

of their sovereign power. If the press, crippled and fettered, was limited in power to aid the great struggle for independence which was witnessed a century ago, on this continent, with its chains stricken down by a freeman's sword, it quickly grew to giant proportions, nobly doing bloodless battles for human rights, and sending broadcast over the world words of living fire, to kindle the sacred flame of liberty among all people.

And though, like every other great power controlled by erring humanity, its mighty influence is sometimes abused and directed for evil; still it is ever found in the van of progress, strengthening the weak, appalling the haughty, restraining the corrupt, and giving powerful aid to that great foe of error, evil and wrong—the education of the people. What the newspaper press has achieved since its freedom was secured, in the independence of this free republic, is but an index of the great work yet for it to do. In other nations its power has been felt, following in the wake of this, and everywhere it has stirred up the great pulse of the people which now throbs for liberty with an even beat that tells of calmness and decision, and bodes the speedy downfall of dynasties which have held the world in bondage for ages. It has stirred thought and provoked reflection, has watched with argus eyes the course of legislators and rulers, has held up to public reprobation the mercenary and corrupt, though shadowed by thrones or hedged round by high official place and position; and has taught mankind to cultivate their minds, develop their powers and become great, where before they were only massive. But the work of the newspaper press in the future is still more important than in the past. The world is passing through a mighty transition. As the pathway of a powerful army to victory is strewn with wrecks of the good and beautiful, so the march of human progress, iconoclast-like, often shatters noble monuments of human thought in casting down the images which superstition, ignorance and blind tradition have reared. The duty of the press is to restrain and direct; to wisely guide the onward movement of our race, fearless of wrong, firm in the right, unawed by any influence save a sense of duty. Its voice speaks for millions, and wisely should its utterances be made, for they are fraught with baneful results or full-freighted with glorious blessings as this mighty agent of human advancement, this daily educator of a world, performs its mission among men. Well might a poet of to-day, who has his temporary home in our city, say:

"A pean to the printers art,
The tolling brain the ready pen,
The hand that holds the peerless cup,
Of knowledge to the lips of men."

for its power to elevate and ennoble is far beyond any wielded by potentate or ruler.

Firm-wedded for all time are freedom of the press and the liberty of the people. Deeply has the foundation of the latter been laid on American soil, while against those who would assail it, from any quarter, strong battle will be waged in its defense by an honest, virtuous, patriotic press.

And this memorable day, the world's anniversary of American independence, will, as generations pass away, be held in sacred remembrance; and our children's children will observe it even as we do, every noble impulse quickened, every lofty feeling imbued with patriotism by the untiring labors of the newspaper press:—

"The press, whose banner bears no stains
Of blood-bought battles from the field;
Lo! Peace is blazoned on its shield
And in its conflicts none are slain!"

All hail! then, the freedom of the press all hail! the freedom of speech; all hail! the independence of mankind! These noble principles, will bless humanity through all generations; and our posterity will revere their ancestors more for bequeathing them such a priceless heritage, than even for giving them life itself; for what would life be, without liberty?

MUSIC.

SONG.—"Lovely Deseret," by the Children.

Speech of Mr. Alexander Majors:

FELLOW CITIZENS:

I deem it a very high privilege to be called upon to make a few remarks to such a highly respectable, numerous and intelligent audience as I see before me; and I feel very happy to be called upon just after the children have sung. I love children, and when I undertake to say anything in public it always seems to me to be more fitting to talk with or to them than to adults. This, to me, is a very happy day. I want to tell you little children and young people, as well as you who are more advanced in years, that although I have lived in the world more than half a century, I have never witnessed what I have been permitted to mingle with on the streets of Salt Lake City to-day. I have been at a great many celebrations of the Fourth of July, the Day of the Independence of the United States of America; and I have seen people with their mottoes, and their emblems of industry; but never before has it been my happy privilege to see so full a representation of the arts, sciences and industrial pursuits as I have witnessed and been associated with to-day. (Applause.) May the people of Utah live long and be

very happy! (Applause and cheers.) While in the procession the thought occurred to me that it would have been most fortunate if the people of every State and Territory in the Union could only have seen the panorama represented on the streets of Salt Lake City to-day. (Applause.) I know that there is no intelligent lady or gentleman here, without prejudice or bias, whether of old standing or only a day in the city, but what will say "Success to such a people!" (Cheers.)

