DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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A PLEA FOR STATESMANSHIP.

An alternative opportunity is presented to the Legislature now in session, the like of which never confronted any previous Assembly in this Territory, and has seldom, if ever, been offered to the Legislature of any state or territory in the Union. We make this declaration in all soberness and earnestness, and with no purpose of exaggerating existing conditions. If the present Assembly shall determine so to do, it has the opportunity to enact legislation that will bring disaster and calamity beyond computation upon our fair commonwealth, by impairing our credit abroad, and prostrating our interests and industries at home; or it has the alternative of pursuing a course that will do more for the pecuniary benefit of the people of the Territory as a whole, than can be estimated in advance. The Governor is here included with the Legislature.

There are over a hundred and fifty million dollars of idle capital in the New York banks, and the vaults of savings institutions in large cities of the East are full to bursting. These vast aggregations of idle wealth are rapidly increasing in the money centers, while commercial enterprise and creative industries everywhere are starving for the lack of it. Why is capital being thus hoarded? Because its owners find no place in which they can invest it with confidence that it will be safe and earn an increment. Once show them a place in which they can safely put their wealth, and they will eagerly seek investment there.

Utah today has a credit and standing in the commercial world which are grand. So far her banks and business houses, with few exceptions, have stood the strain magnificently. While Kansas, Colorado and other portions of the West have utterly defaulted in the payment to eastern lenders of both interest and principal, Utah has retained the confidence of her creditors, and her old-time reputation for honestly meeting her obligations. The crisis has also proven that the resources we have boasted of actually exist, and are sources from which may be drawn means with which to pay our debts.

Now, what must result if we will but have a little patience and maintain our reputation for stability? As surely as cause follows effect in the due order of nature, we shall soon be relieved of all necessity to seek for capital. It will seek us, and when once the tide turns towards us, it will flow deep, swift and strong. Confidence, like distrust, is contagious; and when one capitalist shows his confidence in Utah by placing his wealth here, his example will be followed again and again. This is a day of quick communication, and the financiers of Wall street watch, like hawks, the developments that are taking place in every portion of the Union. No event can happen in the most remote corner of the United States, materially affecting any financial interest, that is not known within a few hours after its occurrence, in all the money centers of the country. Even the bills bearing upon any phase of finance, introduced in the Utah Legislature, are forthwith reported by telegraph to the financial centers, where the strain is so intense that a strong vibration is started with a touch.

To the candor, intelligence and patriotism of the members of the Legislature, we appeal with the question: Is not the foregoing true? And being true, how should it affect your vote? It ought to inspire you with a firm resolve to vote down, with a majority so strong as to be a notice to all the world, any proposition calculated or likely to unfavorably affect Utah's credit, and any assault, direct or indirect, upon capital will have that result.

The bill to tax debts secured by mortgage or trust deeds, is a bill to discourage the investment of capital in Utah. It gives evidence that our financial policy is not stable, and that the same is subject to change without notice. It is at variance with that reputation for solidity and conservatism which we must continue to maintain, if we are to hold the increasing confidence of capital. The local lenders fix the rate of interest. If they have to pay a tax on the debts due to them from borrowers, they will indemnify themselves by raising the rate of interest. The eastern lender will ask the rate of interest which the local lenders fix. The borrower is thus made to pay the tax on home capital, which tax the public treasuries in Utah receive, and also a like tax on foreign capital which the owners of the latter receive. The borrower is discouraged with the burdens he is obliged to assume, the enterprise he contemplates is abandoned, home labor is not employed, additional wealth and improvements are not brought into existence, the amount of taxable property is not increased, and our commonwealth ceases to grow, which means that it retrogrades.

The strongest argument in favor of the bill referred to, while it was under discussion in the lower house of the Legislature, was that the subject of it "should be viewed from the standpoint of the state." Viewing it from that standpoint, what course does the highest statesmanship demand of the Utah Legislature? It demands that they take a course to encourage the influx of capital, that they make as light as possible the burdens of the borrower, and as strong as possible the confidence of the lender. If the Legislature desires to relieve the poor and unemployed; if it desires the development of our resources, the increase of public and private wealth, the enhancement of our prestige as a commonwealth, and the welfare of all our interests, it should remember that cheap and abundant capital is the one thing needed.

THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY.

The Supreme Court of the United States has adjourned until the 5th of March. Before that time it is truly to be hoped that the President and Senate will have become so well acquainted and so friendly disposed toward each other that the vacancy on the bench can have been filled.

