

dance of building rock and brick clay almost everywhere. Lime kilns are turning out as fine a quality of lime as I ever saw anywhere. Lumber and shingle mills, grist mills, brick mills, potteries, cheese factories, etc., are keeping pace with the general progress.

This Upper Snake River offers inducements in such variety and profusion as Utah never did, to all classes of intelligent, honest, enterprising and determined settlers. The Bannock Stake already out numbers several of the older Stakes, and is yet in its infancy. The disabilities of the Mormons have been removed, their franchise restored, and there will be a rush for this promised land that will soon appropriate every available nook and corner.

To those really desiring homes of their own, let me briefly recapitulate, thousands of acres of land; large rivers of water; thousands of square miles of timber and grass; building material convenient and abundant; and a climate unsurpassed by any in the north temperate zone for its adaptability to maturing a great variety of products. Here is a chance for you and your children to escape being mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. Committees will be established in the various towns and villages for the purpose of affording information to those in search of homes, regarding unoccupied lands, lands for sale or exchange, etc.

I should not omit to mention the grand opportunities offered for the education of the young in the Rexburg academy and the numerous district schools within the reach of all. There are also numerous and finely appointed mercantile institutions, which are doing a thriving business. We need more good mechanics—good blacksmiths, especially settlers. What more can you reasonably ask? First come, first served. Respectfully,  
JAMES H. MASON.

#### PREPARING FOR ACTION.

The Louisville gathering which is now on is not a council of war but a conference having in view the perpetuation of certain lines of national policy; if such cannot be passed along to posterity for an indefinite period, then the conference will try to revitalize their organization and keep its standard principles afloat during the life of the present generation at least.

It is useless to discuss such a meeting with such objects in view in a tone of impartiality and fairness and look for endorsements from either side, because it is a partisan body and controlled by partisanship in its strictest sense; but that is the proper thing to do. A few of the names of attendants are enough to settle the point of partisanship conclusively—Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, J. R. Clarkson, L. P. Morton, R. A. Alger, John Sherman, James Longstreet and Frederick Douglass for example. Nothing could be more strictly Republican than such an array and they constitute but a very minute fraction, numerically speaking, of the names of men in attendance who are prominent in the party and with whom all readers are more or less familiar.

The understanding is, we believe, to

outline the work ahead and secure concerted action in every part of the country; that is, the East and the West are to "get together" on the silver and other interests peculiar to one or the other, while the North and the South are not only to shake hands over the once bloody chasm—now reduced to the proportions of an irrigation ditch and largely imaginary in places at that—but are to embrace and let their tears of joy blend within the common soil. This, we would suggest, is good politics; it is the only plan upon which a party can hold together, let alone assume the offensive and make a successful dash for supremacy.

The Republican party's history is the most eventful of any in our land. It is called an old party but as compared with its chief opponent it is an infant. It was born in 1856 and habilitated with power five years later. Practically considered, therefore, it is but thirty-two years of age, up to and even away past which time men are considered young. But take a glance at its achievements! A league of commonwealths forged into an indissoluble Union; the right to own human flesh forever extinguished and the former chattels themselves elevated to the dignity of full manhood and equal citizenship; the most harrowing, destructive, expensive and consequential war of the century fought out, peace with honor restored, the debt well-nigh paid and the newly-born nation bathed in the sunshine of a prosperity and advancement which its people before only dreamed of. Had we not passed through it, it would all sound like the narration of some wondrously gifted romancer instead of a plain recital of mere matters of fact.

And yet, in respect to this a political party is on an equal footing with its individual entities. As a man cannot live and flourish on his past good deeds, so cannot the Republican or any other partisan organization keep itself above the surface of things and steadily forging ahead because of its former achievements. It must act in the living present and show itself as capable of dealing with and adjusting the vital questions of today as it was at any time during the sixth decade of the century. The Democrats claim that no such issues now exist; that all that we have now to contend with are the hereditary questions which we had before and always have; and that thus the Republican party, with its mission of war and transformation ended, has no longer any reason for living. Can the Louisville conference overcome that position by anything more than a general traverse, or will it as formerly stare fate in the face and defy the lightning of a section's wrath and a world's displeasure? These it will do if it grapples fearlessly and justly with the silver question, and yet it is one that must receive attention and solution without further delay. Perhaps the Democrats may anticipate their opponents in this, but it does not seem likely now; and yet it is, when fully and fairly considered, a more vital and more pressing question than the tariff. The South demands it, the West will no longer be denied. But would it not be one of the strangest developments

of politics if the Republican party, already partly dislodged from its cradle and its home—the North—were to find rehabilitation and renewed strength in the section where it has had but partial backing and that where it has practically received none at all of late—the West and the South?

#### THE NORWEGIAN QUESTION.

The present quarrel between the two kingdoms occupying the Scandinavian peninsula is commencing to be interesting to the European powers, inasmuch as it becomes clearer with each successive movement of the Norwegian radicals that their real aim is the dissolution of the union and the establishment of a republic on the western slope of Kiolen. By the terms of the peace of Kiel, 1814, Norway was to be ceded to Sweden as a compensation for Finland having been transferred to Russia. But the Norwegians were so persistent in their resistance that nothing short of a war would have subdued them. A compromise was therefore effected, by which Norway was made an independent kingdom to be governed by the Swedish king and to have a foreign representation and consular service in common with Sweden.

Under this arrangement the two countries have grown together happy for more than three-quarters of a century and Norway has particularly had the benefit of the union, as is evidenced by the phenomenal development of that country since it obtained its present station. But it seems that the radical element is bent upon a separation regard less of the consequences.

A fierce battle was fought only a few years ago concerning the prerogatives of the crown. The kings always insisted that they had the absolute veto power in matters affecting the constitution of the country. They regarded the constitution as an agreement between two parties, and held that no change could be effected without the consent of both. The Norwegian radicals insisted that the constitution was given by the people alone and could be annulled by the people at will, the king being only the chief executive of the nation. A measure regarding the extension of the elective franchise, we believe, was made a test case. The radical majority in the parliament passed the measure repeatedly and the king vetoed it. Finally the parliament went to the extreme of summoning the ministers of the king before the *rigsret*, a court the majority of whose members were chosen by the parliament among the most radical politicians available. The ministers appeared represented by the ablest lawyers of the country, but were notwithstanding the heavy arguments produced, sentenced by a strict party vote to heavy fines and disgrace for life, for having advised the king against the wishes of the parliament. The king, however, instead of submitting to this decision dismissed his cabinet with the assurance of his kingly favor, as if they had not been disgraced, and summoned Johan Swerdrup to form a new cabinet. Swerdrup was the leader of the radicals, a position which he subsequently abandoned to the great chagrin of his party. The