

to its convictions and brave enough to stand by them. It is not in the habit of deserting its colors or its friends. And so, in this instance, it has nailed its banner to the masthead, it has placed the non-partisan idea and the non-partisan ticket before its readers, and it proposes to contend for the success of both the principle and the ticket to the end. Whatever may have been the strength of its determination before (and we venture to believe none will doubt that it has been doing some work) it is imbued now with increased fervor and spirit in defense of the principle and of the motives both of all the men who have thus far taken part in it and of the candidates who have accepted its nominations. We would be unworthy of the respect either of the committee or of the nominees or of the community if we did not at this time urge a course that in the most emphatic and positive manner will give the lie to the predictions, the insinuations, the suspicions and the threats of the disgruntled.

Without qualification, therefore, or any hesitation whatever, we urge upon our readers of all shades of politics, of all degrees and varieties of religious belief, of all stations in social or business life, to rid themselves of the ridiculous idea that national party lines must necessarily be kept up in purely local city government. We invite their attention to the address of the Citizens' Reform party which has been heretofore published, and to the reputation, qualifications and representative character of the candidates. No party, no creed, no special profession or business has been favored in these nominations. The honor came unsought in every single case—there are therefore no political debts to repay and no political friends to reward at the public expense. Party affiliations are proper, and fidelity to party platform and candidates should be observed, where the issues and principles of the party are at stake. We would be the last to advocate or to tolerate the thought of breaking away from party allegiance in any case where that allegiance can properly be required. But no sophistry as to the duty to give blind support to partisan municipal or school nominations should be allowed to confuse the taxpayer, as none will be successful in wheedling the thoughtful and patriotic. Win or lose, the principle of non-partisanship in city affairs is right, and there never was a time when it was more deserving of support and victory than now.

CAPE COD SAND STORMS.

These columns lately contained an allusion to the plucky proposition of the sturdy Dutchmen to reclaim a considerable tract now covered by the sea. Even more novel is the condition of a New England town, which has the problem on its hands of preventing itself from being endangered by sand. Provincetown, Massachusetts, is the threatened borough, for at its back rage the famous sand storms of Cape Cod—said by those who have tried both to be something more to be dreaded than a western blizzard. A northwest gale does the business; it whirls the soft, light sand drifts in great clouds, obscuring every object that is not within two or three yards. Such a storm is worse than snow, in that it not only covers up the roads in a few moments, but it makes permanent changes in the general features of the landscape. People have been known to get lost in such a storm, and even when it was over, they have been puzzled to locate themselves owing to the changes that had occurred. Of course people do not freeze to death

in a sand storm, but they suffer badly; the flying particles cut and grind the face most painfully, and men who have endured such an experience frequently return home at night with their faces lacerated and discolored so that they resembled raw beef. Even the glass windows of the houses are so ground by the flying sand that they have to be replaced often by new ones.

Dwelling upon this singular visitation, a writer in the Scientific American says:

"There is probably no immediate possibility of Provincetown being overcome by the sand; but if the encroachment of the belt of sand upon the wooded section next the harbor and town should be allowed to continue undisturbed for the next half-century, the place would be depopulated. It is not the first time that the inhabitants of Provincetown have been compelled to exert themselves to stop the encroachment of sea and sand. Many years ago it was made compulsory by law for the citizens of Cape Cod to turn out every spring and plant marram grass to shut out the sea, and Provincetown owes its existence today to wise laws which empowered a 'beach grass committee' to enter any man's enclosed garden or field and plant marram grass, if the sand was uncovered or moveable.

"The purpose of the harbor and land commissioners now is to make the work of laying the sands permanent and durable. Most of the land troubled by the drifting sand storms is owned by the state, and it is only just that the state should perform the work for which Provincetown has so long been held responsible. The tract of land comprises between 3,000 and 4,000 acres on the extreme northerly point of the cape, and it was purchased by the colony of New Plymouth from the Indians in 1692. The land faces the Atlantic ocean on one side, and stretches back to a belt of woods, which the early inhabitants of Provincetown planted to protect their town and harbor from the sand storms. Recently, however, the sand-belt has been encroaching upon the wooded tract, and it is to prevent the destruction of work already accomplished that the commissioners have set out to reclaim the sandy beach from the sea and wind."

THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH.

No utterance during the recent General Conference of the Church was received by the Saints with greater pleasure and gratitude than the declaration of President Woodruff that the mouths of the First Presidency should not henceforth be kept closed because of the opinions of the children of men. The vast assembly received this promise with joy, and their hearts were made glad by the knowledge that the whims and objections of carping outsiders should no longer be effective in preventing the chosen and anointed leaders of the Church from expressing to the people the feelings that their duty and the Spirit prompted. An extreme desire to avoid the appearance of anything that even the most technical and suspicious critic could find fault with, has caused these men in the past to abstain in great measure from the discussion of subjects which are of the liveliest importance to the welfare of the whole community. The American right of free speech they have never relinquished; neither have they yielded up the right, either as citizens esteemed because of their experience and service in that capacity, or as ecclesiastical leaders beloved because of their integrity and love of righteousness, to advise and

counsel and set before their followers an example in any matter that seemed to them proper. They are not dumb cowards who must not breathe a word lest some partisan or sensationalist take exceptions or take fright. They are not fettered in thought or utterance because a certain element chooses to exaggerate, distort and get alarmed over their intentions. They may not always have exercised these rights as fully as they thought necessary or as fully as the people would have been glad to have them do; but if there has been such erring it has been on the side of prudence and with the worthiest of motives, without, however, abandoning in the least degree the inalienable privileges and the undisputed rights inherent in American citizenship. There will be no less prudence, there will be no less worthiness of motive, hereafter than heretofore, and the President's announcement—pleasing as it is to the Saints—cannot reasonably give offense to any one else. He and the men to whom he referred are not deficient in any of the graces of citizenship or the qualities of patriotism. They have not lived in Utah all these years—he and others half a century, still others all their lives—without having an interest in its welfare and a love for it equal to that of the most enthusiastic resident of a more recent date. These men, or those whom they have succeeded, made the country. Is it to be presumed that their affection for it is second to that of any one who came in after the country was made, and who frequently acts as though he had the exclusive right to grumble and criticize? They have also lived through the various vicissitudes and trials that the subsequent years brought forth. Is it common sense to say that they prefer a recurrence of the dissensions, the discords, the bitterness of the past, to the peace, the union, the charity that have more recently smiled upon our State? Whoever answers these questions other than in the negative betrays his own lack of sincerity, he is rather to be pitied for imbecility than blamed for bigotry. Among all, therefore, whose hearts and minds are true, and who honor past service, ripened experience, sincere patriotism, and who are willing to accord to others the rights they claim for themselves, be they Mormon, Gentile, Jew or Pagan, President Woodruff's promise will be heard with gratitude and its fulfillment awaited with confident joy.

SHAM, YET BLOODILY REAL.

The emperor of Germany has one merit which nobody will deny—whatever he does he goes at with earnestness and as if everything depended upon it. A case, however, where this trait was not altogether meritorious, was the recent military maneuvers near Homburg. In the course of a sham battle, the impetuous young war-lord led a charge of twelve regiments of cavalry in a preposterous attack upon the enemy's trenches, which were so defended that had their occupants been firing ball cartridges with their rifles and machine guns, instead of blank shot, not a horse or a rider would have been left alive. It was a wild charge, and a tough struggle ensued, all rules of sham fight being cast aside, the infantry actually firing at two paces, while the artillery hurled blank shot after blank shot into the struggling masses of horse and men. No less than nine troopers and infantrymen subsequently were carried off the field badly injured, one fatally so, while the majority had broken arms and legs, and fourteen dead horses likewise adorned the sham