

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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THE CRY FOR SEWERAGE.

The question of sewerage for Salt Lake City is again being agitated, and elaborate systems are being advocated, regardless of expense and with remarkable oblivion to several important objections. The question of cost may seem to some people of little consequence in view of the benefits expected. Bonding the city to a large amount is very easy—on paper, and running into a big debt for posterity to pay seems a very popular method of raising funds for public purposes. But the advocates of borrowing should understand that the Charter of this city confers no power to contract such obligations, and that it would take a special grant of authority from the Legislature, to be afterwards confirmed by popular vote, to enable the city to issue the bonds and shoulder the load proposed by the flippant promoters of financial bondage, and this is not very likely to be obtained.

Another very serious difficulty in the way of a sewerage system is the lack of proper facilities for carrying away the filth that would find its way into the sewers but would not find its own way out. It is very simple to say jauntily, "Shoot it into the Jordan and empty it into the Lake," but, as we have explained several times, instead of sewage from this city reaching the Lake it would be deposited in places too near this city to be conducive to health or pleasant to the olfactory, to say nothing of the sweet condition in which it would place the farms near and leading to the mouth of the river.

The lack of water for flushing sewers is another serious obstacle in the way. We cannot depend upon the rains, as this dry summer has demonstrated, and there is no spare water from the streams on which we depend for irrigation and culinary purposes.

We are pleased, not to say surprised, at the present attitude of our morning contemporary the *Herald* on this important subject. We were under the impression from its former utterances that it was in favor of sewerage for this city. Perhaps we have been mistaken. But its recent editorials take the same ground assumed by the *DESERET NEWS* for more than two years, and its remarks are vigorous and to the point. We welcome the *Herald* to the side of good common sense and prudence on this question.

We are of the same opinions that we expressed in an article on "Sanitary Regulations" which appeared in the *News* of April 1, 1882. In this we showed the nonsense of the sewerage clamors, the great expense that such a system would entail, with our wide streets and the large area of the city, the danger to health of the pestilence-breeding sewers connected with pipes to dwelling houses, whether the evil occurs through sewer gas or the bacteria which form on the inner surface of the sewers and find their way into human habitations and the outer atmosphere, poisoning the blood of those who inhale them, and we suggested that "some drainage might be done to advantage, cutting off the seepage from the upper to the lower part of the town so as to keep it out of the wells."

We also advocated the dry earth system for outhouses and frequent visits from officers of the city to see that regulations for cleanliness are enforced and that refuse matter is removed or not allowed to accumulate. We reproduce part of the article:

"All rubbish that cannot be properly removed and buried should be burned. Everybody should know that dry earth is a splendid deodorizer. When covered over offensive matter it will take away the disagreeable scent, and in many instances all its noxious qualities

Every outhouse should be provided with a box of dry earth and a small shovel, so that fecal matter may be kept covered. People who have no cow or pig to eat up waste pieces, such as potato and fruit peelings and other things often thrown out upon the ground, should burn up those scraps instead of casting them out to rot and fester in the sun and breed disease.

Earth vaults for outhouses should be entirely abolished. They are more mischievous than any other common thing which endangers health. The matter soaks down into the ground, percolates the soil and finds its way into wells, from which families obtain water for culinary purposes, and thus fevers and other diseases are engendered and death finds easy victims. A box that can be drawn away and emptied periodically is far better than a pit, and if a little dry earth is daily sprinkled therein, all offensive odors will be entirely prevented, and the material thus accumulated can be used for manure and yet will not have a particle of impure scent. An ash-heap near these places, from which a little can be used daily, will answer the same purpose as dry earth, but care must be taken with hot ashes lest they fire the buildings. They must not be wetted, or they will do more harm than good. Dry earth, or dry ashes, remember, not wet, are required for the work of deodorization.

We hope that the City authorities will receive with courtesy the suggestions of medical and other scientific experts on the subject of sanitary regulations, and that at the same time they will weigh this matter in all its bearings without great regard to clamor. We do not want to see the city plunged into hopeless bankruptcy through a demand for something that has proven in many places as great a source of disease as it was imagined to be a preventive. And we are satisfied that regulations may be established and enforced, by which our city can be kept clean and wholesome and free from those foul odors which now arise in many places through lack of a little care and trouble, and that this can be done without running into debt, increasing the burden of taxation, or saddling a load upon posterity.

We repeat our entreaty of last year, which the *Herald* also ably advocates, that the water mains be extended so that people may not have to depend so much upon wells for water for domestic purposes. With pure water, some needful drainage, daily deodorization of fecal matter, the carting away of refuse and rubbish to be made into manure, and watchful care on the part of sanitary officers, Salt Lake City can be kept in good condition, ranking among the healthiest cities in the land, and be still preserved from the bondage of big debts and the evils of the sewerage system.

WORK FOR THE GRAND JURY.

