

in a Pickwickian sense, just as resignation usually means notice to get out.

In view of his former denial of working for money, one would naturally have supposed that the recipient would have run his long digits through his hair to give it a frowsy and indignant aspect upon the summit of his intellectual caput, and rejected the reward with stale scorn, until his manly scruples could be overcome by the pressing demands of admiring friends who would not take "no" for an answer. Not much; he evidently did not propose to run any risk of such an objection being taken in earnest. So far as the report of the proceedings shows to the contrary, he simply, in a manner that was as heroic as anything he had yet done, pocketed the check as his price.

And why not? Some of the understrappers have been rewarded, we believe at a great sacrifice to the community, but in a different way. They have been given positions of power in the municipality. It would have been much better if they also had been rewarded in a lump in dollars and cents, in place of being inflicted like boils upon the official corpus of the municipal body politic.

AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION.

"THE defeat of the Mormon church" is a phrase that frequently occurs in the articles which appear in our exchanges in reference to the late municipal election in this city. It is an inapt expression, and is misleading. The "Mormon" Church has met with no defeat. It has been engaged in no contest lately, other than that which has occupied its attention since its organization, namely, a warfare against spiritual darkness. The vicissitudes of political life which have been experienced in this city of late have involved no defeat to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The People's Party, a large majority of the members of which are communicants of the Church named, were overcome by the fraudulent methods of the opposition in the contest for the municipal government. But hundreds trained with that party and voted its ticket who neither believe nor practice the teachings of that Church, but who were impelled to support the People's Party by the conviction that under it the city would be governed honestly and economically, while the reverse would be the case under its

opponents. The result was the defeat of the conservative, solid and reliable elements of the community, as opposed to carpet-baggers, speculators, "boomers" and the like. The "Mormon" Church had no more to do with the contest than had the Methodist, Presbyterian, or any other religious society in the city.

We are not denying that the "Mormon" Church, in the capacity of a religious body, will be indirectly affected by the result, for such will, we anticipate, be the fact. Hereafter, for example, it will be impossible to attribute to that Church any responsibility for any policy pursued by the city government. It has been the practice for many years past to flippantly and tauntingly connect the "Mormon" ecclesiastical organization with anything done by city officials which was objectionable to the minority. But the religious body which has been compelled to bear all this injustice so long is now completely relieved of the burden. In this sense the election brought victory to it, and placed it beyond a certain line of attack in which its enemies have long delighted to indulge.

Again, credit or the opposite is reflected upon a church by the general reputation its members maintain for honesty, morality and the Christian virtues. Should a development take place which would in a sudden and striking manner show the character of the members of a given church to be high above that of the society which surrounds them in these respects, that development would be in the nature of a victory, or at least a vindication, for that church. Such will, we believe, be the result of "Liberal" domination here, both to the "Mormons" as individuals, and to their Church as a religious body.

In no sense is the Church in question any weaker; in no sense has it lost any ground, as a consequence of the election. On the contrary, the result of the political contest will be to make it stronger than before, and to increase the faith of its adherents in the divinity of its origin, and the certainty of its speedy triumph over all unrighteous opposition.

MORE COMMENTS ON THE ELECTION

THE *West Shore* is a magazine published in Portland, Oregon. It is not a heavy weight in the arena of journalism, but it has a few comments upon the recent election in

this city which we will notice. Here they are:

"Truly every American has cause to rejoice in the official overthrow of the Mormon Priesthood in Salt Lake City; and if the stories of official corruption and misrule in that city be but half true, the citizens of that misgoverned municipality be they Gentile or Mormon, have great reason to congratulate themselves. The Mormon press claim that notorious fraud was practiced, without which the Liberal majority of 800 would have been 500 the other way. If there is any ground whatever for this assertion they should take the matter into the courts. The American people cannot afford to permit fraud to be practiced at elections even for the overthrow of church domination in civil affairs. The chances are that there is but little wool. Fraud is cried by a defeated party so persistently that the shout is expected every time corruption is overthrown. No one will be inclined to believe in its existence unless at least an effort is made to prove it in the courts."

Such talk as this about the "official overthrow of the Mormon priesthood in Salt Lake City" is absurd to a degree difficult to describe. The members of the non-Mormon churches in this city were almost solid in their opposition to the People's Party, and the result was success to the "Liberals" with whom they united. Now suppose that the People's Party win next time, how would it sound for a man or public journal to say that the priesthood of the Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist and other churches here had been overthrown? Would it not sound like the gibberish with which idiocy amuses itself? The language used by the *West Shore* has much the same sound to intelligent people here. The weal or woe of the "Mormon priesthood" no more depended upon the municipal election in this city, than did the fate of the Catholic priesthood, or the clergy of any other denomination. The ignorance and stupidity of the average editor who undertakes to treat upon Utah affairs, is only equalled by the assurance with which he feigns to possess correct information concerning them.

The intimation that the city has been corruptly governed by the People's Party is new. As a matter of fact tourists, travelers and writers have almost invariably referred to this as a model among American cities, in its low rate of taxation and the excellent order maintained. Corruption of city officials was not even alleged as an issue in the campaign. That the "Liberals" won the election by frauds of the most daring and brazen character, is not even denied by their party managers. Indeed they virtually admit and glory in the