

# DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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## EMINENTLY SATISFACTORY.

THE visit of President Hayes and his distinguished party was an event in the history of Utah. It cannot but be productive of good. It will prove of benefit to our visitors, affording them an opportunity of seeing, and judging for themselves, some of the people who have been so much talked about the world over, and a few of the results of their labors in transforming the wilderness into pleasant habitations, smiling fields and blooming gardens. Although these material improvements are silent, they yet speak with greater force and with far more enduring impressions than the tongue of slander and the voice of malice and misrepresentation. On the other hand, the visit will do good to the people and relieve them of the erroneous impression that the illustrious guests are of the same spirit as those officials of a far lower grade, who take pains to hold themselves aloof from the masses and the general interests of the Territory.

We recognize in President Hayes the Chief Magistrate of forty-eight millions of people; the head of the nation of which we form a part; the representative of institutions that we honor and support; the Executive of laws which, with one solitary exception, we accept as binding upon all. It was therefore a right and proper thing that the people should pay their respects to that gentleman, and tender him such courtesies as were in their power to extend and within his to receive.

We do not view the President's action in reference to the hospitalities offered to him as any slight upon the people. Of the action of certain smaller officials to prevent any civic entertainment of our visitors, we have nothing to say. It is too trivial a matter to provoke any extended comment, to say nothing of irritation. But we cannot see wherein any blame can be consistently attached to the President for accepting the invitation first tendered to him, and courteously declining others which were necessarily precluded. That which our City Council could not do as an organization the people could do as citizens. We are pleased at their course. We are equally pleased at the attitude, remarks and kind consideration of the visiting party. They made no distinction of class, creed or position, but were affable, respectful and cordial to all. Both coming from Ogden and returning, President Hayes and his estimable wife, Secretary Ramsay and General Sherman took pains to show that they recognized the work of the industrious and thrifty people who made this progressive Territory out of a desert. Most of their time on both trips, was spent in the society of President Taylor and his associates, and in the lengthy and animated conversations between President Hayes and President Taylor, the utmost cordiality, respect and desire for correct information were manifested by the head of the government.

The public and private remarks, too, of Secretary Ramsay and General Sherman were of such a character as to win the good feelings of the masses, and to show that those great men understand the situation and appreciate the grand work accomplished by the founders of Utah.

Mrs. Hayes exhibited great interest in the internal affairs of this community, and with her pleasant, genuine smile of greeting, won all hearts and the good will of every person who had the pleasure of an introduction.

We are very much gratified at the visit and its present results, and feel satisfied that its future fruits will not be without value to Utah and the great majority of her citizens, who, we are assured,

will join with us in the wish that President Hayes and his amiable wife, the bluff and hearty Secretary of War, and the jolly, shrewd, outspoken and gallant commander of the military forces of the Union, with all their associates on the journey, will have a really pleasant and profitable tour on the Coast, and a safe return to their homes in the East.

## NOTICE TO CITIZENS.

THE Assessor of Salt Lake County announces in this paper that he will be prepared, on Monday, September 13th, either in person or by deputy, according to the provisions of the registration law, to register all citizens prepared to take the necessary oath who have not yet been registered. Those who desire to have their names placed on the Registry List for this county, must appear at the Assessor's office in the County Court House, during the week ending September 18th, or they will not be able to vote at the election in November for Delegate to Congress. And as the law requires that citizens shall vote only in the precincts in which they reside, voters who have moved from the precinct in which they were registered should also appear during the coming week, at the Assessor's Office, so that their names may be transferred or they may be registered anew.

We repeat once more that the registration on the city list will not qualify any one to vote at a precinct, county or territorial election. Voters who reside in cities should see that their names are duly entered upon both the city and the county Registry List, that they may be qualified to vote at any election, municipal or otherwise.

Every citizen, male or female, who is not sure of being properly registered heretofore, should go to the County Court House at the time appointed, and become satisfied of the fact. Better to go and enquire, if there is the slightest doubt, than to stay away and risk the right to vote in November. Every vote is wanted, every vote should be cast. No more apathy, no more neglect of political opportunities. All citizens should walk up and do their duty.

## "LIBERAL" TWISTINGS.

THERE is probably no law upon the statute books of any State or nation which is not liable to misconstruction. O'Connell, the Hibernian agitator, used to say that he could drive a coach and four through the closest Act of Parliament that was ever passed. When lawyers or others take hold of a statute for the express purpose of finding flaws in it, or sentences capable of a double interpretation, or clauses that can be twisted to suit their own purposes, they are generally successful. But they do not always succeed in convincing the Courts that their perversions are correct. There are some definite rules governing the general interpretation of laws, and a fair minded Judge can be depended upon to construe a disputed section of law in accordance with established principles.

We notice that the so-called "Liberals" of this city have made a formal request of the Salt Lake County Assessor to appoint resident registration officers in each precinct, to the end that the voters in the outlying precincts of the county who are not registered, may become so without going to the Assessor's office. They affect to believe that this is required by the election law. Let us see how near they are to being correct.

