

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 1882.

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

A NEW City Council has now been elected, and the members elect will soon enter upon the duties of their offices. The responsibilities devolving upon them are of an important character, increasing as the city grows in population, wealth and importance. The Council should have the support and assistance of all good citizens, and criticism of its acts should be withheld until they are clearly understood in their entirety and intent. It is one of the easiest things in the world to find fault, and small minds are always ready to impute evil motives to public men and to point out fancied flaws in public measures.

The Council whose functions are about to expire has had much to contend with in its endeavors to manage the affairs of the municipality. Nevertheless a great deal of good has been accomplished, and all its members, from the Mayor downwards, are entitled to the thanks and confidence of the people, and no truthful person acquainted with the facts will deny that they have labored faithfully, honestly and with much success.

During the administration of Ferazmore Little, many praiseworthy measures have been inaugurated, the benefits of which will be seen and felt in after years. Prominent among them are the construction of the Jordan and Salt Lake City Canal, and the purchase and partial improvement of the grounds now known as Liberty Park. The benefits of the canal are not yet fully enjoyed. But in a very short time they will be admitted and praised by all. The undertaking was large and expensive. But the financial burden thereby imposed was so arranged that it has fallen very lightly on the taxpayers, and the work has found employment for many laboring men of the community, which in itself is a benefit in several ways, while the construction of the canal relieves the public from that dread of drought which in recent years has dampened the ardor and threatened the prospects of fruit growers and others in this city of orchards and gardens. The value of an abundance of irrigating water cannot be computed in dollars or cents. Under the management of Mayor Little the work has been conducted with admirable prudence and strict economy.

The purchase of the locust groves in the southeastern part of the city for a public park, was a stroke of policy which will always reflect credit upon Mayor Little's administration. The money value of those grounds will increase every year, while the advantages that will accrue from such a pleasant place of resort so near to the centre of the city, are beyond computation.

The extension of the water works is another good thing accomplished under Mayor Little's direction. If it were possible to extend them all over the city, we have no doubt that sickness would be greatly diminished and the death rate be reduced to a remarkable degree. What has been accomplished in this direction is a most excellent work.

Another mark of the regulating mind of Mayor Little is the little park adjoining the City Hall, which from an unsightly open space on which rubbish was allowed to accumulate and teams to camp, has been transformed into a pretty place of lawns and walks with ornamental fountain, all substantially enclosed and pleasant to look upon.

A great deal of energy has been displayed in the improvement of our streets during the past four years, and the change that has been wrought in filling up hollows and properly grading the roads, is manifest to every passer by and particularly to those who drive over the principal thoroughfares whether for business or pleasure.

But we have not space to enter into particulars of all the improvements that have been made in the city during the two terms which Mayor Little has served. In all that has been done he has had the co-operation of the Council, without which of course he could not have accomplished anything. We consider that the people of Salt Lake are under obligations to all the outgoing members as well as to the Mayor.

In the new mayor, William Jennings, the city will have a man of long experience and wonderful success in business. He is one of Salt Lake's most sagacious and prosperous merchants; a man of great tact and foresight and general business qualifications; public spirited, progressive and withal conservative and cautious. The fact that there is no opposition to his election expresses more than anything than we can say.

The next council contains, as it should all the time, several of the old members, this being necessary to the proper and facile continuation of the public business. It is composed of men well known to the people, and possessing qualifications which fit them for their respective positions.

Our municipal affairs have always been honestly administered, and we have every assurance that they will be in the coming term. The executive officers to be voted for have served the public faithfully and efficiently, and it is a wise thing to continue them in office. If all the cities in the Union were as well officered as this, there would be no stories of peculation and dishonor like those which every now and again startle the country, and the United States would be a much better land to live in. We wish the Mayor, members-elect and officers success in their callings, and bespeak for them the confidence, support and good will of the general public.

ANTI-MORMON LEGISLATION.

WE publish to-day the bill which Senator Edmunds yesterday worked so hard to advance upon the calendar that it might be considered before its time. It was originally introduced by Mr. Edmunds in the Senate, when it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, of which he is chairman. It was there amended, Senators Logan and Davis being credited—or debited—with the principal changes made. Those amendments are given in quotation marks, so that our readers may see the additions and changes made in committee. By arrangement made in the Senate yesterday, it was to come up to-day for hearing.

The first section of the bill is very similar to the law of 1862 on the same subject, but substitutes the word "polygamy" for "ligamy." The second section, which was added by the committee, makes cohabitation with more than one woman a misdemeanor. Comparison of the two sections will show that the authors of the bill consider that if a man lives with two women and is only married to one of them, his offence is less than that of a man who marries two women. For he who cohabits with any number of women, whether married or single, cannot, under the bill, be punished by more than a three hundred dollars fine and imprisonment for six months, while a man who marries two wives may be fined five hundred dollars and imprisoned for five years. This is putting a premium upon irresponsible cohabitation. In the case with the smaller penalties, the women and their offspring may be discarded when the man is tired of their company, having none of the responsibility attaching to marriage. But in the case with the much greater penalties, he is under a marital contract, and in the cases aimed at "Mormon" plural marriages—men are bound by the most sacred covenants and ordinances to care for and cleave to each wife as much as the other, and regard equally the offspring and necessities of both, yet the marriage is to be punished by heavy penalties, and the cohabitation without marriage by light penalties.

