

Written for this Paper.

## POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

In these piping times of political excitement there is apt to be forgetfulness of things, duties and responsibilities, which in their essential nature are vastly more important, even for the present, to say but little of the future.

One of the long unquestioned authorities expressed himself in saying, "It is always good to be zealously affected in a good cause," but whether this would apply in all respects to political modern politics—is considerable of a query.

It is quite possible to overrate the importance of things which at times command a vast amount of attention; things which evoke a good deal of enthusiasm and cost a great deal of money. When the effervescence is over, the cup is found to be flat and insipid, to nauseate rather than to give enjoyment; and disappointment is the inevitable result. "The game does not pay for the powder and shot."

Chances that were looked for, benefits that were expected, results that were to follow, in most cases have been found to be purely imaginary. The victory has been barren, and the foe is as far from pacification or annihilation as before the battle began.

This is the universal experience. Yet at ever recurring periods the same force is repeated. The benefits are all, save to those who, from out the glare and glamour of party, step into a hot office, into molasses to wading from a hypnotized community, which when free from that influence, most keenly realizes its folly and sees with variations the old delusion.

In a civilized community (or any other) there are, of course, offices to be filled, and public works to receive attention. There are laws to be made and administrators appointed. But it is a far from uncommon saying, that "the world is governed too much." Modern machinery is cumbersome, intricate and fearfully expensive. Money is too potent everywhere; from the gilded halls of last resort down to the collector of a dog tax; and the public record in our own municipality, the statements of county and Territorial receipts and disbursements tell of the discrepancy between amount spent for salaries and the proportion of taxes going into the way of permanent improvements.

"Justice (it used to be said) is blind." But ignorance is blind also, and partiality runs mad, anathematizes the man who, at the ballot box may scratch his ticket if incompetence is written all over the history of the man who "by devious ways" may secure recognition among the scoundrels for office. Probably the facts are that the emoluments of position are too high. They command too much attention. They lure the impetuous and unfit. For the idea is all the time conveyed that there are "soft snaps"—places without supervision, opportunities known only to the initiated, and a general presumption of "a good thing," rather than of earning prescribed remuneration by "the sweat of the brow;" that an official is "a gentleman of elegant leisure," instead of being a public servant who is expected to work.

That was quite a comment made

lately in a NEWS editorial, in which the writer intimated that an official holder's salary or in common vernacular, his wages, cut no figure; that it was certain of absorption in campaign expenses and the securing of the position, but that fees and opportunities were expected to more than satisfy (?) the successful man.

It was said by a very sagacious and hooped leader of men in this territory, that "he did not want a man in any position if he sought it, nor any man who wanted a mission." However, weeping this may be thought to be, it was simply saying that "the office should seek the man," that the common estimate of men by their works, was an unmistakable qualification which nomination would atify beyond dispute.

Somehow the obliquity of politics makes the unknown, "the dark horse," the available, if incompetent. Utah has tasted of this bitter cup, this undesirable experience; albeit there might have been "an education in it," an unintentional sowing of seed to be harvested by experience "after many days."

We are not in the political whirlpool. Its troubled waters have no charm for us. It is more to our liking to mark a host, "drunken, but not with strong drink." They are victims of politics—mental aberration, and a little influenced of staid and sober judgment as the lubricate in his cups—a fact which seemed to have weight in a late convention, where ignoring the routine of their ticket, they nominated first the dignified judiciary and left the minor officers to the semi-pandemonium of the later hours.

There was no recognition in that convention of the a lifetime sentiment which is anything but dormant from Arizona to Idaho, and which will be heard later at the polls. The seemingly scramble for office—for money position, has not been without its influence on many. The reiterated assertion that taxes will be very much increased has had considerable effect, and not a few are asking whether the new State is for the people or the people for the State. These have not forgotten that this move originated with the politicians, that they have hitherto engineered the whole business, although the State convention was mainly voted for at last.

There has been too little of the spirit of patriotism associated therewith, too little of that love for Utah, which leads to sacrifice, and overlooks emoluments or pay. Congress was generous enough in its appropriation of \$30,000 for that gathering, but if there was not (spite of this) in the hearts of those who worked to have gone this from a better spirit, then are we unworthy of statehood, that is, presuming that to have been a really representative body.

The people are unanimous in saying that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." But they cannot discriminate between the exactions of their servants and their own personal resources. They do not see justice in the demand of soul which demands from the treasury so many times the income of the majority who furnish the wherewithal.

The City Council has just had its object lesson in the presentation of a

motion to curtail the salaries of its employees. The county and State should be equally vigilant and aggressive, according to the argument which has been used in every mercantile house, railway, foundry and other industrial works; viz., that "everything now required for sustenance is vastly cheaper than when western liberality placed wages on a scale beyond the East, while in harmony at that time with home conditions."

The Carnegie and other works may perchance be adding a ten per cent as promised to their employees when a reduction was made. But in the West similar promises made more than once are not likely to occur now or ever. And the same rule suggested in the Council should apply to all officials and persons engaged in any department of the State.

The people are looking for a declaration of economy, as well as of honesty in the platforms of all parties, and they mean that that promise shall be kept. They want progress but not extravagance. They want modern appliances, but they must be made gradually. Even "home was not built in a day;" and Utah must not have forced upon her the habitments of ostentatious wealth. She need not vie with the grand dames of eastern culture and resources. Rather let her seek as the unsullied bride of the mountains, in Spartan simplicity if need be, with the glow of health and beauty upon her sunburned face. Better this than to be mortgaged for feathers and finery which in no way indicate the mind within, unless assumed for coquetry with her more resplendent sisters. All her lovers, in her admirers, and rather see her in independent poverty, than raised to effluence and pride, may bondage and slavery, if the means is humbly to be furnished her by others.

Utah is the pride of those who, by heaven's blessing, made her what she is, and they are impatient with the atrocious air of her later would-be friends. Those ignored her when struggling for bare existence. They denied her the consideration they now would thrust upon her. They ask her to ignore her "nursing fathers and her nursing mothers." And now that she is of age and spendor, they tender the blandishments of renown and power, in exchange for the peace, tenderness and devotion of those who, while seeking to endow her with all the attributes of perennial greatness, never dreamt of being themselves or accepting as sponsor or guardians for her, the plausible, wire working, self-seeking modern politician.

## REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The proceedings of the Republican State convention Wednesday afternoon, in the vote on the recommendations of the committee on permanent organization and order of business, given yesterday, the majority report was adopted and Mr. Varian took the chair. He made a brief speech thanking the convention, and directing attention to the fact that those here had assembled at the call of the Republican majority in Utah to nominate a thoroughly representative ticket. There should be wise deliberation and harmonious counsel. The Republican