In his charge to the Grand Jury, Judge Hunter, referring to the Mormon Church and plurality of wives stated that "no power on earth, at least so far as the United States is concerned can prevent the sect from teaching the doctrine." This was so far correct, but he added, "and no one has ever thought to prevent it save as might be done by argument, enlightenment and persuasion." His Honor must have been very oblivious to the course taken by certain unscrupulous persons in this city, when making these remarks. They have not only thought of preventing such teaching, but have advocated prevention by force, civil and military.

It may be argued that the Judge need not take judicial cognizance of such persons or their sentiments and endeavors. But he has taken particular notice of them in another matter. He has directed attention to the statement that the officers of the law in this city aided in the act of killing the murderer who was lynched. No one but the same parties that have advocated the forcible suppression of "the sect" alluded to have uttered the dastardly charge against the officers, and if judicial notice could be taken of one thing from that source, it could be taken of another from the same source. We agree with His Honor that no power on earth can prevent the teaching of those principles that the "Mormons" deem to be divine, but he was clearly mis-

taken in the statement that "no one ever thought to prevent it except by argument, enlightenment and persuasion." Against such agencies we have nothing to complain. It is only when those proper methods of opposing what is thought to be error are abandoned, and pains, penalties, coercion and violence are advocated that we feel it our right and duty to protest.

Judge Hunter tells the grand jury, in regard to this inquiry, that it is their duty if the officers are guilty to bring them to justice, and says, "If they are innocent by all means say so." Is not this stretching the powers of the Grand Jury a little? Are they required to pass upon the innocence of an accused person? If they do not find the Salt Lake officers innocent, is it to be presumed that they are guilty? If the Grand Jury say nothing about the matter officially, are the public to assume that they have not looked into it? And to go a little further, are the rash and spiteful charges of noted libellers and sensation-mongers to be taken as sufficient ground for a judicial charge and an official investigation?

We hope the Grand Jury will look into this matter, since it has come up in this shape, and that they will pursue the course authorized by law, which is to "inquire into the wilful, corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the district." But it appears to us that they can simply indict those against whom there is evidence likely to lead to conviction, but that it is not within their province to find anybody innocent. And while they are in the performance of this duty they need not confine themselves to the investigation of rumors against a few policemen, but, as the law directs, extend the inquiry to "public officers of every description within the district." Let the scrutiny be thorough, and let it also be impartial and cover all the ground.

LET THERE BE NO NEGLECT.

We publish to-day another brief list of officers recently elected who have duly qualified and received their commissions from the Governor. There seems to be a dilatoriness on the part of many of the newly-elected county and precinct officers in regard to qualifying according to law. This is particularly the case with the Salt Lake County officers elect. The twenty days, within which time they are required by law to qualify, after receiving notice of their election, will in the case of the latter, expire on Friday, October 5th. Do they intend to comply with the law, or do they want the people to understand that they were not in earnest in standing for election?

It has been alleged by enemies of the People's Party, that the August election was a farce, and that the candidates did not intend to take possession of the offices to which they were elected. We hope no one who has been chosen by the people, in good faith, to fill an office in any county or precinct will give color to this falsehood by neglecting to conform to the law.

All officers who have been elected should qualify at once if they have not done so, and proceed to notify the Secretary of the Commission by means of one of the forms sent to them in duplicate, and also obtain their commissions from the Governor. There is some difference of opinion about the necessity of these commissions in certain cases. The Organic Act gives the Governor authority to "commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of the Territory." This is viewed by some as a requirement extending to all our local officers to obtain such a commission. Justices of the Peace and Constables are specifically required by our local statutes to be commissioned by the Governor, and all officers will be on the safe side by obtaining a document that will be sufficient evidence to all that they are entitled to their offices. Whatever view may be taken as to this, there should be no delay in qualifying nor in applying for the commission where desired.

There seems to be a misapprehension as to the cost of a commission from the Governor. It is stated that the fee is five dollars. This is an error. The Legislative Assembly by an act approved January 23d, 1880, provided that the fees of the Secretary shall be:

"For each commission issued to a Probate Judge, Alderman or Justice of the Peace one dollar (\$1.00). For each certificate of qualification of any officer, one dollar, (\$1.00). For each commission issued to a Notary Public, two dollars, (\$2.00). For filing papers of incorporations, three dollars, (\$3.00). For each commission issued to a Commissioner of Deeds, five dollars, (\$5.00). For any other commission, one dollar, (\$1.00)."

Now, friends, hurry up! Any man who neglects to take the necessary steps to secure the office to which the voters of his locality have elected him, gives evidence of his unfitness for its responsibilities, and the people will remember his betrayal of their trust at a future time and when some apparently more important position awaits an incumbent. In these times every office, however small, is a matter of importance, and we should show by our actions that in all these things we are playing no farce, but are very much in earnest.

MORE OF THAT PIERREPONT "INTERVIEW."