In all these penal statutes against extended marriage, it will be seen that their authors are careful not to touch the great and widespread evil of prostitution or occasional libidinous intercourse. The term cohabitation is applied to the living together of a man and woman, and in law criminal cohabitation is not to

be presumed by proof of a single act of intercourse between a man and a woman not married. If these pretended pruders were really in earnest in a crusade against immorality, they would strike at the centre of the evil. But they are simply fighting a religious ordinance, or a ceremony which is part of an ecclesiastical institution, "an establishment of religion," the "free exercise" of which they want to prohibit, contrary to the spirit and letter of the national Constitution. Hence their fines and penalties against extended marriage, and failure to punish promiscuous and illicit sexual intercourse.

The fourth section of the bill is an attempt to make into law that which in the main is now the practice in the Utah Courts. Already it has been ruled here that a man who either practices plural marriage or believes it is right to do so shall be excluded from the jury in a trial for bigamy. The section goes a little further than this, and excludes the man who cohabits with more than one woman, or believes it right to do so. Whether the section passes or not it will make little difference to the situation. Senator Edmunds and his colleagues are probably unaware that Federal Judges in Utah have stretched the law to such an extent, and therefore imagine that they are striking a heavy blow at "polygamy." However, it is to be hoped that discussion upon a citizen's right of belief will be elicited by the section, and that some good will grow out of the controversy.

The seventh and eighth sections contain the real marrow of the measure and very unhealthy marrow it is. The proposition is simply to put Utah into the political control of the minority. Not only are the men who marry or live with more women than one to be debarred from voting or holding office, but the women with whom they live are also to be excluded. Thus the first or legal wife in a "Mormon" family, as well as the other wives and the husband, will be debarred from the elective franchise, while a prostitute could walk up to the polls and deposit her ballot freely, and the debauchee who lets his passions run riot and has no family ties or responsibilities, can accompany her and join in her elective privileges. Five appointees of the Government—of course, enemies of the majority—with three thousand dollars a year apiece, are to fill all the registration and elective offices, and to hold the power of seating or unseating all members of the Legislative Assembly.

And this is in a Republic based upon the principles of equal rights and popular representation, and which declares, as a fundamental principle, that "all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed!" One of the grievances set forth in the Declaration of Independence as reasons for revolt, was, that the parent government had combined with others "For suspending our own legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever." This is what is now advised by those who are endeavoring to gain possession of our Territory and its Treasury, and attempted by men standing in the position of Republican statesmen, who have become blinded by the dust raised against Utah by schemers and bigots.

We must confess to some surprise that Senator Edmunds has allowed himself to be so influenced by his co-adjutors in the committee, as to champion their anti-republican and unstatesmanlike vagaries. The carpet-bag rule forced for a season upon the South was bad enough. But there was some show of excuse for it in the rebellion only just but down. But here is a Territory over which Congress already exercises such supervision that no law can be enacted without the consent of one man, its own appointee, and any law enacted can be set aside by Congress, while within its borders there is greater peace, order, security to life and property, less loafing, intemperance, lawlessness, pauperism and want, and more generally diffused prosperity than in any other Territory in the Union, and yet because a few political adventurers cannot gain control of the ballot box and the Treasury, the whole local government is to be revolutionized, the principles of the suffrage and of majority rights are to be stamped into the mire, an oligarchy is to be set up within a republic, and the business and general material prospects of a

flourishing Territory are to be jeopardized and impeded, under the pretext that there are some men therein who marry more wives than one, and proofs cannot be procured sufficient to convict them!

All the special legislation now before Congress in either House points simply to this piece of infamy. The putting down of polygamy is but the pretense. That will not and cannot be accomplished by any such schemes. The object is to hand over this Territory to the minority and give them those chances to gain control of and fleece the people which they cannot possibly gain through the ballot box. If morality is the motive power let it be shown in some earnest measure against all forms of immorality, and not make "polygamy" the paltry pretext for robbing an industrious community of the commonest rights of citizens and of the last remnants of those liberties which by the territorial system are already so greatly abridged!

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 16

Murder Case.—The time of the District Court was occupied this morning in empanelling a jury to try the case of the People, etc., vs. Jos. Biddlecomb, indicted for the murder of a young man named Jensen, in Tooele County. The trial began at two o'clock.

Fatal Result.—William Wyatt, who was shot at Silver Reef on Sunday morning, died at one o'clock yesterday morning. Van Stanz and Mix, the parties charged with the homicide, have been committed to await the action of the grand jury, on a charge of murder.

Reports Wanted.—Superintendents of Sunday Schools are requested to send in their annual reports for 1881 to their State Superintendents, if they have not already done so, before the end of this month, so that the State Reports can be forwarded to the Deseret Sunday School Union as soon as possible.

GEORGE GODDARD,
Asst. Gen. Supt.