The first section of the registration act constitutes the Assessors in their respective Counties the Registration Officers, and requires them to appoint "a resident deputy in each Precinct." The object of the appointment of these deputies is plainly set forth, and is to facilitate the work of registration at the houses of the citizens, the law requiring every house in each precinct to be visited, "at the time of making the annual assessment for taxes in each year," that voters may be registered and necessary corrections may be made on the Registry List. If this provision is carried out, and citizens are willing to take the oath, there will be little need for any trouble in making up the lists correctly.

But in case of any omissions or errors, and to give every citizen an opportunity of being registered, it is further provided, in section three, that any voter whose name has been omitted may appear at the office of the Assessor during the week commencing on the first Monday in June, where he or his deputy will enter the voter's name on taking the necessary oath. And as a still further protection to the voter, that no one who ought to exercise the suffrage may be excluded from voting at the biennial elections, it is provided, in section five, that the Assessor shall, at his office, in person or by deputy, during the week commencing on the second Monday in September 1878, and every second year thereafter, attend to the duty prescribed in section three; that is, register such voters whose names have been omitted on their appearing at the Assessor's office, and taking the necessary oath.

The object of the "Liberal" requisition upon the Assessor is patent. It is not to facilitate election affairs, but if possible to hamper and annoy the majority who are sure of carrying their ticket. They desire to so interpret the statute that the provisions of section one shall be made to apply to the contingencies met by sections three and five. But any unbiased mind on reading the law, can perceive that the requirements of section one apply to the general work of registration, and those of sections three and five to special conditions. That the resident deputies may visit the houses of citizens at the time of the regular annual assessment and register the voters, but that those who appear before the proper officer to have omissions or errors rectified, must do so at the specified times and at the Assessor's office.

The "Liberal" request is clearly based on one of those twists in which some small minds among the legal fraternity take great delight, but we are of the opinion that no Court will be impressed with anything but amusement at the violent undulations exhibited. The right of women to vote is another point of attack of the "Liberal" wiggler, but its serpentine movements in that direction need not be touched upon in this article. To what paltry shiftings some plotting people are reduced!

## EVARTS AND "MORMON" IMMIGRATION AGAIN.

THE following dispatch came over the wires this afternoon, having been sent from Washington as a special to the Chicago Times. It shows the disposition of certain parties to stop "Mormon" immigration, and at the same time exhibits their impotence to do anything but talk; warning and threatening, but effecting nothing. The "Mormons" have just the same right to come to any part of this country as immigrants of any other faith. There is nothing in law to prevent them. Their intentions can neither be prosecuted nor presumed. Not until they actually break a law can its penalties be inflicted upon them, or a case be made out on which to proceed. The "Mormon" immigration will go on.

"The attention of Secretary Evarts was to-day called to the fact that a number of emigrants had embarked from Europe for this country, evidently with the intention of going to Salt Lake to join the Mormons, having left their own country, where it is supposed they would be unmolested in the full enjoyment of the religious belief and customs of that sect. It will be remembered that some time ago a large number of emigrants passed through the country westward to Utah, to escape the restrictions placed upon them because of their belief in Mormonism, and especially the practice of polygamy. There was at the time and is now a law in force in the territories, and particularly Utah, prohibiting polygamous marriages. At that time Secretary Evarts issued circulars to the subordinates of the State Department in foreign countries giving notice to foreigners preparing to go to Utah with a view of practicing polygamy, that they would be duly prosecuted if they did so in violation of this law. The object of the circular was the discouraging of foreigners from coming to this country with

a view of joining the Mormons. Secretary Evarts was asked what he proposed to do with the immigrants now on their way to Mormondom. He said if they attempted to carry out their peculiar views in regard to marriage, they would be proceeded against at once for polygamy. They would be treated as criminals and punished accordingly. They had received due warning in the circular issued to foreign countries, and in accordance with this circular, which has been widely circulated, prosecutions would at once be instituted against them. There could have been no mistaking the circular. It instructed the representatives of this country abroad to communicate to foreign governments the position of the administration upon the Mormon question. This was that this government intended to take the most active and vigorous steps for the abolition of the institution of polygamy in this country. The circular was issued and it was so stated therein for the main purpose of securing co-operation upon the part of foreign governments in preventing the emigration of their subjects who intended to come over here to join the Mormons and practice polygamy. The circular created a good deal of sensation at the time because the administration merely indicated a desire to shut off additions to the polygamists from outside sources, but at the same time took no steps to punish Mormons who actually practiced polygamy in Utah, beyond a test case or two, which resulted in practically nothing."

## LET THEM BUZZ.

UP to the year 1878, when the Registration Act was passed, Utah had a simple, effective and inexpensive election law. It was framed with the view of securing honest elections in the Territory, and provided that:

"Each elector shall provide himself with a vote containing the names of the persons he wishes elected and the offices he would have them to fill, and present it neatly folded to the judge of the election, who shall number and deposit it in the ballot box; the clerk shall then write the name of the elector, and opposite it the number of his vote."

