

hand at Buena Vista, but remained on the field. After the close of the war he went to California where he remained from 1850 to 1862.

At the opening of the war of the rebellion he once more volunteered in the service of his country, was appointed Colonel of the Third California Infantry, and stationed at Benicia. In 1862 he was placed in command of the Military District of Utah which included Utah and Nevada. He came with his command to this city in October of that year and located at Fort Douglas.

The first striking event in the career of Colonel Connor in this Territory was his march to Bear River, north of Caché Valley, in January, 1863, when, in the depth of winter, he attacked the hostile Indians who had been a constant terror to the settlers, and completely routed and almost annihilated their camp. He made his men ford the river, and nearly a hundred of them froze their feet, or ears, or hands, and were for some time after disabled. He lost eighteen men and quite a number were wounded, but of the three hundred savages very few were left. The people of the North were delivered from Indian scares and will always have cause to remember the valor of Colonel Connor.

For this act of bravery he was raised to the rank of Brigadier General of volunteers. He was subsequently made Commander of the District of the Plains. In 1863 he fought the battle of Tongue river in which he defeated the Sioux and Arapahoes, killed a large number, took many horses and destroyed their village. After the mustering out of the volunteers he was sent back to Utah and made a Major-General for his gallant services. In 1866 he was mustered out with the rest of the volunteers, but might, if he chose, have held the rank of Colonel in the regular army.

General Connor engaged extensively in mining interests, but was not gifted with great business ability and did not succeed financially. He was a natural soldier, and would, no doubt, have gained great military prestige if his lot had been cast in wider fields with larger opportunities for the exercise of his military talents. He was a man of much force of character. His faults were those of common humanity and they go with his worn out body to the tomb.

General Connor will remain a notable figure in Utah history and he will be remembered as a brave and gallant soldier. He leaves three sons, a daughter and a sister, who reside in California, but will be present at the obsequies. His wife, whom he married in 1854, died in 1859. We sincerely condole with the bereaved.

ELKINS AS SECRETARY OF WAR.

THE appointment of Stephen B. Elkins to the portfolio of the War Department, will be regarded by stalwart Republicans as a good one and as a reward for active political services. While we do not believe in the doctrine of political rewards as it obtains in the respective parties, we recognize the fact that Mr. Elkins is a man of ability and force, and that in the field of politics he has exhibited shrewdness and generalship which may prove valuable in the Cabinet and the office of Secretary of War.

The political significance of this appointment we think is exaggerated by the wisecracks of the press. We believe the facts are told in the dispatch containing the article from the Washington Post. Blaine's friendship for Elkins and the labors of the latter in Blaine's interest are well known. It does not follow that because this appointment has been made, either that Blaine has retired from the presidential race in favor of Harrison, or that Elkins' support of Blaine would be wrong as a member of Harrison's cabinet.

In all probability, there is this much of an understanding between the two men who seem to be the only probable Republican nominees that stand a chance of victory. If Blaine receives an overwhelming demand from the representatives of his party to run for the Presidency, and his health permits, he will respond to the call and Harrison will join with his party to help elect him. If not, then Blaine will use all his great power to make Harrison's success sure. Elkins will thus be ready to fight for either candidate as circumstances shall require.

While the appointment of Mr. Elkins will be universally regarded as a political expedient, we do not think his Democratic opponents will go as far as to say he has no fitness for the place. Whatever they may think of his political tactics they cannot charge that he is not vigorous and capable.

ANOTHER CLAIM ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

WE publish today the petition of the trustees of the Brigham Young Academy of Provo, which has been filed in the Supreme Court of the Territory, asking for a portion of the property of the Church that is now in the hands of the Receiver.

The claims of the Academy are clearly set forth and the facts presented are indisputable. If this property is to be distributed in a manner not designed by the original contributors, it looks as though the B. Y. Academy at Provo, the B. Y. College at Logan and the B. Y. University to be es-

tablished in this city, should each come in for a fair share of the funds. They were all intended by the late President Brigham Young as a means of securing advanced education to children of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. And their existence, in design or in fact, is evidence that the stories of "Mormon" opposition to schools are an invention of the enemy.

But the personal property of the Church was not donated for these institutions or either of them. The contributions came to the Church in the form of tithings for Church purposes. The objection to the retention of the funds by the Church authorities, or their passing from the defunct corporation to the living body, was that they might possibly be used for improper purposes, to wit, the support or spread of polygamy. That objection having been fully removed, there is no reason in morality or justice, neither in law or logic, why the property should not be held by trustees of the Church for general Church purposes, with legal restrictions preventing its use for any unlawful purpose.

It seems as though the method proposed by counsel representing the original donors to the fund was the easiest, fairest and most consistent way of disposing of the property in dispute. And it is certain that if so placed it would be applied to those lawful uses nearest in line with the objects for which it was originally donated.

But if the courts finally decide that it shall not go where it really belongs and would naturally revert, then we see no good reason why those educational establishments to which portions of Church funds have been devoted, should not each receive a fair proportion of the escheated property, that children of the people who donated the means might receive its benefits.

However, the time is a little late for the petition from Provo. We do not know whether it is too late to receive attention from the Master in Chancery, who it is supposed has nearly if not quite completed his report. It is worthy of consideration and the claim is urged in a concise, yet comprehensive manner.

We hope that whatever time it may take to reach a conclusion of this vexed question, justice will be done at last, and that this government will not place itself on record in the history of the nineteenth century, as a despoiler of a religious organization because it was unorthodox. In this age of religious toleration, such a proceeding would be an anachronism, as well as a direct departure from the spirit and tendencies of the period and from the genius of the institutions of the country.

RETRENCHMENT NEEDED.

A GOOD many years ago, when evidences of pride and vanity first began to crop out among the Saints to any extent, President Young and other wise leaders in the community became concerned on the subject. They viewed with anxiety the growing inclination to depart from the simplicity which had characterized the people who first settled this inter-