

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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A BARBAROUS SENTIMENT.

RECENTLY the Shreveport (Louisiana) Times gave utterance to an anti-"Mormon" sentiment worthy of the infernal regions. The brain from which it emanated and the hand that penned it belong to one who would have felt at home in the dark ages, when differences of opinion were met by the sword and the dagger as the most potent arguments for the production and preservation of unity of view. This journalistic barbarian, in alluding to the presence of "Mormon" Elders in the South, announced that they "should be met with a coat of tar and feathers, if not with shotguns."

Whether the writer of that precious piece of sentimental diabolism knows it or not, the average "Mormon" Elder is as high above him and his ilk, on the plane of humanity, morality and religion as the heavens are above the earth. If any one in the community of Latter-day Saints were to advocate such brutality toward the ministers of any religion coming among them he would be tabooed by and disgraced in the eyes of his co-religionists, who are strong advocates, in word and deed, of toleration.

There are other journals in different parts of the country which, we regret to say, are in line with the inhuman idea expressed by the Times. They are anarchists, advocating the abolition of law and order and supplementing them with mob violence, which every patriot and true citizen should frown down in place of encouraging.

It is to be hoped that the writers of such inflammatory sentiments express themselves unthinkingly, as that would to some extent mitigate the weight of their criminality, although it is a sorry reflection upon their judgment. It may be that some of them take it for granted that they should advocate the abuse, by personal maltreatment, of the Elders, almost to the extent of murdering them, because they are unpopular. They accept the popular verdict as correct without investigation and therefore belong to the category of those whom Solomon places upon the list of fools.

From this standpoint, had they lived in the days of Christ and been running a newspaper they would have incited the rabble to bring about the crucifixion of the Lord, and encouraged the mobbing of Peter, James and John and others of the ancient worthies, because the populace were against them. The probability that they would have acted this ignoble part is rendered all the more likely when it is understood that the Lord and His apostles advocated the doctrines of faith in God and the atonement of the Son, repentance of sins and baptism for the remission of them, followed by the laying on of the hands of those holding divine authority for the imparting of baptism to believers of the Holy Ghost. The Elders who go to the South, and to every land on earth to which they can find access, preach the same principles and administer similar ordinances, and thus can only be entitled to persecution in the shape of mob violence on the same ground.

It is such journalistic utterances, which inflame the rabble against the Elders without a spark of just cause, and that lead to violence and murder in the southern section of the country. To the extent that they inspire and thus lead up to such lawless deeds, there attaches to their authors a degree of the damning guilt involved.

How much more consistent it would be for journals and clergymen who are opposed in their views to the religion of the Latter-day Saints, if they said anything on the subject at all, to take the ground that if the "Mormon" Elders commit any breach of the laws they should be dealt with legally the same as any other class of citizens. If this were done then the missionaries would go unmolested, as a more law-abiding class of men are not to be found.

If there are any half-way fair minded journals and clergymen among those who take a determined stand against the Elders, they could by the application of an inflexible principle be able to see the cruelty and incongruity of their position in advocating the application of violence on the ground of religious difference of opinion. That principle is this—it is always possible that the persecuted may be right, but the persecutor never can be, because persecution is intrinsically wrong.

If people will restrain an impulse to persecute the "Mormon" people until they investigate, not seeking information from the enemies of the Saints, in nine cases out of ten they

will change their disposition, providing they are susceptible to the operation of the truth.

A LEGAL PROBLEM.

THE municipal government of this city now stands face to face with the question of paving the streets, or the sidewalks, which are part of the streets. It is one of the gravest questions financially which city governments are called upon to deal with, always involving heavy expense, and a consequent increase of the burdens of the taxpayer. But it may be doubted if the financial feature of this question, as now presented to the government of this particular city, is its most difficult one to cope with. There are certain principles of organic law involved, which require to be distinctly ascertained and conformed to, otherwise litigation, confusion and much serious trouble may ensue.

In whom does the fee of the streets and sidewalks vest? Recent action taken by the City Council is based upon the assumption that the fee vests in the municipal corporation.

Let it be assumed that this position is strictly correct; that an exclusive title to the soil of the streets and sidewalks vests in the corporation; can an assessment be levied upon an abutting owner, requiring him to pave the street or sidewalk in front of his premises? In other words can private owners of real estate be compelled to lay paving stones upon land which belongs exclusively to the municipal corporation? Can a private land owner be compelled to pay for a costly improvement to be placed upon a designated piece of public land? Does not such a procedure amount to the taking of private property for public use without compensation?

