

"Liberalism" we consider his advancement creditable and hope that his light and progress will increase, no matter what party he may choose to affiliate.

THE TERRORS OF EARTHQUAKE.

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* of April 20th contains detailed reports of the recent earthquake disturbances in California. It says the shock on the 19th was the severest experienced since the Lone Pine disaster of 1872. The vibration extended from Gibroy and Fresno on the south to Oroville and Chico on the north, and from Santa Rosa on the west entirely across the State and into Nevada. The area which experienced the severest portion of the shock was, however, very limited. It was confined to portions of Solano and Yolo counties.

On the morning of the earthquake the scene in the town of Vacaville is described as one of the wildest disorder. The first shock was felt at 2:49 a.m., while the inhabitants were sleeping soundly. Repeated vibrations and the crash of falling buildings soon aroused the people, who poured into the streets in their nightdresses screaming and terror-stricken. They remained outside until morning, fearing to enter their homes, lest further shocks might prove more serious. Several costly buildings were completely wrecked.

The scenes at Winters, Woodland, Esparto and other towns were somewhat similar to that at Vacaville, though the shock was felt more emphatically at the latter place.

The vibrations were felt the whole width of the State for about 20 miles north of the meridian of San Francisco. The alarm created amounted almost to a panic, but it gradually subsided.

The *Chronicle* says of it editorially:

"This earthquake is a decided confirmation of the explosive theory. Every indication is that of a subterranean explosion of gas or superheated steam or something of that sort, the shock traveling along the lines of least resistance, and being felt most perceptibly in the vicinity of the central point of the explosion. The moral of this shock, if it have any, is that the proper way to build houses and stores and similar structures is to put good materials into them and to put them together strongly. Brick walls which are only two bricks wide and held together with mortar which is little better than sand cannot be expected to stand against an earthquake, and that such was the character of many of the buildings that were injured yesterday is apparent. An earthquake is bad enough and terrible enough at best, and there is no need of making it worse than it is by attributing to it results which are due primarily to defective construction.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE RUSTLERS

THE answer of President Harrison to the Wyoming rustlers, as published in our dispatches, is worthy of particular mention because it emphasizes a doctrine which young students of American politics should clearly understand.

The people of Buffalo, being fearful that the cattle men who are in charge of United States troops would escape punishment for their alleged crimes, appealed to the President of the United

States for a hearing, under the impression that he could grant them redress of their grievances. The President replies that he can do nothing except to act with the State authorities to prevent violence.

This is strictly conformable to the Constitution, which defines and limits the powers of the President and of the National Government generally. He could have done nothing in reference to the Wyoming troubles but for the call of the Governor for Federal assistance to quell domestic violence. In this he can act only in conjunction with the State authorities. He cannot interfere in a dispute between citizens of a State and the authorities of that State, nor in a case in which the citizens of one State have a controversy with another State of the Union.

Some censure has been launched against the Governor of Wyoming for appealing at all to the Federal authority. It is urged that he should have used the whole power of the State before seeking aid from the President of the United States. This no doubt would have been the proper course if he had been able to obtain reliable force to meet the emergency at once. But later developments make it a matter of strong doubt whether the militia of the State could have been relied upon for immediate help, and whether they would have been as tractable and impartial as the situation demanded. Something had to be done without delay, and the Governor, in our opinion, took the surest and safest course open to him at the moment.

But the power of the President in this matter was limited to the sending of the aid called for by the Governor. He cannot interfere in the matter further. He has no authority to influence in any way the action of the State officers, civil or military, in the settlement of the internal affairs of the State. If citizens of Wyoming wish to see and consult with the President, he can grant them an interview but he cannot make any decision upon their dispute which will have any official force. In offering his counsel he is careful to tender it as a citizen and not as the President.

This is all that the strongest advocate of States rights could desire, and it shows that Republican party principles do not necessarily involve a departure from the constitutional limits of the powers of the Executive, but that the Democratic idea in this respect at least is substantially sustained. There is nothing like practical experience to demonstrate the bearing, meaning and force of a political or philosophical precept.

ARE SALOON-KEEPERS ABOVE THE LAW?

THE saloon question came up in the session of the City Council held last evening, in a somewhat novel shape. Mr. Helsa moved that the resolution introduced by Mr. Folland on the subject, at the meeting previous, be expunged from the minutes. "Liberal" second and support were quickly given to the motion.

The cause of this desire for obliteration was the character of the resolution, which asserted that nearly all of the numerous saloons of this city were

run at full blast on Sundays, in open and flagrant violation of law. The ostensible Liberal objection to the resolution in the first place was that it was introduced for effect. Its language may have been somewhat florid, but whether this be the case or not, the central fact embodied in it was not affected by this characteristic. However, last night, the most vehement opponent of the resolution and the most noisy advocate for its expungement from the minutes, shifted his base of opposition and asserted that he did not believe that the Sunday saloon business was carried on as Mr. Folland had asserted. This point of contention involves the central fact, Are the drinking shops run in full blast on Sundays, and the law thus violated and the moral status of the community enorched and endangered? Mr. Folland not only says that such is the case, but that he is prepared to offer the proofs.

Now comes the kernel of the whole business—do the Council want the proofs? The symptoms thus far indicate that the proofs are exactly what are not wanted. Should the indications take a turn and point the other way, we will at once recognize the fact and applaud the action.

The evidence exists. It can be obtained any Sabbath day. The Sunday liquor business and concomitant revelry and drunkenness are matters with which any citizen can become familiar, to say nothing of the officers of the law.

The Mayor—chief executive of the municipality—seemed to catch the disposition to smother the subject. His sudden, jerky and hurried, several-times-repeated exclamation, "are you ready for the question?" pointed that way. It is due to the community that this subject be not allowed to drop out of sight. This, however, in view of the disgraceful and wholesale violation of the liquor ordinances, is not likely to occur. If the whisky element rules the "Liberal" Mayor and Council as it did most of the officers of that party who immediately preceded them, the people ought to be fully aware of the fact.

The saloon record made by the former "Liberal" Council remains fresh upon the public mind. The sectarian clergy became alarmed at the situation. This anxiety was intensified by the knowledge of the fact that they aided by personal campaign activity and their own votes to place the saloon-controlled officials in office. They called mass meetings and declaimed against the demoralized condition, brought about by the unscrupulous conduct of "Liberal" officials, among whom, however, there were some honorable exceptions to this rule.

The results of a course are according to its nature. The uncontrolled, unregulated condition of the liquor business and the evil effects thereof seemed to arouse the indignation and anxiety of the sectarian clergy in the winter of 1890. If these gentlemen take the trouble to ascertain for themselves, they will find that what produced perturbation of mind in them then, exists as widely and flagrantly now. Have they become less interested in the moral condition of the population of