Little children, you have heard the Declaration of Independence read this morning; but have you an idea of what it meant? Do you know its cost? for it has cost this nation an incalculable amount of life and treasure to establish the bulwarks of our mighty republic. Over your heads you see the "Flag of our Union," the emblem that our forefathers, when they declared their independence, unfurled. Children, the white of that emblem is typical of the purity of their intentions and patriotism, and of their determination, by their own strong arms and the kind assistance of Divine Providence, to be a free and independent people. (Applause.) The red stripes of that flag, little girls and boys, are emblematical of the blood that had to be shed in order to establish a free and independent government. May this government live long, and over-ride and overpower everything that has for its object tyranny and despotism, or to tie and make serfs and slaves of mankind! (Cheers.)

It was not only our grandfathers and great grandfathers, children, who made sacrifices and endured suffering to secure our freedom and independence; but our grandmothers also bore a full share of the toil and suffering the task involved. They tilled the fields, cut the wheat, raised the corn and clothed and fed the children while the men were engaged in the bloody struggle! If you, little girls, could go back and see the toils endured and the sacrifices made by your great grandmothers, in order that our independence might be achieved and the right to worship God under our own vine and fig tree secured to us; in order that we might go to the polls and vote and say who should be our rulers, I say if you could see what it cost to effect all this, and compare that with your present condition, you would be better able to estimate the results of their labors, toils and sufferings. (Applause.) I am a son of one of those revolutionary sires. My great grandfather fought from Bunker Hill to Lundy's Lane, and from one battle field on the Atlantic coast to another, and then went and battled with the Indians in Kentucky in the first settling of that State. I came, when a little boy, to the western border of Missouri, then a Territory, where they set white people on one side and Indians on the other. I crossed the Mississippi more than fifty years ago, and since then it has been my happy lot not only to see Missouri become a great State, but other Territories formed and peopled, and become the homes of the arts and sciences, morality and religion, energy and perseverance; and a strong feeling of patriotism and freedom has settled not only in the North Western States, but also in these Rocky Mountain Territories. It is a proud day to an individual who has borne the heat and burden of the day, who was born almost out of doors and has lived out of doors all the days of his life, to see a country develop and march forward in intelligence, progress and civilization the way our country has done. Happy, happy, happy day! (Applause.)

There are some peculiarities, ladies and gentlemen, surrounding me here that I never witnessed before. There are more individuals from different nationalities than I ever had the privilege of witnessing before; and to all I say, I am happy to meet with you, and can take you all into my arms and heart. (Cheers.) It is no matter, my friends from the old world, what our grievances may at one time have been; no matter what may have occurred in the past that was embarrassing to our feelings, rights and happiness, to-day we stand as the representatives of the two great systems of government of the world, republican and monarchical. I am happy to meet with you no matter from what land you hail, and I trust that the conduct of American citizens towards you may not be such as to show that while we preach liberality to all, that we are proscriptive and seek to embarrass the rights of those who come from afar. (Applause.)

There is another peculiarity I meet with here that I have not had the privilege of confronting elsewhere: there is a vast number of ladies as well as male white citizens in Utah, who have the right to put their vote into the ballot box. (Applause.) I am not afraid, ladies, that you will make a less warrantable use of the ballot than your gentlemen friends; I have no doubt it is just as safe with you as with them, and I hope that it may add purity, strength and morality, and bring about a higher and better state of things in our country than we have had heretofore. (Applause.) Every intelligent person in all our broad land must acknowledge that there have been many abuses at the ballot box, that there may be again, and that there is room for improvement. Let us think and act soberly, and take a course that will be for the best interests of ourselves and country, that the Union may grow stronger and stronger, that it may stand until all the nations of the earth are forced to acknowledge that men can live and prosper, develop the

arts and sciences, and reach the highest point of civilization that it is possible for human beings to attain to under a free government.