If the soil of South Temple Street vests exclusively in the municipal corporation, is not that street in precisely the same position, in respect to the general public and property holders of the city, as Liberty Park? And if abutting owners on South Temple Street can be required to pave that street, cannot land owners contiguous to Liberty Park be compelled to improve the Park?

Because a man happens to own a piece of ground near to, or even abutting upon, a piece owned by the city, does the circumstance of contiguity give the city a right to have its place improved at the expense of that man?

The questions of law involved in the matter of paving streets in cities which have been built upon land the title of which is traced to a United States patent issued to the corporation, are comparatively new, for the reason that pavements in such cities have not existed until recent years. The rules which apply in the older cities of the country, situated upon land the title to which is traceable to grants made to private parties, do not apply in this city, if it be true that the fee of the streets here vests in the corporation. Except in the more newly settled portions of the United States, the fee of the highways vests in the abutting owners, and the police power of the municipal government can be invoked to compel these owners to put their property in such a condition as will be consistent with the safety and convenience of the public. Under the police power of government private owners are compelled to pave the soil of the streets, the fee of which vests in them.

But can a private owner be compelled to pave streets the fee of which vests in some other person, natural or artificial? (A municipal corporation is an artificial person.) If the municipal corporation is required to pay the full cost of all improvements made in public parks and grounds, the fee of which vests exclusively in it, under what principle of law are the streets and sidewalks, owned exclusively by the city, exempted from the same rule?

Abutting owners on a given street have an undoubted right to make a voluntary agreement with the municipal authorities for the paving of the street or sidewalk in front of their premises. Suppose a majority of abutting owners on a given street enter into such an agreement, while a minority decline to do so, can the latter be coerced?

A juncture has been reached in the affairs of this city when the foregoing interrogatories should be definitely and authoritatively answered. We need pavements now, and year by year this need will grow more pressing. They will have to be laid, as drives and walks in the public parks are, from the general funds of the city, or by direct assessments upon abutting owners. A combination of the two methods raises all the legal objections that can be urged against the latter alone.

THE NEXT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE prevailing uncertainty regarding the political complexion of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Congress is a subject of great interest and constant comment on all hands. The Republicans still claim that their majority will be not less than three and that it may go as high as seven; while the Democrats, who seem en-

tirely willing to concede everything that has been fairly won, do not yet admit that any majority appears on either side, and this seems to be the case.

Official returns as far as received show the election of 161 Republicans and 160 Democrats, leaving only four districts to be heard from. The fact that their official footings have not yet been received shows that they are very close, and may all go one way or the other, in which case the party gaining them would have a clear working majority beyond question; but if they are equally divided, returning two of each party, the Republicans will have one majority only. It will thus be seen that the Democrats must have carried at least three of these districts to retain control of the House.

The passivity of the Democratic managers, and one might say with the party itself, and their apparent willingness to give up whatever has been fairly won on the other side, would seem to be a guarantee against unfairness or anything savoring of revolutionary methods. But at the bare mention of such a thing as the possibility of the next House of Representatives containing a minority of Republicans, certain lights of the party become frantic and their language so explosive and threatening that they are painful to listen to. Prominent among these is the editor of the New York Mail and Express, Col. Elliott F. Sheppard. As a bibliophile and journalistic pugilist in one he certainly eclipses the record. He recently gave the Democrats warning that "what they lost by the ballot box, they should not regain by fraud," and threatened bloodshed and a tumult all around if the majority in the House should not be forced on the (to him) right side. The Colonel is somewhat noted for this style of expression, using it indiscriminately against everybody and anything unfortunate enough to be in a different position or hold varying views from his own. He has repeatedly discharged some of his pyrotechnical philippics in this direction, but the only impression produced, so far as heard from, is the general belief that the author of them is troubled with a disordered liver. His sallies invariably provoke more ridicule than alarm.

The greatest scheme so far foreshadowed is that in the event of a Republican majority in the House, they will not take so desperate a chance as waiting till next December before grasping the spoils and putting the machinery in motion. It is openly charged by the leading Democratic papers, and so far not denied by those of the other side, that a special session is to be called immediately after the collapse of the present Congress—on the fourth of next March—really for the purpose of organization, but ostensibly for "important public business" left unfinished, such as the admission of Dakota, etc. The Speaker being chosen and the committees appointed on a Republican basis, they would remain during the entire Congress, no matter if by some unforeseen chance the Democrats should subsequently gain control. This is not so remote a contingency as many might suppose; for there are several members of very advanced years and some with lingering ailments; in a body of 325 men averaging beyond middle age, the chances for at least two or three going over to the silent majority within a year's time are considerable. A greater number among fewer members has been recorded. All such contingencies can be set at rest by immediate organization, and then the party in power can make its majority strong enough by vigorously applying the contest plan to place itself beyond danger from any source.

