

lenced men, ecclesiasts or otherwise. But there is a class who would fight anything supported by our leading men in the Church no matter how much it might be for the public benefit, and it is to their prejudices that such appeals are made.

The *Deseret News* speaks for itself. When the authorities of the Church have anything to say through its columns they do so over their own signatures, or we explain that it is with their sanction. Otherwise we alone are responsible for the views we express. They are generally decided, and both our friends and our foes know where we stand. We talk as we think on this toy reservoir affair, and cordially support the *Herald* in its dissent from the action of the City Council.

PRESIDENT AND CLERGY.

THE *New York Mail and Express* endorses a request from the Committee on the Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration, to the President of the United States, that he issue a proclamation calling on clergymen to hold a special service throughout the country at 9 o'clock on the morning of April 30th. They also ask that the President suggest that the day be celebrated as a national holiday.

Is not this connecting Church and State a little too closely? Would not such a procedure from a "Mormon" official be so construed? It looks like a stretch of Executive authority for the President, by proclamation to regulate religious services. He is only to "suggest" that the day be a national holiday. But he is to "call" on the clergymen throughout the country to hold services at a given hour.

It is all very well for the clergymen to ask their fellow preachers to do this. But we hardly think President Harrison, even though he be an ordained Elder of the Presbyterian Church, will attempt to order anything of this kind as the Chief Magistrate of the nation.

We have no objection to the simultaneous service. It would be a good thing if the people of this blest country would recognize the Hand of Providence in its growth and prosperity, on all public occasions. We would be glad to see a religious and devotional spirit animating the nation and entering into all its affairs. We have no fears of any ill effects from the religious element in politics, or in trade, or in social life.

But we do not want to see

the powers of the Government exercised in the direction of ecclesiastical matters in any shape or form, and therefore think the committee and all who sustain their action have made a great mistake, which we trust the President of the United States will not fall into, even if urged to do so by the pious editor of the *New York Mail and Express*.

Since the foregoing was written the Proclamation of the President has come to hand. We are pleased to see that he does not issue the "call" upon the clergy which he was importuned to make. He merely "recommends" that the people repair to their respective places of worship on the day designated, and there "Implore the favor of God that the blessings of liberty, prosperity and peace may abide with us as a people, and that His hand may lead us in the paths of righteousness and good deeds."

To this no reasonable person can object. It is not a command to the clergy, but a word of counsel to all the people of this great nation. And we who believe that the hand of the Lord should be acknowledged in all things, certainly cannot dissent from so pious a movement. If the whole nation would sincerely unite in seeking for Divine help and guidance, and at the same time work together for the securing of true liberty to all citizens irrespective of creed or class, and to establish righteousness in the land, the sun of prosperity would ever send forth beams of gladness and its light would never grow dim in these United States.

HARRISON AND BLAINE.

THERE is a great deal of speculation about the relations between Harrison and Blaine. It has been reported that the President not only pays little attention to the suggestions and recommendations of the Secretary of State, but takes pleasure in going against them. It is stated that appointments have been made with the view and intention of snubbing the man of Maine, and of asserting the individuality and independence of the head of the Administration.

We take very little stock in these rumors and suspicions, for they are little else. It does not follow that they are correct because they are repeated in the *Associated Press* dispatches. They may have originated in the minds of some disap-

poluted office-seekers, whose name is Legion, and have been uttered in spleen by enemies of either the President, or Secretary, or both.

James G. Blaine is recognized as the strongest man in the Republican party. It was pretty certain, however, that he could not have been elected to the Presidency. His very strength made him enemies within the party to which he belongs. He was vulnerable, too, in important points. The convention showed wisdom in the selection of some other, if weaker, man for standard bearer. But the recognition of his merits and abilities exhibited in his selection for chief place in the cabinet, was eminently proper. And it was evidence rather of the strength of mind than otherwise of the Chief Executive. It was claimed that Harrison would be dwarfed by Blaine. That the Government would be dominated by the Secretary of State. And that the President dared not select him, for this very reason.

But President Harrison did the proper thing regardless of the prognostications of the politicians. He has exhibited similar determination and resolution in other appointments. He has nominated such men for office as seemed proper to him after considering all the circumstances and the candidates.

There is no reliable evidence that in doing so he has purposely snubbed Mr. Blaine. It may be that the gentleman has favored some applicants who have not succeeded. Or he may have appeared to do so, not wishing to offend them, after the fashion of politicians generally. In neither case does it follow that the President has offended the Secretary of State in taking his own course and following his own judgment.

We think the Maine statesman too sensible to become angry if the Executive acts upon his own mind, and does not adopt suggestions no matter who may be their author. The President is responsible for his own nominations, and a blunder would reflect upon him, not upon the person who proposed an improper candidate.

It is generally perceived now that President Harrison has a mind of his own and that he is following his own counsel. But the reports that his action offends Mr. Blaine, and has proceeded from a desire to slight the man whom he has chosen to the highest position in his Cabinet, appear to us mere opinions without good reason, and are most likely inventions evoked by disappointment