

THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50

IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . October 24, 1891.

COMMISSIONER M'CLERNAND'S MINORITY REPORT.

THE minority report of the Utah Commission, signed only by brave General McClernand, appeared in last Saturday's DESERET WEEKLY in company with the majority report. It is a fair and candid statement of facts, and a consistent and cogent argument. Its conclusions will commend themselves to every unprejudiced reader, and persons who may have been prejudiced must be convinced, if reasonable, that the minority report dissipates many erroneous impressions conveyed by the report of the majority.

Commissioner McClernand holds views that cannot be successfully controverted. Like Judge Carlton he takes consistent democratic ground, and contends for the rights of "Mormons" in common with other citizens who obey the laws, and shows the wrong of any attempt to take from them any political power unless for conviction of crime.

This gentleman does not hesitate to acknowledge that registration officers appointed by the Commission have, particularly in the large cities, illegally stricken the names of duly qualified citizens from the registration lists, and have unlawfully deprived members of the People's Party of their right to vote. This is important, in view of the attempt of the majority of the Commission to justify the action of their registrars, and to maintain, in face of the damning facts patent to all Utah and placed beyond doubt by testimony in the courts to the contrary, that the elections under their administration have been conducted honestly and fairly.

We do not agree with the gallant General that there is no remedy for the evils he admits except the power of removal. We believe that while changes in the laws governing elections are desirable, yet if the present laws were administered according to their meaning and intent, the trouble complained of would be greatly lessened if not entirely removed. If "proper persons" were chosen, as the

law requires, and placed under bonds to perform registration and election duties, instead of strong partisans, irresponsible, under no obligations, picked out to serve a faction and promote its interests, one evil would surely be cured. If other persons than the registrars were appointed to hear objections—judicial officers as the law provides, from whose judgments appeals could be taken—that would be a sufficient remedy for another evil. And the very provision that the Commission recommends to make neglect of or refusal to perform an election duty punishable is already in the election laws of Utah, but is not enforced.

The Commissioner takes no stock in the unsupported statements of registrars to which so much importance is attached by the majority. And he frankly supplies good evidence that their gossip is without foundation, by citing the official statements of the judges of the District courts. He also gives a condensed but accurate account of what the "Mormon" people have done in the way of bringing themselves into accord with the nation on the only question of dispute between them.

The question of division on party lines he treats with candor, and the figures and facts he presents contrast forcibly with the petty quibbles and shallow sophistries of the majority report. His statements are in the interest of no party or faction, but are made regardless of any such considerations.

We call him "brave" Gen. McClernand because he dares to tell what he believes to be the truth and to advise what he believes to be the right policy, in spite of the hostility of those who have so vindictively abused him for his course—in his absence. And he has the courage, singly and alone, to speak the truth concerning the "Mormons," though it puts in a very bad light the concoctions of his colleagues. He has one consolation. His statements and arguments have not been controverted; those who have assailed him have ridiculed and berated him, while his narrations and conclusions have remained untouched.

If we disagreed with Gen. McClernand in his opinions and deductions, we should yet entertain respect for the stalwart old veteran, for he is so evidently honest and fair in all that he says and believes. But there is not a statement he makes which can be fairly denied, and the sentiments he utters are beyond question American and Republican to the core.

If the indisputable facts and patriotic

suggestions of the minority report are weighed and considered in connection with the rumors and insinuations of the majority report, we have no fears as to the result in the minds of reasonable readers. General McClernand deserves the gratitude of the people of Utah.

A GLARING NUISANCE.

SUNDAY, October 11th a match game of baseball between the Denvers and Salt Lakers was played. The grounds on which the contest occurred are located at the corner of Tenth South and State streets. A large crowd of people gathered to witness the performance. There was a great deal of excitement and the people were noisy and boisterous. This was so much the case that the shouting could be distinctly heard by people living a mile and a quarter distant from the scene. One gentleman so located informs us that during the progress of the sport his ears were frequently saluted by the sounds proceeding from the throats of the excited spectators.

Scenes of this character have been enacted Sabbath after Sabbath during the whole of the summer, to the great annoyance of people residing in the neighborhood. Yet no official effort has, so far as we know, been made to put a stop to the wrong and preserve the peace. It looks as if there was no intention of doing anything in that line, unless the people take some urgent steps in the premises, as a matter of self-protection.

There is a saloon situated in close proximity to the grounds where these scenes are enacted. Reports come to us that it is not conducted in conformity with the law. This is putting it with great mildness compared with statements made concerning it.

One gentleman who owns a fine property in the neighborhood says that if he had imagined that he would have been subjected to such annoyances from the two causes referred to as he has been compelled to submit to he never would have purchased in the locality. Some time ago he was moving in the direction of circulating a petition to the County Court asking that the license of the saloon in question be withdrawn, or at least that there be no renewal of it after its expiration.

The grounds where the games are conducted and the saloon located are just over the corporation line. They are on the outside but on the very edge of the city limits, and are therefore under the purview of the county officers. It looks as if the county was in this way being made a kind of