It looks at this writing as though the present status of one majority for the Republicans would be maintained; that it will be either that or three if anything; and this is a desperately close game to depend upon holding out as it stands for a full twelve months to come. The friction between the contending hosts that will be engendered by reason of the ability who will certainly be considerable in the plotting and counter-plotting ahead of anything we have had since the Electoral Commission.

All this time, however, the Republicans may be reckoning without their host. They propose, but it will be for President Harrison to dispose of, and he only, can call the House together in extraordinary session, and whether he will do so unless there is sufficient public cause for it in his judgment, is very doubtful; his utterances so far indicate that he is not going to be an extremist nor lend himself to the "clean sweepers" by any means.

AN IDEAL JOURNAL.

THE competition among newspapers in the effort to win the reputation of being the best, is not merely energetic, it is fierce. Editors and publishers rack their brains and spend millions in the attempt to overreach rivals; and a burning question of the day is, how to make a model newspaper. Some journalists admire the compact, so-called bullet style, in which every variety of matter is given, though in a greatly condensed form, and printed on a small sheet. The New York Sun is a model of this style. Others like the voluminous newspaper containing

many and large pages, in which the articles are written with florid amplitude; while every variety between these two extremes has its admirers.

The proposition is being advocated now by some great journalists that the model newspaper has not yet been created; that it should be sufficiently voluminous to contain all current news of interest, transpiring in all the world; that its editorials should be didactic only; that it should be neutral and impartial in all things, presenting each phase possessed by every question with equal fulness and fairness; that it should, in short, be an unconscious tablet, receiving upon its face, without sensation or emotion of its own, a mechanically-prepared record of current thought and history.

Others again hold that the model journal should be instinct with life and feeling; that it should love and hate; advocate and denounce; teach and exhort; investigate and expose; inquire and expound; fight and defend. If such a journal as this would direct its course within the lines of truth and justice, it would command admiration in a greater degree than would another, no matter how able, having only mechanical attributes.

The following passage from an article in the Christian Union still further amplifies an idea of a model newspaper:

"You want, first of all, a paper which will interpret, candidly, faithfully, fearlessly, the history of our own times; which will tell you the history which the present generation is making, as the historian should tell you the history which past generations have made; which will write of the election of Harrison in 1883 as dispassionately as of the election of Washington in 1789; which will deal with the Prohibition movement of today as candidly as with the Washingtonian movement of half a century ago; which will cheat with no false hopes or delusive promises; which will minister to truth, not to prejudice; which will be equally discriminating to see the good and the evil in the Protestant and the Romish communions, the Irish and the Anglo-Saxon races, the Democratic and the Republican parties; which will see life, not through colored glasses, political or sectarian, but always through a translucent atmosphere; which will acknowledge allegiance to no party, only to patriotism; to no creed, only to truth; to no faction, only to humanity."

As a rule a newspaper is made by its patrons rather than by its editors. It is the mirror in which is reflected the face of its reader. If his face be that of an honest man, and a lover of right, the paper will be of a like character. There is not therefore likely to be the model newspaper until there shall first be formed a model community to demand and maintain it.

CARCASS AND BUZZARDS.

AN anxious desire to see justice done in connection with the Church suits, has fired the minds of a heavy contingent of the local legal fraternity. No less than twelve of them, including Mr. Hobson, have been retained to take part in the three cornered contest between the school trustees represented by Zane & Zane, Receiver Dyer, and the United States.

W. H. Dickson and C. S. Varian will assist Zane & Zane in the effort to secure a portion of the escheated property for the schools. Mr. Hobson will represent the United States government, but exactly what points he will strive to make is not quite clear. In their efforts to protect the interests of the receiver, Messrs. Williams and Peters will be aided by five other lawyers, among whom are Judge Powers and Arthur Brown.

PARNELL'S CAUSE GAINING.