I wish to say to the people of Utah Territory, particularly that portion of them called "Mormons:" whatever may have been distasteful or wrong, in your opinion, in the past, let the past go with the past, and let us together push forward until we build up a great country within the limits of the Rocky Mountains! (Applause.) Do your duty, as I have no doubt you will, to your country, yourselves and towards the strangers who are coming into your midst, and you will make hosts of friends, not only among those who come into your midst, but in the other States and Territories that make up this great republic.

There was one very truthful, and to my mind, very impressive sentiment uttered by the Orator of the Day, Mr. Geo. Q. Cannon, when he said that though wrongs and grievances be exhibited at certain times in the progress of our country, time, patience and the right judgment of the people would eventually rectify these things. That is a great truth that we all have to rely upon for our freedom and protection in the future. Let good sense and broad gauge ideas, generous, manly, and noble feelings and impulses enter every breast, heart and mind, impelling all to try and do to others as they would have others do to them; and everything that has been embarrassing and annoying in the past must be with the past, and the future of this country must be great. Circumstances are transpiring and developments are now being made in this country which will be the means of bringing men of the very best talent and liberal notions from California, Nevada and the other States and Territories of the Union, and also from Europe to the Territory of Utah, and it will only be a few years, ladies and gentlemen, before representatives of the business ideas, and talent and refinement of the civilized world will be in your midst, all concurring to make this one of the most cosmopolitan, high-toned, generous and manly communities on the face of the globe. Nothing can stand in the way of it: there is too much here of education and refinement, and too great an abundance of every element that is attractive to the human mind for me to be mistaken in this prediction.

I wish to say that I was chosen on your committees sometime ago, in connection with Colonel Buel, Mr. Tracy, and several other gentlemen now before you belonging to the "Mormon" people, to make arrangements to have a celebration on the Fourth of July. I am sorry to say that our noble, broadgauge friend, Col. Buel, was called away on business and is not participating in the festivities of this occasion. The rest of the committee is here, and we have been gratified to-day, to see that the people have responded, and that neither pains, effort, nor money has been spared to make a demonstration and celebration that is creditable, and we are having one that would be a credit to any people upon any part of the earth. (Cheers.)

I shall now bring my remarks to a conclusion, by saying that I have a great stake in the declaration of that angel who came to earth once and announced the birth of the Savior and said "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to men." I want to say for the benefit of politicians, if there be any here to-day, if you wish to shape the future of this great country, you must take on board the ship of state with you, large and liberal ideas, or you will be thrown overboard. The men who legislate for this country, must make laws to command sympathy, respect and endorsement of its people; and to do this, they for the reason I have stated, must have broad-gauge ideas; they must let mankind of every clime have free access to the blessings of our free government, until the whole human family becomes one great brotherhood. We must live as people who desire, aim and intend to do to their neighbors as they would be done to. (Applause.) I was talking the other day, to a friend, with regard to the Constitution of the United States, and I said to him "Sir, it is synonymous with 'mind your own business'; and if everybody will mind his own business we will be a very happy people in this country, for we have nobody here who wants to destroy the Government, but a great many who want to build it up." Now, just let us go to, mind our own business, develop the resources of the country and do all in our power to strengthen the hands of the Government under which we live, one and all, little children, grown people and everybody.

I will close my remarks by saying to the children that a good name is better than great riches, and in order to have it we must do right. If a child says, What is it to do right? I say to obey the laws of God and the land, then you will be a good citizen and will have a good name and friends, and you will have the strong endorsement of the government you live under.

I hope with these remarks I will be excused for any blunders or any want of proper oratory, and that you will take the will for the deed, for I assure you, I wish you all well, and hope to meet with you, and to enjoy your society many times in the future. (Loud Applause.)

After the playing of a lively tune by the Tenth Ward Band, there were calls for Mr. Fitch; the name was caught up and reiterated from all parts of

the Tabernacle; and, after a little delay, and amid hearty applause, the gentleman stepped to the stand, and was introduced to the audience by the Marshal of the day.