OUR readers are familiar with the pretended Pierrepont interview with President Arthur, in which the "Mormon" question was handled in a ridiculous manner, and many false statements were made about the course of the Utah Commissioners. We published the press dispatch conveying intelligence of the alleged interview, expressing our disbelief as to its genuineness, and afterwards explained that the whole matter was manufactured by a Chicago reporter, no such conversation having ever taken place between Mr. Pierrepont and the President. The Commissioners treated the matter seriously, and Governor Ramsay and Judge Carlton particularly took pains to deny the accusations against the Commission, contained in the fabulous press dispatch. In the *Terre Haute Evening Gazette* of September 25th, appears an article referring to this matter, and the following correspondence, which should set the affair at rest, if any doubt remains in any one's mind, as to the facts in the case:

St. PAUL, Sept. 20, 1883.

The Honorable A. B. Carlton:

Dear Sir—Reaching this place to-day, on my way home, I saw a copy of your letter to the Secretary of the Interior, dated August 30. Until the evening of August 31, I had not seen the President or communicated with him in any manner since last spring. I left New York in May last and have been on the Pacific slope ever since.

When I met the President at the Springs on the evening of the 31st of August he showed me a New York journal which spoke of an interview said to have been had between the President and myself some weeks prior, in which the statement was made that a Chicago journal had published an interview purporting to have been held at the Springs between the President and me upon the Mormon question. As the President will tell you, there was no word of truth in the statement. We had no such interview, nor was such possible, as we were at least a thousand miles apart at the time of the alleged interview.

I have never even heard of any criticism upon your official acts, have never made any, nor has the President, so far as I know.

Very faithfully yours,

EDWARDS PIERREPONT,

P. S.—You are at full liberty to make any use of this letter you may wish.

E. P.

Judge Carlton is also in receipt of the following letter:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, Sept. 15, 1883.

Hon. A. B. Carlton, Utah Commission, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir—I have your communication of August 30th, in relation to charges made, or said to have been made, by Mr. Pierrepont against the Commission. I read your letter to Commissioner Ramsey at St. Paul a few days since. I am entirely satisfied myself with the action of the Commission, but I will lay your communication before the President. Very respectfully yours,

H. M. TELLER.

We are still of the opinion that the fabricator of that press dispatch ought not to be allowed to go un-

punished for this libel. His falsehoods were more than a joke, they were criminal in their nature and intent, and a moderate dose of fine and imprisonment might have a beneficial effect, in protecting the public from future deception from that source.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 6.

Death of Mrs. M. H. Jones.—Bishop R. T. Burton informs us that a private telegram brings the sad news from Brigham City of the death at that place, yesterday, Mrs. Mamie Houtz Jones, wife of Reese Jones. Deceased was a daughter of John S. and Mary Eliza Houtz, formerly residents of this city, and well and favorably known here. The funeral has been arranged to take place to-morrow.

Recovered.—We are pleased to be able to note the fact that Bishop George Halliday, of Santaquin, is in town, having come up for Conference. This will be an agreeable surprise to many of his friends acquainted with the fact that only a short time since he was prostrated with a very severe attack of illness, being so low at one time that his life was almost despaired of. We are glad to see him around again, apparently in his usual health.

A Good Show.—Brother C. O. Christensen left the city to-day, taking with him his "Mormon Drama," with which he has had quite a successful run here. His purposes making a tour of a number of the settlements with his exhibition, and we take pleasure in commending him to the people wherever he may sojourn. He has a good show, which combines instruction with entertainment, and is specially adapted to the young.

The Golden Wedding.—On Wednesday last there was a fine time at the house of Brother Anson Call, a Bountiful. The occasion was the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage day of the respected veteran and wife, Mary Flint Call. The gathering consisted of a large number of the old people of the town, and Brother Call's children and grandchildren. The company numbered about fifty, and a real sociable time was spent. A number of Kirtland brethren being present, many reminiscences connected with the travels of the past, were told. Two of the guests—Sister Willey and Sister Sessions—were present at the wedding ceremony of Brother and Sister Call fifty years ago. The respective couple are Vermonters, Brother Call having been born in 1811, his wife in 1812. They have been in the Church since its beginning, were at Kirtland, and remained in it in all its travels and tribulations ever since that early state of history.

Iron.—The annual meeting of the I. M. C. U. for the election of officers was held at the President's office in this city yesterday. The change made in the officers of the company was in the election of R. Winder as one of the officers. After the election officers Superintendent Taylor, who had just returned from Iron City, reported progress according to his report he has been exceptionally successful in accomplishing the objects of his visit to South. Mr. Robertson, who is thoroughly conversant with the construction of furnaces, and the manufacture of iron has commenced operations, and expresses himself much pleased with the prospect. A superior article of firestone has been found in the vicinity of the works. The excavation for the main building is completed, and a large amount of rock for the foundation is on the ground. Most of the iron required for the construction of the furnace has been arranged on very favorable terms. A considerable amount of supplies for the hands is already stored in the company's storehouse, and it is estimated that the work of constructing the large furnace (four times as large as the one formerly in use), shall be right along as fast as practicable. In addition to the blocks of stock subscribed in this city, several thousand dollars has been taken from the Southern settlements.

Volume Five.—We have received the first number of volume five of the *Contributor*. It is by far the best of that excellent magazine ever issued, being brimful of interest. It opens with an illustration of all the Latter-day Saints will