

skilled in the arts and mechanics than can probably be found in any other community of similar proportions. Neither are they ignorant in other respects, but in point of native intelligence will compare favorably with any people of the same number on earth. The advancement that they have made with the materials they have possessed, and the difficulties with which they have had to contend, speaks loudly to their credit. As an evidence upon this point the Idaho anti-Utah memorialists lately had a trip to Salt Lake for the purpose of obtaining information regarding the means by which the marked advancement of this Territory was attained. Thus they made the people of Utah—overwhelmingly “Mormons”—their Gamaliel. What they learned while here to enable them to legislate progressively for Idaho was gleaned mostly from the practical operations and results of the intelligence of the “Mormons,” who have been the central factor in the development of this region.

THE ART OF PRESIDING.

THERE is great necessity for every man who has been appointed to any capacity of presidency in the wards or branches of the Church, whether it be high or humble, acting in his position harmoniously with the genius of the Gospel. The organization as a whole being the most complete in existence necessarily involves an exceedingly large number of presiding positions of various grades, rendering the subject under consideration all the more important.

The art of presiding among the people of God is one of the greatest of Divine gifts to man, and to be entrusted with an office of that nature is one of much importance, no matter how humble it may be—because of its responsibilities. It involves authority over the heritage of God, and great will be the condemnation of those who treat it lightly or use it wrongfully.

Poverty, riches and other conditions common to mortals, test the characters of individuals, but none causes the true nature of a man to stand out in such conspicuous relief as power. By its exercise he will exhibit, without fail, the largeness or the contracted character of his soul.

The man who is most fitted to preside over his fellows is he who is able to do so without appearing to. He carries himself with that admir-

able deportment which is the outgrowth of dignity of character combined with humility, exhibiting that patience and long-suffering which were among the chief traits of the Savior's harmonious individuality. By manifesting a due consideration for the situation, circumstances, degrees of intelligence, and other elements among those of whom he has the watchcare, he is made strong. Such men are essentially great, no matter how humble may be their ordinary sphere of life; and where they preside, those who are subordinate to them instinctively submit to their direction.

The most obnoxious manner of presiding is the antipodes of the one just described, being what might be termed the assertive method. It is exhibited by frequent announcement of the character of the position held by the person acting in it, the implication being that that fact alone should be deemed sufficient to insure obedience.

Acting as if everything necessary to be accomplished could not possibly be properly done unless personally attended to by the individual presiding is another phase of the same style.

By some a most important factor in the art of presidency seems to be lost sight of—that it consists mostly of using others to the greatest advantage for the furtherance and development of the work; making the best possible utilization of the material at command. No material that is fit for use should be left to languish in a state of dormancy. Nature and nature's God inform us, in thunder tones, that activity is life and stagnation is death.

It may be accepted as a truism that no man can completely fulfill the obligations of presidency unless he be informed upon the duties and functions of every position within the range of his jurisdiction. If he be ignorant in this regard, intelligent direction on his part is an impossibility. How needful then that those who preside in any capacity within the Church place themselves in the position of men of “sound understanding.”

In the matter of measures, those who direct affairs in the wards and other divisions of the Church will find that there is great advantage in intelligent explanations. They form an excellent preparatory process, placing the minds of the people in a position to intelligently accept of propositions when they are advanced. By this means those interested are enabled to give

their consent understandingly, having been previously convinced of the necessity for the action. Thus the presiding officer carries his flock with him, which makes him a tower of strength for good in their midst. In fact, the whole forms a symmetrical entity, the head being firmly joined to the body and recognizing the utility of each member in its place.

MORIER AND BISMARCK.

SIR MORIER, the British diplomat, and formerly minister to Berlin, has been engaging in an animated epistolary discussion with Count Herbert Bismarck, eldest son of the German Chancellor, and much feeling one way and another has been created through it. It seems that during the Franco-German war, when information of what the invading hosts from the north were doing or about to do was valuable to the French—in the sense that one who is about to be pummeled would prefer knowing where the next blow is to fall—General Bazaine, commanding at Metz, received information that the enemy's lines were advancing. While this could have been of no great if any advantage, other than that suggested above, the fact that it was received leaked out and disclosed the co-relative fact of treason somewhere on the other side. Morier, having excellent opportunities therefore, was accused of supplying the information. This he indignantly denied, and has of late produced a letter from Bazaine denying that such advices were ever received by him. Bismarck the younger thereupon admitted that the production of such a letter placed Morier in a favorable light, but the latter was not satisfied with this; he demanded complete exoneration coupled with an apology, all of which was refused. Some of the German press announced their belief that the Bazaine letter was a forgery, others that the signature only was genuine, the language being too crisp, inartificial, un-Frenchy, and “English-you-know” to have emanated from an educated son of France. The majority, however, were more liberal and exonerated the diplomat at the expense of the son of his father, one of them going so far as to pronounce the whole affair a “Bismarckian blunder.”

That is about all there is of it. One would think that the materials for the production of a world-wide and profound sensation, with a