One of the Oldest Members.—One of the few members who were baptized in the same year the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, lives at Panaca, Lincoln County, Nevada. We refer to Clarinda Stanton, wife of Daniel Stanton, who was baptized by Oliver Cowdery, November 30th, 1830. Mother Whitney, who died yesterday, embraced the Gospel in the same year.

Corrections.—In yesterday's report of the Tooele embezzlement case, Mr. Burmester was charged with being engaged in the withholding of the records from the delegates elect. Such, however, is not the case. Mr. Burmester endeavored to persuade Martin and Bird to perform their duties in delivering the records to the officers elect.

Another error also appeared in stating that a posse of 30 men took the offices by force. No force was used, the duly elected and qualified officers merely assuming the duties of such, without the formal receiving of the records.

Not in Emery.—Last month we gave details of the killing of David L. Blizzard, by young Snyder, at Ashley Fork, which place was stated at the time to be in Emery County, which is not the case, being located in Uintah County, of which latter county Mr. Johnson, who brought the prisoner to this city, is sheriff. John L. Brasher is sheriff of Emery County. A gentleman who resides in Emery County, informs us that that section of the Territory is bad enough without being credited with the evil perpetrations of its near neighbor. We willingly take the late homicide off the shoulders of Emery and place it on the back of Uintah.

Cattle Stealing.—We learn from our correspondent, W. H. at Huntington, Emery County, that a couple of young men at that place lately had an examination on a charge of grand larceny. By the evidence given, the case seemed to be plain against them. The crime consisted of shooting cattle on the range. An animal had been dressed and the quarters hid in some rocks; the hide and part of the head had been burned, but enough of the head left to identify the ear marks, showing the animal to belong to the Miller Bros. of Mill Creek. Another animal belonging to Wm. H. Gentry had been shot down but left un-

touched. The accused were bound over in the embezzled small sum of \$200 to appear before the grand jury at Provo.

DEATH OF MOTHER WHITNEY.

As stated in the News, the demise of Elizabeth A. Whitney, familiarly known as Mother Whitney, occurred shortly after two o'clock yesterday. The cause of death was, as well known, general debility produced by old age. Her last illness was very protracted, and, considering her enfeebled condition for an extended period, it is remarkable that she held out as long as she did. During the last several weeks past the lamp of life burned so dimly in the emaciated frame occasionally that her death was momentarily expected.

Although her memory is embalmed in the esteem and affection of thousands, her loss to her friends is softened by the consoling assurance that to her death came as a sweet and happy relief to herself. She was not only ripened in age, but her whole life blossomed with good works, embellished with one of the most gentle and heavenly dispositions ever possessed by mortal. Harshness was an element distinctly foreign to her nature, and in this as well as many other particulars, her course was well worthy the emulation of the daughters of Israel.

Elizabeth Ann Whitney was the wife of Bishop Newel K. Whitney. She was born in Derby, New Haven County, Conn., Dec. 26th, 1800, and was the eldest child of Gibson and Polly Bradley Smith. She received in early life the most judicious training and was carefully educated according to the customs of that early period. When about 18 years of age she went with a maiden aunt to Ohio, and subsequently became acquainted with Mr. Whitney, a young merchant, to whom she was married October 20th, 1822, by Rev. Mr. Badges, a Presbyterian minister. Some time after their marriage they both joined the Campbellite Church. (Mother Whitney was baptized in November, 1830, into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and has ever been a faithful and devoted member.)

She was designated in the early days of the Church, "the sweet songstress of Zion," by the Prophet himself. She was among the first members of the Church in this dispensation who received the gift of tongues, which she always exercised in singing. The Prophet Joseph said that the language was the pure "Adamic," the same that was used in the Garden of Eden, and declared that if she kept the faith the gift would never leave her. It never did, and those who have heard her sing will never forget the sweet and holy influence that accompanied her exercise of this heavenly gift. The last time she sang in tongues was on the day she was 81 years old, at the house of Sister Emmeline B. Wells, the latter having got up a party in honor of the anniversary of her birthday.

We may here state that Sister Wells and the deceased were bound to each other by the closest ties of affection and friendship, which never were broken till the moment of separation by the visit of the angel of death.

At a meeting in Kirtland Temple for patriarchal blessings, presided over by Joseph Smith, sen., Sister Whitney sang in tongues and Elder Parley P. Pratt interpreted, the result being a beautiful hymn, descriptive of the different dispensations from Adam to that of the latter days. Had we space at command we would give it here.

She was the second of her sex that received the endowments, being a High Priestess in the House of the Lord, in which capacity she officiated until lately, when she was compelled to relinquish her labors on account of failing health. In her position it was her privilege to bless hundreds, and it might be safe to say thousands of the daughters of Zion.

Bishop Whitney and family left Kirtland for Missouri in 1838, but hearing the Saints were being driven from that State they remained in Carlton, Ill., during the winter and in the spring of 1839, went up to Commerce.

In Nauvoo Mother Whitney endured much hardship and privation but never a murmur escaped her lips; always cheerful, and looking on the bright side, encouraging her husband in the performance of every