It is evident that the senators who compassed the defeat of Judge Hornblower's confirmation have lost none of their animus or their determination to prepare the same fate for Judge Peckham; and the prospects are that he will be rejected. It is an anomalous and an unhappy situation throughout, and, we are forced to say, not without its discreditable features on both sides. Personal dislike of the candidate on the part of the New York senators should have had no power to defeat the former nomination—such misuse of the senatorial dignity ought to have been rebuked by the other senators and condemned by the press everywhere. But the stubborn determination of President Cleveland to force upon the coordinate body the same kind of a candidate again, and apparently for the chief reason that he is particularly obnoxious to the senators from his state, puts him at once on a plane with them. His course amounts to an implied admission that if they can afford to carry partisanship into so high a matter, he can afford to do the same thing. Just how long the influence of Senators Hill and Murphy will be adequate to the defeat of anti-Tammany nominees remains to be seen. Just how long the President will be able to prevail upon respectable "anti-snapper" candidates to consent to be thus made the football of party kicks and spite, is equally uncertain. As long as Hill and Murphy are content to pose as Tammanyites rather than as Democrats and honorable senators, he seems to feel that he can be content to force them into that attitude and keep them there. But there is no virtue in such obstinacy, no more credit for him than for them. He has already compelled them to an unsavory record, and having accomplished that in the former instance, the advantage would have been all with him if he had gone outside of New York for his next selection. His opponents would then have been properly and sufficiently rebuked. To persist in deliberately antagonizing them is undignified in him and an exposure of his official party friends one after another to the risk of needless humiliation through continued defeat.

BE EXEMPLARY.

The influence wielded by example is the most potent that a person can exercise for good or ill. Whether the field of operations be among the youthful or the aged, in public or private life, the estimate placed upon an individual is based on his conduct rather than on his professions, and his influence receives its force from his actions rather than from any theoretical standard he may raise. The rule expressed by the Savior, "By their fruits ye shall know them," is that which men apply, consciously or unconsciously, to their fellow beings, and their direct relations with them is in accord with that judgment. Upon this rule, people who so give themselves up to evil as to indulge and afflict those who walk in a higher and nobler path, yet have a measure of admiration for an upright, consistent man, and feel and recognize his superiority.

Not only are the associates of an individual affected by his methods in life, but his own character is formed or changed thereby. For instance, frivolous conduct and thoughtlessness wield a baneful influence; and to the extent that a person submits himself thereto does he become frivolous and thoughtless, and his life's superstructure is weakened. His offense in this line is made more serious according as others may be led away by his bad example. It is a universal law that no man will be rendered of the works of all men. Each act that is not inspired by a desire for righteousness will bring its condemnation; while each kind and thoughtful expression, each loving and noble deed, will lay claim to blessings that cannot be refused.

The great Exemplar of Christian doctrine taught: "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." This is a declaration of the principle that the future of man is affected by his present deportment. He must at some time answer for every idle word. Shall it be said that such words include only foolish or ill-advised expressions that come from a spirit of recklessness or a neglect of the proper amenities of life and of the dignity of manhood or womanhood? or do they also embrace professions that are made idle words by being disregarded in conduct—words that shall stand at the great day against those who uttered them and shall judge them for their hypocrisy? Folly and heedlessness have an ill effect upon those who submit to them, but how much more serious is the injury wrought by the vain professions which make hypocrites!

The matter of being exemplary in their habits ought to receive careful attention from those who have received the light of the Gospel. They should seek to conform to the truths they have accepted, not only in word but in every thought and deed. Their example should be worthy of emulation, in that it is harmonious with the Gospel, the fruits of which are love, peace, faith, virtue, charity, knowledge, temperance, patience, diligence, brotherly kindness, humility, godliness. The responsibility of all Saints is to make their lives consistent with their profession of being followers of the Divine Master.

The more prominent a person is before the people, the broader will be the effect of his example. He who is called to be a servant of the Lord is appointed a messenger of salvation to the people. If his practice does not harmonize with the principles he is ordained to promulgate, he becomes by his example a messenger of destruction. This is not because of the principles, but the result of violating them in the deeds performed. For instance, the Lord forbids the use of strong drink, and enjoins temperance. Suppose one called to the ministry should indulge in intoxicants. He not only brings scandal on the Church thereby, but in so doing becomes a servant of the evil one, and a messenger of destruction to himself and those influenced by his example. Instead of being true to his calling as an ambassador of the Lord, he betrays the One in whose service he has enlisted, to the extent of his wrongful action and its effects, because his influence and strength are used to aid the enemy.

Those who have received the sacred office of Elders in Israel are called to be preachers of righteousness. If they were to make this merely a profession of the lips, and their example be evil, they would become preachers of unrighteousness through that misconduct, and would be unworthy their calling. If, however, they continue in their lives to show forth brotherly kindness, love, and faith, they are teaching principles that lead men to God; if they remain diligent, patient and humble, the door of inspiration is open to them in their holy office; while they seek virtue, temperance, knowledge and truth they proclaim the power of godliness to save and exalt. The fruit they bear is to the glory of God and the blessing of themselves and those influenced by them.

All members of the Church are under sacred obligations to be exemplars of the will of the Lord. They are under covenant to remember Him and to keep the commandments which He has given them. In fulfilling these duties is the source of their strength and salvation. Availing themselves of this position, though they may be called to pass through affliction, the burden is lightened by the spirit and power of the Holy One, which is always to them a rift in the clouds, a light in the darkness, that illumines the pathway to the heavenly kingdom. They are observing the command, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." As true Saints, hearers of the word and doers of it also, they become models of righteous conduct in all the affairs of life, because of their exemplary habits, attained to through knowledge of and obedience to Gospel truths.

