

inevitable in all such gatherings, a select few did the business, while the others uproariously followed their more clever leaders and gleefully imagined they were doing it all. As opposed to the calm, reasonable, conservative consideration of the proposed candidates and the careful scrutiny of their qualifications which have characterized the proceedings of the non-partisan committee, that convention yesterday offered a most instructive contrast. We sincerely wish every thoughtful citizen of Salt Lake, of whatsoever party or belief, could have been present on the occasion. Every believer in good, efficient government and the selection of candidates solely because of fitness for the offices to be filled, every sufferer from the maladministration of municipal affairs from which the present revolt has grown, would have had his eyes opened to the causes of many of his woes, and would have seen how absurdly vain is the hope that with such procedure there can be any prospect of adequate relief. Then there was the caliber of the men who were most in evidence as doing the most of the talking and manipulating, and the close combination by which the will of the select trio or quartet of "slate-makers" put their program through! Talk about all the people being represented and the intention to have the best man win in each case—why, if said best man did not happen to be on the "slate" of the dictators he was sent whirling down to defeat in a manner which must have been very edifying to him and his sanguine friends as an illustration of how the politicians manage matters.

Still, with those who like that sort of thing, the convention was probably just such a thing as they liked. It must be said that there was an abundance of good nature, a seeming feeling of exultation that for once every delegate had a right to shout as much and for as many people as he pleased. No one will claim for the affair any evidence of mature thought in selecting nominees, yet some pretty good names were suggested at one time or another. Of course all the good men were not nominated—some of the best were rejected. Those who were chosen, however, appeared to receive at last a full measure of favor, and doubtless every one present at the break-up felt that a good day's work had been pretty well done.

The "News" may later have something to say by way of comparison of the various candidates thus far put forward for the people's suffrages. The voters have a right to be informed of the relative qualifications and records of those whom they are asked to support, and yet whom they may not know or have ever seen. It is the duty of press and speakers to point out to the humblest citizen as well as to the highest what the needs of the municipality are and which candidates, judged by their lives no less than by their pledges, are best fitted to be entrusted with the responsibilities of office. It will be proper to show what this candidate or that has done for his fellow-citizens either in a public capacity or as an individual in the way of an honest and successful life, a clean method of business, and a high example of patriotic citizenship. It will be proper to suggest that not in fair words and gilded promises, but in hard, close attention to details, and a reputation, therefore as well as for breadth, integrity and high-mindedness, must the would-be official be tested and weighed. In all this there need be nothing offensive, nothing personal, nothing acrimonious. Plain, common-sense argument, appealing to the taxpayers' convictions and judgment, is what the people want just now, unless

we greatly mistake their temper. The times are too serious for coquetting with and placing grave responsibilities upon the merely "good fellows" whom some people admire for their amiability as companions or their magnetism with the "hurrah boys." Other elements of strength will be needed to rescue the city and its residents from the crisis that cannot be long deferred unless a swift and radical change shall come. Devotion to all its interests, absolute and unquestioned identity with it both in sorrow and in welfare, stern courage in weeding out its official evils and guarding its treasury and its good name—these are the attributes which must be sought for in the incumbents of its offices.

Meantime, the more we see of other people and things the more earnest and conscientious are we in commending the motives, the methods and the men with which the non-partisan movement is now launched into the arena of public discussion.

REFORMED CHURCH ANNIVERSARY.

Beginning on Sunday last, and ending tomorrow (Wednesday) the 150th anniversary of the organization of the Reformed church in the United States is being celebrated in various parts of the country and especially in Philadelphia. The Springfield Republican in discussing the occasion says John Philip Boehm, the founder of the church, is the patron saint, so to speak. He started the Reform church about 1725, though he had not been ordained to the ministry, in three places where he organized consistories, in Falkner Swamp, Skippack and White Marsh, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. Very rustic names and very forbidding ones, for swamps and marshes are not just the places one would look for as the foundation of lasting fabrics. Nevertheless Falkner Swamp exists today as the oldest Reformed congregation in the United States. It was, however, Michael Schlatter, a Switzer, from St. Gall, who called together the first general convention of the German churches of Pennsylvania, in 1747. At that time, and for almost fifty years after, the Reformed church in this country was dependent on the church in Holland, and it was known as the Dutch Reformed. Indeed it is scarcely twenty years since the name was dropped by influential churches in New York and other places. The Reformed church in 1896 numbered 229,300 members.

