

they have happily been received in time to give him the rank and recognition his fine abilities deserved, and will gracefully round out a long military record conspicuous at once for gallantry and patriotism. The NEWS speaks for a large constituency in tendering hearty congratulations and wishes for Major-General McCook's continued life, health and prosperity.

EVILS OF ELECTIONS.

The monster celebration of their victory by the Republicans, which was held yesterday and continued far into the night, will probably be allowed to end the turmoil of the campaign and election in Utah this year; and that the end has at last been reached is a matter of congratulation.

For two months or more the excitement of the campaign has engrossed the attention of the people of the Territory to a remarkable extent, and the political work connected with it has been, during that period, almost the sole employment of a considerable force of men possessing intelligence and ability that would make their efforts felt if put forth in almost any practical or commercial enterprise. In view of the fact that this is the first political contest of importance ever had in this Territory on national party lines solely and strictly, and of the need there was for educating the voters in the principles of the respective parties and in regard to political subjects, it would probably be too much to say that the time, effort and money expended during the campaign have been wasted. There is a bare possibility that the results approximate a reasonable proportion to the expenditure, though this is a matter of debate.

But the people of Utah, quiet, solid and conservative as they usually are, have at last experienced a long and hotly contested election on national issues. They have seen the evils of such a conflict, and can feel the force of the criticism which European statesmen have made on the form of government in this country, which is to the effect that our frequent and hard-fought political struggles are a constant menace to it; that they injure the financial interests of the whole people, and are liable at any time to develop into rebellion or revolution, should demagogues inflame the masses sufficiently, or should strongly exciting issues be at stake.

That there are many evils connected with the frequent elections in this country is undeniable. They unsettle business and hamper commercial enterprise. They distract the attention of the people from legitimate and profitable pursuits. They furnish employment for a great many men whose time and talents might be otherwise devoted with far more profit to themselves and the whole people. They also furnish employment to a great many men whose time and talents under other circumstances are not worth anything to anybody. They encourage fraud, bribery and kindred crimes. They foment strife and ill-feeling between friends and neighbors, and, in short, convulse society to its very centers, and unfavorably affect its best interests in many ways.

The people oscillate between ex-

trêmes of governmental policy when elections occur so frequently. One party makes great promises of the relief and blessings it will bestow upon the people, if they will but clothe it with power. The thoughtless masses accept the promises and vest the makers with the coveted powers of government. Probably there has not been sufficient time to even inaugurate the proposed changes of policy, much less produce results from them, before another election is at hand. The masses, more thoughtless and unreasoning than before, add resentment at what they call broken pledges to their desire for relief from the evils under which they suffer—or imagine they suffer—and with a great upheaval they throw into places of power candidates whom they overwhelmed with defeat at the preceding election. And so it goes.

Demagogues sway and inflame the people. The results of legislation are falsely stated. Statistics are manufactured to suit any purpose. The intellectual acumen and forensic skill of the nation are exhausted in the efforts that are made by the contending opponents to so manipulate the facts of history, the records of public officers and political parties, and the actual experiences of the nation, as to make a favorable showing for themselves, respectively. Unfortunately for the people, the spirit of truth and justice has little influence in the midst of the strife and turmoil, and falsehood and deception are as likely to prove successful as are their opposites.

The masses, almost always thoughtless and unreasonable, are prone to attribute to the errors of the government financial and other evils from which they suffer, whereas those evils are probably the results of erroneous practices that have obtained among the masses themselves, such as extravagance in living, speculation, and indulgence in "booms," the remedy for which lies with the people solely, and could not be applied by any government operating under the restrictions of a written constitution at all resembling that of this country.

It must not be inferred that we disparage a government by the ballot. On the contrary we hold that there is no grander sight to be seen on earth than a free people marching to the polls for the purpose of expressing, in the silent but tremendously impressive language of the ballot, their will concerning the men and laws that govern them. But we do disparage some of the features that usually characterize American elections, and would, if it were possible, start a line of thought among the members-elect of the Constitutional Convention, that would lead to the devising of provisions in the organic law of our new State which would mitigate them.

The advocates of longer intervals between elections have a strong following and cogent argument in support of their views, but until the Constitution of the United States is amended it will be necessary to hold an election for members of the national House of Representatives every two years, because that instrument so provides. But the terms of state officers may and indeed must be prescribed by the state constitution; and we are inclined to favor terms that will place elections

farther apart than they are in many states, and have heretofore been in Utah. A government to be good must be stable, and one whose policy is subject to frequent and radical reversals, entails much evil upon the people. Let our new State suffer as little as possible from this cause.

IRREVERENT CARTOONS.

While the canvass was in progress a number of political speeches were made which contained references to the Supreme Being, His providences, purposes and will, introduced in such a connection as to amount to sacrilege. The NEWS earnestly protested against the practice, on grounds that would be sufficient to any believer in revealed religion. But some of the cartoons that have appeared on the pages of local papers are even worse, in their irreverent character, than was anything that was said on the stump, so far as we have heard.

In one instance Satan is represented as taking a voter up into a mountain and offering him great rewards if he would vote a certain ticket; and a post-election cartoon in another paper likens the Republican victory to the glory of the coming of the Son of Man. Such parodies on, and such applications of, sacred things are simply outrageous. They are shocking to every individual whose eyes may chance to fall upon them, provided there exists in his organization the faintest element of reverence. To any person who believes in God, and whose heart has ever been stirred by a recital of the sufferings, temptation and atonement of the Savior, or by the words of inspiration which describe the glory of His second advent to reign upon the earth, such pictorial representations are utterly abhorrent.

What is the effect of such cartoons upon the minds of the young? All persons possessing any degree of intelligence understand the vivid effects produced upon the minds of children by pictures, and the harm that may result from allowing young persons to see those of an improper character. Good or bad thoughts are inspired by pictures as readily and effectively as by almost any other method known among men, in the minds of the youth especially.

The modern cartoonist, with his sarcasm, satire and pessimism, has entered almost every department of life and thought, and from almost every conceivable source has drawn his similes. He has thrown the shadow of his irreverence over everything that man loves, reveres or aspires to, only refraining from touching with his distorting or grotesque pencil, the truths of the Christian religion. To the credit of the fraternity who provoke amusement and influence public opinion by cartoons, it can be said that, as a rule, they have refrained from degrading religion to the purposes of their art. It has been reserved for local "artists" in this line to flagrantly violate this rule and shock decency and propriety with the products of their pencils.

The mass of the people of Utah are reverently religious. They are pained and disgusted when they see religion