

Written for this Paper

NOW OR NEVER.

There is a strange feature of human nature which belongs to individuals, organizations and communities. It is that of being fitful and spasmodic in the pursuit of anything acknowledged to be desirable; men weary in well doing; effort fluctuates, is turned aside, loses interest; stick-to-itiveness languishes as if change were the normal condition and monotony was inseparable from continuance in one direction.

Yet there are those here and there who are very tenacious. They never give up, but pursue with ardor whatever object they decide upon. It may be one of the opposite sex, wealth, fame, science, or other "hobby," as it is called; nothing distracts or weans from this. They persevere, are incessant in effort, and obstacles are brushed aside in pursuit of one thing or one idea, until that is gained or proved impossible of acquisition.

But these are exceptions, though in the majority of cases success is assured. The masses are volatile, changeable, erratic, exhibiting a lack of force, or rather of stability, mainly because there is no true love or heartfelt appreciation of that which is desired. They partake of a craze, a fashion. They follow some lead, and forget quite as readily as they become enlisted. Newness is an attraction, acyclopaedia suggests action, and to fall in with a popular move, whether genuine or worked up, is considered "the clear thing." It is wisdom to be diplomatic and subservient to a voice or an authority, and to echo that when the heart is not in decisive union, or is perhaps in opposition.

This is mechanical support, of which there has been abundance in Utah. Men have been enthusiastic over suggestion, but half-hearted in advocacy, and what they have said has far too often been neutralized by positive personal disregard of counsel which is more than equal to opposition, for it is illusory in that "it keeps the promise to the ear, and breaks it to the hope;" and it were said that there is withholding of desirable counsel today, in some directions, the reason would be found in the lack of unalloyed compliance in very many things patent to our limited experience.

To be sure, there is a complaisant theory which supposes that to advise really means obedience; that to suggest is to have carried out. But how many grains of allowance must be made in the interval experience only must determine. It was found of ancient Israel that they were stiff-necked, rebellious and disobedient. The Lord chastened them because of this, while admonishing them by appliances of every kind; and in modern Israel His servants often have had occasion to realize that whole-souled, hearty, pertinacious continuance in well-doing is not yet an established, irremovable feature of action among "the best people on the face of the earth."

Often it has been evident that the leaders were vastly in advance of the people; that the spirit of revelation was far in advance of the receptivity of the hearers. They were "slow to perceive;" the power of life and growth was not exuberant. Still there

was movement, progress, increase, albeit the light of heaven was needed to discover it at all. "My people shall be willing in the day of my power," said the Lord. The probabilities are that that day will be signalled by an utter distrust in "the arm of flesh." The way will be so bedged up that obedience will be as ready as was the exodus from Nauvoo to these valleys, "the people came willingly because they were compelled." So the necessity for a certain line of action may not be unalterably determined upon, until compliance will be imperative.

These reflections are suggested by the present listlessness and apathy in regard to the creation of home industries which but a while ago was the continuous voice of both press and pulpit. Not a word is uttered now by either. We are looking for deliverance in the rehabilitation of silver, in the promise of a State government, in the triumph of political party, in the influx of foreign capital, the multiplication of railroads, etc. These are the broken reeds upon which we are leaning when a more acceptable way has been pointed out.

All the people think it would be "nice" if we could produce everything that we need or consume. But the vigorous determination "to do without" is hardly in the ascendant, or mayhap "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Others, like Israel in the wilderness, would chide the Prophet in their lust for the "leeks and garlic of Egypt," and ask "if they were brought out into this wilderness to perish by the way."

Our western neighbors see the wisdom of the action which has been commended to Utah from the beginning. They are for California all the time, and the *Journal of Commerce* thus endorses continuously the importance of united purpose, action and perseverance:

The population of the state and coast must grow. San Francisco must grow with it. In this way, and by the support of home manufactures, the desires of the Half Million club may be realized. The Pacific coast must be filled up as well as the West. Great cities must have something to support them, and that something is population—an enterprising population. It must also have a local pride and local patriotism to sustain it. We must abstain from a mean banking after Eastern ideals. Our ideals must be Californian. We must take a pride in patronizing and supporting Californian products, and those who expect the people to sustain them in this labor must give an example of it themselves. They must not cry aloud for the patronage of home production and at the same time try and supply their own wants from the East. To be successful, action of this kind must be reciprocal, generous and honest. No narrow-minded policy, no satisfaction of petty spites or little enmities, must be suffered to stand in the way. Everything must be for California, and where those in interest ask their brothers to sustain them, they must be prepared in like manner to sustain their brothers. They must encourage every reasonable plan to build up the population of the state and coast and to develop their unequalled resources. The work of the Half Million club and Manufacturers' and Producers' association is no child's play. It should be earnest and all-absorbing, and in this way only is success possible.

The cloth question is an absorbing

one there as it is here. Utah thought she had done a great thing when her Provo factory supplied military companies there. This matter is on the tapis now because the police need to be uniformed, and the query is as to whether French beaver shall be used or the home product, particularly as the latter is far less expensive. A prominent clothier says that "in some respects the California product is the finest in the world"—certainly the old Pioneer mills used to turn out some excellent goods, but like the Oregon and Utah goods they lacked a certain surface finish which in no way affected the character of its service.

Mr. Spearman, of 113 Bush Street, S. F., who represents the Utah mills and was for ten years with the Pioneer company, says that their goods were worn for eight years by the police force of that city, and an officer claimed that "they were the best and most serviceable ever worn." Nevertheless the Pioneer mills (which are worth fully \$150,000, yet only got a bid of \$50,000 when offered for sale) suspended just as the Desert mills, in proximity to this city, will likely do unless home patriotism enough can be evoked to continue them in action.

It is remarkable that our local mills should be able to sell in San Francisco, Chicago, Milwaukee and Cincinnati and be comparatively unknown at home. There surely must be some way by which business ingenuity and enterprise can reach and supply the one hundred thousand of the male persuasion who all wear clothes in this thoughtless, undecided community of the mountains; or if the wrong is elsewhere than in the buyer or consumer, the fact should be made as plain as the noonday sun.

It is acknowledged that if clothing were manufactured here, labor could not be had for the same price as in the East. Mr. Lichfield, of San Francisco, who, while in the tailoring business, is yet an enthusiast in favor of home manufacture, claims that he pays an apprentice girl five dollars per week, but the same grade in eastern centers would only receive \$1.50 to \$2.00. In Utah the difference would be nearly as great, although there is quite a large number of girls and women who today are earning little or nothing.

At the same time California is making no specialty of cloth or clothing. The drift is to encourage and sustain all projects which can utilize labor and help to create a grand and glorious self-sustaining state, and then to make her exports, as they now are in many lines, the astonishment of the world. Utah cannot compete with the astounding resources of such a state; but home loyalty can do for Utah just what Utah needs—support manufactures already existing, and foster the creation and enlargement of many others. This needs to be done pertinaciously, without let-up. The days of fitfulness and spasmodic action must belong only to the past. Earnestness and determination to make Utah first and foremost in all grand effort and successful achievement, must be the ambition of every citizen. So shall she be the diadem of the mountains—the undisputed leader in all laudable prospects for the generation that now is, and the generations yet to come.