The object of numbering the ballots and placing the number opposite the name of the voter was, in case of a contested election, to trace every vote and determine its validity. Also to prevent repeating, doubling or any other of the tricks resorted to by politicians in many parts of the country. On counting the votes each one had to be compared with the name on the list, and after the returns had been kept ten days by the county clerk, were to be destroyed unless the election was contested. A maximum penalty of two hundred dollars fine was imposed for examining any ballot for the purpose of ascertaining anything but what candidate had been elected. The law worked well and was efficient and satisfactory to all except persons disposed to find fault under any circumstances.

But as soon as there was anything like a party of individuals calling themselves "Liberals," a hue and cry was raised against the marked ballot. It was denounced as un-American, an invention of the priesthood, and a means of intimidation; whereas it was not new to Utah, was in vogue in several of the States, and no instance of its use to intimidate was ever adduced. When asked what could be substituted for it as a guard to the ballot box, the answer was, "registration." The hullabaloo was caught up by the press, and the marked ballot of the "Mormons" was assailed as though it was something peculiar and unique.

To quiet this noise, the marked ballot was abolished by the Legislature, and the Registration Act was passed. But the same carpers commenced another complaint. They did not want any registration and they wouldn't register. The consequence is they have, many of them, forfeited temporarily the right to vote, which they cannot regain till they register. The new law provided that for the purpose of making the act effective, the Assessors in the various counties—who were made the Registers—should appoint a resident deputy in each precinct, so that in person, or by deputy, the Register might visit every house in the year 1878, the first year of the operation of the Act, for the purpose

of registering the voters. This requirement about the resident deputies applied simply to that year, for the purpose expressly specified. To revise the lists, add omitted names, change those of removed persons to the proper precincts, etc., the Assessor in person, or by deputy, is required to make careful inquiry at the time in each year of making the annual assessment, at the dwelling houses of the voters; and every second year, in the week beginning on the second Monday in September, 1878, the Assessor, in person or by deputy, is required to be at his office and register such persons as have been omitted from the list, on their appearing and taking the prescribed oath.

Some of these complainers having refused to register, now say it is too much trouble to come into town—if they live at some outside settlement or precinct of the county, and attend to the requirements of the law, and are trying to make it appear that the Assessor should have a permanent deputy in each precinct, with an office, for their accommodation, although the law providest hat such shall be appointed but for the first year of registration, and requires none of them to have an office anywhere, the Assessor's being the only office designated.

We are much amused at their turnings and twistings, and also at the "change of heart" recently exhibited by some members of the press upon the marked ballot system. Here is the Sacramento Record-Union, for instance, which once had no words too strong in its condemnation of that "un-American" method when it was in use in Utah, and which now attacks the Alabama Democrats for abolishing it. We make the annexed extract from that paper:

"Before they gained control of the State an excellent election law had been framed by the Republicans. It provided that every ballot should be marked previous to deposition in the ballot-box, with the number opposite the voter's name on the register. This afforded a simple but sufficient means of tracing the ballots, and so long as it was in force there was no possibility of throwing out votes without detection. The Democrats abolished the numbering of the ballots and prohibited the placing of any marks whatever upon them."

This "excellent election law," it will be perceived, was in this particular exactly identical with the old Utah method. It was horrible for the Utah "Mormons," but "excellent" for the Alabama Republicans. A "simple but efficient means" for the latter, but a "terrible system of intimidation" in the former. Funny, isn't it?

This clamor and pretended indignation and arrogant demand on the part of a small minority, echoed by people and papers afar off, need give no concern whatever to the permanent citizens of Utah. The rights of the minority should be respected. Their reasonable requests should be duly entertained. Any real grievance they have should be redressed. But their tumults, their threats, their impudent demands should be treated with quiet disdain. What they want is utterly unreasonable and absurd; it is the dictation of the majority and the control of public affairs. They have a perfect right to organize, to press their claims upon public consideration, to oppose, by fair means, the policy of the majority and its representatives, and to endeavor, by all lawful methods, to increase their numbers and lessen the majority. But while the People's Party performs its duty; while its members comply with the law, avail themselves of their political rights and neglect no opportunity for the exercise of the power of the ballot, the little party of discord, misrepresentation, buncombe, bitterness and bombast, will have no more influence to disturb the peace of the Territory, or interfere with the harmonious working of our internal policy, than the buzzing flies, which now tickle one's nose and irritate very sensitive persons, have to stop the shining of the summer sun, or stay the sweep of the mountain zephyrs which cool our prospering vales when the cloudless day is done. Let them all buzz!

In cutting down a large willow tree in the old town cemetery at Newburgh, N. Y., a few days ago, a marble footstone was found embedded in the trunk, two feet from the surface of the ground. The tree in growing had picked up the footstone and drawn it from the earth,