whatever action they may deem proper in the matter will be sustained by the bulk of our citizens, who are well aware that the City Fathers are, with themselves, deeply interested in preserving peace, virtue, good order and sobriety among all classes, and of maintaining the high reputation which our city has won of being, not only among the best, but the very best, regulated municipality on the continent.