Speech of Hon. Thomas Fitch:

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I certainly thought that I might be permitted to come here and listen to the gentlemen who have so eloquently and patriotically addressed you to-day, without being thus suddenly required to place my unprepared utterances in contrast with their finished sentences. I am not a part of the performances, I am not upon the bill! and I consider myself very badly treated. (Laughter and applause.) I have, however, ladies and gentlemen, one consolation: I have been waiting very patiently during my two months' residence in Utah, to see a genuine, simon-pure, well authenticated "Mormon" outrage, (cheers) and lo! I have found it at last and I am the victim. (applause.)

I do not know that I ought to charge it altogether to the "Mormons," for here and there throughout this vast audience, I behold the familiar countenances of some old-time friends and associates—"riff-raff," from Nevada, (Laughter) and I think it very unkind in them to lend their voices to place me in a position where I shall be subject to a whole crossfire of "liberal" criticism; for I believe it is understood, ladies and gentlemen, that every person who participates in this Celebration is to be forever excluded from communion with the "Liberal Church." (Laughter and applause.)

I do not know though, now that I am here, that I shall permit the circumstance to restrain me from making a few appropriate remarks. I honor the name of Liberal; I believe in liberality in politics and in religion; and whenever a party shall be organized in Utah which proposes to be liberal in fact as well as in name; which will be liberal to others than those who form its component parts and compose its membership, it shall not lack my earnest support. (Applause.) But a "liberal" party which antagonizes your peace, your order, your low taxes, your strict police regulations, your good government, everything except your polygamy; (laughter) a "liberal" party which proposes to retain the only feature of social life in Utah to which the outside world objects, and to oppose all those other features which a tax-burdened, ring-ridden American people admire; a "liberal" party which opposes your measures and your men only because they allege that those measures and those men are dictated by prophets in place of politicians, by a theocracy instead of a ringocracy; a "liberal" party whose organs endorse an executive order to prohibit American citizens from properly celebrating the Anniversary of American Independence; a "liberal" party which has for its head an apostate "Mormon," who proposes to surrender every feature of his former faith except his three extra wives; (cheers) and for its tail a Federal officer who has recently immortalized himself as a member of the "damp-heel" family; (laughter and cheers) for such a "liberal" party I have neither sympathy nor support. (Great cheers.)

I am afraid, besides, that this "liberal" party in Utah has fallen under the control of men who desire to use its organization for their own pecuniary advantage. I am afraid that the object of these "leaders" is to keep courts and juries in a state of stagnation, while they fill their pockets. (Laughter.)

I am afraid that the *debris* of Palmer, Cook and Company and the remnant of the Fremont "ring" have got control of the "liberal" party. I am afraid that this animal with a moral reform head and mine-jumping tail is something like Lord Dunsire's little dog;—when it moves you can't tell whether the dog wags the tail or the tail wags the dog. (Prolonged laughter.)

Now, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would apologize for obtruding these suggestions upon such an occasion; but in the first place I am here not of my own instance but am speaking at yours; and in the next place this is Independence Day, when above all days in the year a man has a right to speak his thoughts freely. (Cheers.) Our fathers made this day immortal by declaring for freedom,—freedom of thought, of conviction and of action. They made this day immortal by declaring for civil and religious liberty. For that purpose they fought and sacrificed and suffered and died; and whether they followed the gleaming sword of "Mad Anthony" up against the streaming fire of Stony Point, or crimsoned the snows of Valley Forge with their shoeless feet; whether with Marian amid the swamps of the Carolinas, or with Washington amid the rearing ice of the Delaware, high above all there shone to them as a promise and a prophecy inscribed as with fire upon the very arch of heaven,—the grandest sentences of the centuries, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." (Applause.)

By this grand truth this nation grew to greatness; through its denial we came to the suffering and the sorrow of our civil war; in its re-establishment we stand to-day again upon the highest pinnacle of power, and thank God that we are citizens