

It is proper at all times to be just, and right here let us be just to the railroads. They have placed us within the constricting folds of a pulseless monopoly, and we can submit to its embrace or go cold; but in the midst of all this, we believe they unload 2000 pounds for a ton and if they do not they can be reached by legal process. So far as heard from they have not yet attempted a revision of the standard arithmetic by making anything less than 2000 pounds a ton, and no one in any age or at any place ever knew them to try to make it any more than that. Those who deal with them and then with us, however, are more venturesome, or enterprising if they prefer that word. Through their mutual relations the profits to both are so enormous that there is not the slightest excuse for adding anything in the way spoken of, but yet it is done right along. It has been done all the time and finally the press make the situation so warm that our alleged guardians at the City Hall are compelled to pay attention, and then comes the announcement that, if you want something that will burn all the way through you must take ten per cent less than what you pay for! What an improvement! What an honorable addition to profits which previously amounted almost to petit larceny!

The heaven is working at last; that is some comfort. The absence of competition is a condition in which we hope never to be found again after this year is gone. We look forward to a time in the immediate future when fairness will characterize the traffic in fuel the same as it does other branches of business in our midst; and when that time comes the citizens will pay not to exceed three dollars for a full, honest ton of coal unmixed with dirt or other substance that is not combustible. Then those who cannot or will not deal fairly with consumers will certainly not advertise the fact; indeed, they will not be likely to have anything to advertise long.

UNPOPULAR STATESMEN.

The one statesman of England who is hated more cordially by native Irishmen and looked upon with less favor by home rulers than any other, is the former home secretary for Ireland, A. J. Balfour. This feeling has been at times so intense that his appearance in any place where there were considerable numbers of Milesians was enough to precipitate a riot. He has a method of taking up and dispatching business that is so severely systematic and characterized by so much of *sans froid* and smiling persistence, that his opponents must often be well nigh exasperated, and it is no wonder that he was charged with having corrupted the voters who elected him to parliament recently; but the charge seems, says the Boston *Herald*, to have been an exceedingly attenuated one. It chiefly rested on the evidence of a barber, who swore that he had been entrusted with a large number of tickets for drink to be given away to Mr. Balfour's supporters. He affirmed that he had a large batch of unused tickets in his house, and undertook to place them

at the disposal of the petitioner for the purpose of action. Unfortunately, on the eve of the performance of this promise burglars broke into the barber shop, carried off the box, and the damning proofs disappeared. The story looks like what we call a campaign lie in this country.

Mr. Balfour is looked upon by his political and personal enemies in England very much as Henry Cabot Lodge or Thomas B. Reed was by the Democrats of this country a year or so ago. Strong men in any country, and on any question, are likely to arouse strong antagonism. Sometimes they live it down, and sometimes they do not; it all depends on their own nerve, pertinacity and the degree of innate right or wrong by which they were influenced when they created the opposition which made them so unpopular.

THE UTAH ELECTION.

A number of the eastern papers have indulged in bitter and unwarranted flings at Utah since the recent election; probably for the reason that the political aftermath is never so interesting but what an occasional editorial shot may be spared for this much-advertised portion of the national commonwealth. The Boston press has been as unkind in this regard as any of them; we note, however, that in some instances there is a willingness to listen to a statement from the other side. The *Transcript*, for instance, recently gave a prominent place to the following from Mr. Charles Ellis of this city, dated November 11:

There were three candidates in the field for the delegateship in Congress. They were the representatives of the Democratic, the Republican and the old "Liberal" parties. The Democrat is elected. The contest was really only between the latter and the Republican candidate. It was an exciting contest. The Republican candidate was a son of Hon. George Q. Cannon, first counselor to the President of the Mormon Church, and many people believed that the church leaders were using their influence to have the Republican candidate elected. The contest, therefore, was to be a demonstration of the good faith of the Mormon people and their leaders when they declared a year and a half ago that the Church was out of politics.

The election of the Democrat, who is of Mormon parentage but an agnostic in faith, shows that the Mormon people were sincere in declaring that henceforth they should stand with their political party without reference to their religion. Mr. Cannon was a powerful pleader for Republicanism, and made great gains for the party. Had the people been under the direction of the Church leaders in their politics, Mr. Cannon would have been elected. That he was defeated by his own "brethren" is good evidence that the Mormons will vote as they please. While I admire Mr. Cannon for his ability, I am glad he was not elected. Had he been the country at large would have said that it was the work of his Church, and the division of the people on party lines would have been declared a "trick." As it is, there is no possible room for such an opinion.

I have said and written much in regard to that division, and at all times have declared that the Mormon people were honest and sincere in giving up their old party. This election confirms my judgment and increases my regard for the people. It is now only a question of time when the Mormon people as a whole

will become thoroughly familiar with American politics and will be found working as intelligently on national questions as any class of people in the country. There is nothing now in the way of giving Utah statehood and thus encourage the people in the work they have so well begun. Utah will make a great state, and now is the time for Eastern men to come here and invest.

AS TO SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

One of our cotemporaries asks if it would not be a good idea for the press to unite in asking for the renomination of the retiring members of the school board and thus secure their re-election without opposition. The suggestion is not a bad one; with the return of the five gentlemen whose terms are about to expire the News believes the majority of the citizens would be well satisfied and the interest of the city's public schools well served. That they have made an excellent record and have given abundant evidence of capacity and zeal no one will dispute; and it would be a graceful token of appreciation and gratitude to continue them in office by acclamation.

But the gentlemen themselves may not be willing to accept another term, even though it were unanimously tendered them. Before the honor is thrust upon them would it not be well to hear from them on the subject? And, what is equally important, would it not also be well to wait until the constituents of each one pass upon the matter? For itself, the News is ready to endorse the renomination of them all; but it submits that such action would be premature until the voters of the respective precincts have signified their wishes in the premises. The gentlemen whose terms expire are: Mr. Harry T. Duke, from the first municipal ward; Col. William Nelson, from the second; Mr. William J. Newman, from the third; Lieut. Richard W. Young, from the fourth; and Mr. John E. Dooly from the fifth. Now, if the qualified voters of these several precincts, assembled in convention or mass meeting without reference to political, religious or any other standing save that of patriotic citizenship, will express their desire for the re-election of these officials, the News will heartily endorse the ticket and will do its part to promote its success.

THE METEORIC SHOWER.

Those who live in the outer portions of the city or where there are no electric or other lights to diminish luminous effects overhead, and were not on the lookout from ten to twelve o'clock Wednesday night, missed a spectacle almost as imposing as the majority of the comets have been. This was what is commonly known as a meteoric shower. The heavens were fairly streaked with the celestial fire-flies, some very faint and others quite glaring in their luminosity, some emitting long trains of bluish phosphorescent light and others perishing where they began. Those who take an interest in astronomical phenomena—and this means nearly everybody now, with a comet hurtling around in our solar system—will have fresh matter for dis-