THE manner in which witnesses for the London Times before the Parnell Commission are "doubled up" and rendered negations in the hands of that brilliant lawyer Russell, on cross-examination, is only paralleled by the treatment of the witness for Henry Ward Beecher by Judge Fuller in the celebrated Plymouth Church case some years ago. It shows that the attorneys for Mr. Parnell have not only thoroughly prepared their case and are entirely familiar with every point in it, but that they have nisi prius qualifications rarely equalled.

The plaintiff in this action has won one case against the "Thunderer," and from the manner in which things are going it looks as if he would come out with a clean score and not only vindicate himself but collect a snug fortune from the Times company. All or nearly all, the evidence produced by the latter, has so far failed to produce a point of justification for the groundwork of the case, viz., the charge by it that Parnell aided or abetted murders of Englishmen and Irish sympathizers with England in Ireland, as a member of the National League or otherwise; and the manner in which the witnesses jump from one side to another when Parnell's attorneys handle them shows with tolerable plainness that they must have been "induced" to testify as they did in the first instance.

One thing is pretty plainly demon-

strated: That England is a place where unadulterated justice on the even-handed plan is generally dealt out to all, no matter whether it be an Irishman or any other man suing an Englishman or vice versa.

PETTY PARTISANSHIP.

ABOUT a year ago a better feeling appeared to be growing among the community. There was, on the surface at least, a desire to drop acerbities growing out of wide differences of opinion, and meet on a common plane in one sphere at least—that of business.

For some time matters progressed as amicably as could have been expected, but gradually the old antipathy and selfish partisanship have burst out in spots from whence proceeded the loudest professions of desire for a smoothing down of the rough edges of social differences. Now it becomes more and more plain, that with certain parties material prosperity means merely the business advancement of one class of citizens, to the disadvantage of the others. This is especially marked when "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" are in competition in the same lines. In some instances the former are abused, vilified and slandered in the most silly, senseless and petty manner that could be imagined. The more enterprising and successful the victims of the contemptible treatment are, the more persistent and paltry is the abuse applied to them.

An article referring to the attacks made upon Grant Brothers, proprietors of the leading livery stables in this city, appears in this issue. The animadversions made upon the firm have covered a considerable period. These gentlemen have been continuously squibbed in the columns of the anti-"Mormon" paper published in this city in the most sniffling and pusillanimous way. Into these animadverting paragraphs have been injected references to the religion of the leading proprietors of the establishment, which has been called "the Lord's bus agent." This unmanly drive has been mixed with all sorts of charges of trickery which everybody knows Grant Bros. would never resort to, nor would they allow its practice by any of their employees. In fact in this matter the paper referred to has acted as if it was owned body and soul by a prominent hotel man, and certain livery stable proprietors of this city.

These schoolboy spite excursions, devoid of a spark of solid manliness, have not been confined to the firm named, but the same tactics, in the interest of certain parties, have been adopted toward other business concerns, with special reference to the Salt Lake Street Railroad Company. The same childish, hyperbolic, systematic poisoned needle-sticking has been adopted toward that enterprise, until many of the readers of the paper in question were unutterably disgusted with the narrowness it exhibited in such matters.

Heretofore we have scarcely alluded to this narrow-track partisanship introduced in business affairs, but it seems to be growing, hence we mention it now. It is actuated by the same spirit that has impeded the material progress of the community heretofore, and should be frowned down, whenever it appears. Those who indulge in it "sit on the tail of progress and shout whoa."

A LACK OF HARMONY.

THERE exists in this city, among elements which are strong and prominent in social and business circles, a conspicuous lack of harmony. A similar condition is no new thing here, in respect to political and religious issues; but the discord to which present reference is made, has nothing to do with either politics or religion. It has broken out in circles which have heretofore had no trouble within themselves over either of these prolific subjects of disagreement among mankind. A considerable portion of the business population of the city are interested in the several quarrels now in progress; quarrels is perhaps as good a term as any with which to describe the existing differences to which allusion is here made.

Perhaps the most conspicuous display of the spirit of discord now getting in its work of division among our citizens, is being witnessed in the Chamber of Commerce. Harmony seems to have entirely abandoned that organization. A new deal in the way of officers is demanded by many disgruntled members who, however, do not appear to hang together, nor to have the same causes of complaint. A few signs have been thrown out, which are indicative of the motives of some of the fault finders. When a member of the Chamber, who is a real estate agent, calls for a new secretary on the ground that the present incumbent of that office is interested in building spots and acreage, the trouble with his digestion is easily diagnosed; and when another member, interested in the printing business, lets his dues lapse because the Chamber had some printing done away from home, it may be