CARBON AND EMERY COUNTIES.

Holding to the view that it is the undoubted right of the settlers in any part of the Territory to express themselves as to their local government and other local affairs such as county boundaries, county seats, etc., etc., we also reassert and maintain that it is not the business of the Legislature to change for light or frivolous reasons or upon hasty or insufficient examination any of the conditions now existing under which the various sections are getting along harmoniously and prosperously. The NEWS has already declared its opposition to the notion of everlastingly changing the lines of county boundaries and dismembering such sections upon the mere whim or petition of persons whose motives may not always be prompted by a wish to promote the greatest good to the greatest number.

We are now asked to say something upon the proposition to divide Emery county, creating out of its northern portion the new county of Carbon. A bill embodying this project has already passed the House and, we understand, is about to be reported favorably to the Council. The facts seem to be that the petition for the creation of the new county received more signatures than the protest against it; and that the former signers are mostly residents of the proposed new county while the opposition, naturally, comes from the remaining part of the old county. But numbers do not always represent the best interests—every one knows how easy it is to get signatures to any kind of a petition. In this instance it is worth while to inquire whether the majority side represents the bona fide settlers; whether transients are not numerously represented in the list; whether railroad employes, section men, occupants of company houses, teamsters in and out of the county, have all added their voice to the petition; whether there has been any unfair representation made to obtain signatures, and whether there was any multiplication of signatures, such for instance as the signing of a firm name, and then the signing of the individuals' names composing the firm. All these things deserve to be examined and weighed, that justice all around may be done and no mistakes made.

As stated, the bill creating Carbon county passed the House without any difficulty. This would indicate either that the opposition was unionable or insignificant, or that it had had no chance to show itself. Has there been undue haste in moving for so important a change? If so, the Council should see to it that all sides have a full hearing and that all claims and representations be carefully discussed and considered.

The NEWS is asked to present a few statements bearing on the question, and cheerfully complies, upon the assurance that they can be sustained. The registration list shows that on the lines of the proposed division Carbon county has 511 votes, and Emery county 698—an evidence that the bona fide residents are south of the dividing line, and these are said to be opposed to the division. The section to be known as Carbon county has a revenue of $4,149.73, or, with the revenue from railroads and telegraph lines, a total of $5,[illegible]—that is, that would be the county's share of it. The remaining part of Emery county would only have a revenue of $2,581.54, or, adding its share from railroads and telegraph lines, a total of $3,528.51. This latter amount is less than Emery county spent last year for roads and bridges alone. This distribution of revenue, which is said to be compiled from the records, would therefore seem to be unfair. Furthermore, the proposed dividing line would place within the county of Carbon and under the supervision of its authorities, the headwaters of streams that are of immense importance to the Emery county people; and the latter would only be able to enjoy their present summer range for their stock by going into the new county. Surely if the counties must be divided, the Emery county people ought to be granted such a modification of boundary as to secure to them these very necessary rights. Finally, to the statement that the present county of Emery is of great geographical extent, and is big enough to be cut up into two or three good-sized counties, it may be answered that much of the land, a very great proportion, indeed, is worthless either for revenue or for anything else. Emery is not so large as San Juan, which the Legislature has recently decided to leave intact, nor does it figure on the map as large as Box Elder or Tooele.

The NEWS has no interest in this matter only to ask that due care be taken in making such changes as are proposed. If the people want it, and it will be for the best of all or most of those concerned, then make it. But let them have a chance to be fully heard, for and against, and then let the matter be decided upon broad, high grounds. No petty disputes as to county seats, or the selfish ends of any section ought to cut any figure in the controversy. We do not charge, by any means, that there has been or will be anything of the kind. On the contrary we do not believe there is, has been or will be. But we have felt to give this much space to the question because heretofore we have only heard the other side of it, and because every really proper object improves and becomes more apparent as it is exposed and discussed.

NOT WITH any notion of its direct local applicability, but rather with a view to emphasizing a comparison, we note the fact that in the Connecticut legislature just lately a law came very near being enacted providing that any dog accustomed to growl, snap or bite should be fined $7 or be imprisoned ten days, or both, and there is a law actually on the statute books that punishes wild deer, wild geese, quail and woodcock for the crime of being killed out of season.

THIS is how a Buffalo man furnishes the New York Sun his idea of eternity:

What constitutes eternity? Suppose a trillion worlds and each one a trillion times larger than our earth, and suppose all these were pulverized into fine grains of sand, and suppose once in a trillion of years a bird would carry away one grain of sand from those pulverized worlds, and so on until every grain of sand were carried away; even this vast space of time would not constitute eternity.

THE [illegible] would willingly stand a [illegible] in some things if their lawmakers wouldn't insist on taxing patience so heavily.

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