

zation of Rome and Greece in their palmest days. The observations of the McGhee party are looked to as the final act in establishing the fact that a superior race to the Indians occupied this country and have disappeared. This is the idea expressed in the dispatch received, and referring to a prehistoric people not heretofore recognized, yet not unthought of or unconsidered by archaeologists. In fact their existence is so thoroughly established that no one questions as a part of prehistoric American experience that a thoroughly civilized people were overcome or supplanted by savages whose descendants now inhabit the land.

There is now no dispute among the well informed as to the correctness of the Book of Mormon order of these important occurrences; the tendency being to ignore rather than to consider that record, though occasionally there is made an effort to explain how a correct conclusion on this subject could have been deduced from information available in 1820-30. As time goes on, however, the indisputable evidence that corroborates the Book of Mormon is steadily accumulating, and its existence cannot be ignored or explained away. Whatever the McGhee expedition brings forth will be in conformity with what has been done already in the direction of confirming the divinely revealed record given to the world through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

THE PLAGUE OF PLACE-HUNTING.

If there could be a rule by which the appointing power could summarily turn down every man who by himself or by his friends makes himself a nuisance as a place-hunter, the public service would no doubt lose some pretty effective official material, but it would be the gainer in the long run. There would be a better opportunity to pick the right man if the authority which makes the choice were not pestered to death by applicants. There would be health in a return to the pristine idea that office is an incident of honorable career, not a profession outside of which the incumbent cannot make a living. There would be guaranty of the perpetuity of American institutions in the assertion and observance of the doctrine that the country was not made for the politicians and paper-suckers, and that, unless they change their methods, they were not made for the country. There would be an assurance of purity in elections and of consistent patriotism in maintaining in the strictest sense that the office should seek the man.

Utah's progress in the art of place-hunting has been shamefully rapid during the four or five years past. It is probably still much less grievous here than in most other states, but it is bad enough in all conscience, and it is getting worse. For every little position with a few hundred dollars' salary, there is a scramble that ought to make decency blush—a swarm of trifling, hungry applicants whose conduct gives the lie to true and independent manhood. In many cases the seeker after place would make more money with pick and shovel, or out of a two-acre farm, than the coveted position can honestly pay; but no, there is a species—and, as

said, Utah has its share—which would rather be servile dependents on public bounty than wear the honest garb of sturdy independence. With this class office-holding is a disease, a kind of itch, and when once its virus is in their system it makes them at the close of each term crazier than ever.

As we look at it, the man who works hardest for office ought to have the hardest time, and be the last one, to get it. This is the clear logic of the case; for by his very pertinacity in pushing his claims, he confesses to all unprejudiced observers that his fitness and merits for the place are not such as to speak for themselves.

JONES, OF SALT LAKE.

We do not know State Senator Elmer B. Jones from a side of sole-leather; but if he were twice as big and influential and many times as smart as even his best friends would have us understand him to be, he would still come in for the rebuke which is merited by his contemptible innuendoes against this paper in his speech yesterday. He is the Senate champion of the opposition to the fire and police commission bill—an attitude which he has a perfect right to assume and to maintain with all the talk and other energy he knows how to command; and this, too, without any impugnement of his motives until tangible evidence that they are improper can be forthcoming. But these same rights of freedom of action and opinion are not the sole possession of the high and mighty Jones on this or any other question. Advocates of the fire and police commission bill may be just as sincere and honest in their views as he ever thought of being; and this applies to friends outside the gilded chambers of legislation and does not exclude even the newspapers.

Coming down now to the personal grievance which the News has against Mr. Jones, we want to assure him that he is altogether impudent and untruthful in the insinuation that this paper's advocacy of the above-named law is because of an idea that Mayor Glendonning if given increased appointive power would discriminate against Mormons. We do not know anything about the Mayor's intentions, having neither asked nor desired to know them for any private or other purpose. But we do know that there is a noisy and undeserving element which never loses an opportunity to inject the words "Mormon" and "Genital" into every question of politics, place or policy. With some shallow and narrow minds this has the effect that a red rag has upon a turkey-gobbler; and in nearly all cases it is resorted to with the sole intention of arousing old prejudices, stirring up old fires, and reopening old wounds which all decent citizens have truly hoped we were well rid of.

If it comes to a question of motives, therefore, we imagine that Jones ought to think twice before he goes into the business of assailing others. At any rate, he may be sure he is entirely wrong in the assertion or the suspicion that the News is fighting for political office for "Mormons." Such an insinuation is despicable, and a

man who would without warrant credit it or circulate it as an evident excuse for getting in the word "Mormon" somehow, is beneath the scorn of reputable people.

We shall not attempt to take care of Mr. Jones or any other legislator, but in speaking as above, we are only exercising the right to take care of ourselves. If we might go a step farther and give the young gentleman—we understand he is young—a word of advice, we should like to remind him that if there had not been some doubt as to the eligibility of an excellent and well-known lady, the present Legislature would have had to worry along without his distinguished services; remembering the accident by which he comes to adorn the State Senate, he should endeavor to conduct himself so discreetly and wisely that his constituents will not have any more regrets than they now have at the loss of the representative whom they said they wanted.

HAS A BAD MEMORY.

Hawkins Taylor, who has the prefix of "Hon" added to his name in the Peoria, Ill., Journal, in a series of sketches of pioneer life in Iowa and Illinois written by him for the Journal, has been giving considerable attention of late to what he alleges to be history of the Mormons in Missouri and Illinois. Mr. Taylor was sheriff of Lee county, Iowa, in 1850, so he is getting to be an old man now, and from his statements in the Journal's article those who are well informed on Mormon history of that time will recognize at once that with his advanced years Mr. Taylor has also advanced in the ability to economize the truth. His stories of Mormon life in the states named, and of alleged prophecies by the Prophet Joseph Smith, are made out of whole cloth, and are wholly undeserving of a place in the columns of a reputable journal, because of their libelous character. This statement is applicable to the whole of his references to the Mormons prior to 1850, not an incident that he names being a narrative anywhere resembling the truth. As to the Mormons subsequent to 1850, he says:

The history of the Mormon Church since that, if it was written as a novel, would be read with great interest, and would be a remarkable book, especially if the secret, as well as the public history could be written. No other church has had the same prosperity as the Mormon Church, of the same membership, if their cities, towns, churches and homes are made the test of prosperity. It has been a church of more power, of industry and a church of the worst and most immoral practices.

Mr. Taylor's alleged history prior to that date is indeed "written as a novel," and a most despicable one too; and the "great interest" it may awaken in the minds of its readers arises from the same fact that would give "great interest" to his suggested later novel—its wholly fictional and sensational character. Inasmuch as people as a rule are not overburdened with discrimination no doubt many will believe the Taylor sketches in our Peoria contemporary; but those who give a second thought to the subject should