A CASE OF MIND PRESENCE.

Regular readers will recall the sinking of the steamer Tasmania, plying between Sydney and Auckland, a couple of months ago. It was on a clear night, July 29th, that she struck on a rock not marked on the sailing charts. Of course there was great excitement among the 150 passengers on board—all who had gone to bed being aroused by the shock—and some consternation was manifested by the crew. At this critical juncture the presence of mind of one of the passengers was displayed in a most signal and effective way. While the officers were getting the boats ready, a Mr. Porter sat down at the piano in the saloon and began to play and sing. The cheerful bit of heroism so wrought upon the downcast and anxious spirits of his fellows that they joined him in the singing and awaited the launching of the boats with patience and calmness. Even the women and children never uttered a whimper. By this time order was restored among the crew, and they settled down with real courage to

the work in hand. Both stewards and stewardesses behaved splendidly, providing life belts, blankets, food and water for each boat. The captain stayed on board till the last, handing biscuits and oranges down to the boats, which were attached by a light line to the vessel. The water was just reaching the saloon on the main deck when he was persuaded to leave. Down the vessel then went, but not a soul was left on board. The nerve and steadiness of one man had converted what certainly would have been a horror into a narrow but still sufficient escape for every one from a watery grave.

IS TICHBORNE FOUND?

An echo of the famous Tichborne trial in England which stirred the civilized world a quarter of a century ago, comes across the seas now to the effect that Lady Tichborne, wife of the present baronet, has sailed for Australia to attend the trial of the claims of a man who, under the name of Cresswell, was for a long time confined in a lunatic asylum. The result of the famous case in London was the conviction of the claimant, Arthur Orton, as an impostor and fraud. But the real Sir Roger was never found nor was the mystery cleared up as to what had become of him. It is now said that the evidence going to show the identity of Cresswell with the missing nobleman is quite overwhelming. That the titled lady should have felt it necessary to go to the antipodes to further investigate the matter, shows how serious the claims of Cresswell are. The latter, it may be said, is an ex-mutineer.

The New York Sun is not given to mincing phrases, especially when the occasion calls for a reference to your uncle John Bull. Here is a sample paragraph, anent Great Britain's inactivity with reference to Turkish atrocities:

"England, the pigeon-livered, white-lipped coward among nations; the truculent bully and herself assassin of the feeble; the cringing, boot-licking flunkey of the strong, looks on impassive at the crucifixion of the people done under the protection of her pirate flag. For, during more than seventy years, her career has been one of unbroken piracy, whether by sea or land; a piracy directed, however, only against the weak and helpless, during all of which time she has not looked one military nation in the eye but to brag and bluster and back down. To the Turk she is an object only of contempt, to Europe the Pantaloon of pantomime, whose broad expanse of seat invites the wooden sword of every Harlequin."

A literary journal calls attention to the concluding portion of President McKinley's letter to the queen regent of Spain, introducing our new minister, and suggests how completely the meaning of the amiable words might be changed if it were not for careful punctuation. These words are: "God preserve your majesty. From your majesty's good friend, William McKinley." The reader only needs imagine the omission of the period or the substitution of a comma in place thereof after the word "majesty" in the above quotation.

This suggests in a way the clever conclusion of a famous letter dated more than a hundred years ago, and addressed to a nobleman of the then mother country. The ending was as follows: "Your are my country's enemy, and

I am Yours,
B. FRANKLIN."