

THE "LIBERAL" SORTIE IN THE EIGHTH DISTRICT.

We did not intend to say anything further about the illegal proceedings at the meeting in the Eighth School District, but the letter from the chairman of the meeting, which will be found in another column, requires some comment, so we recur to the subject.

The writer denies that he informed the meeting that those who owned a watch or other article of small value could vote at the meeting, whether they paid taxes or not. Perhaps there is a word or two in the sentence that he did not use, but the remarks were made by the Secretary and he afterwards endorsed them and ruled that they were correct, and personally took the same ground as the Secretary, the effect being that he encouraged and allowed persons to vote on the ground that they held such property, without having paid any taxes upon it. His objection, therefore, is a mere quibble about a word, the principle involved in the remarks remaining the same, and by his endorsement sanctioning them he virtually adopted and made them his own.

He states further that the school law pertaining to the qualifications of voters was read by one of the Trustees. This is not correct. The Trustee read the previous section, but not that which defines the qualifications of voters and provides the test for that qualification.

The chairman, as we said, only read the first part of it and would not read the last, which was the portion of the law that settles the question. It provides how a dispute like that which arose in the meeting is to be decided, and one of the means is by the tax list, which the Trustees had at the meeting but the chairman's ruling prevailed instead of the law, which he did not read and which was not read on that occasion. It was this that "the prominent tax-payer" we referred to wanted the chairman to read when he pretended to refer to the law, and which he would not read, whether he understood the object of the prominent tax payer or not.

The chairman, in order to raise another quibble, misstates the objection of the News. We did not say "That the object of the meeting was not stated to those present and therefore not legal." This is a sentence coined by Mr. Lawrence. It is not to be found in our article, and yet he puts it in quotation marks as our exact expression. Here is the language used in the editorial of Tuesday evening: "The real question announced in the call as the object of the meeting was not put to the meeting, but another question was voted on for the purpose of defeating the object of the call." This refers to the question voted on, and has nothing to do with stating the object of the meeting. The question announced in the call to be voted on was "the rate per cent. to be levied on the taxable property in the District." They announced that one half of one per cent would be sufficient for the purpose in view. The question put to the meeting was not on the "rate per cent to be levied." The question of whether a tax of one half of one per cent should be assessed was not put to the meeting at all. We care nothing about this, as it cuts but a small figure in the dispute, but explain it merely to show that our statement was correct.

It is not true that objections were made by one of the People's Party against women voting, in the way now pretended by the chairman. It was not because they were women, but because they were not tax-payers that objection was made. Their names were not on the tax list, and therefore they were not legally entitled to vote. The chairman admits that he ruled so that women were allowed to vote at the meeting on grounds outside of the law, and that is all we claimed. Those whom the law allows to vote for a school tax are only the bona fide property tax-payers resident in the District. He claims they were "legal voters." That has nothing to do with the matter. Legal voters are not qualified by their position as such to vote for a tax for school purposes. Only those who are to pay the tax can vote for the assessment of the tax, and they can vote for it whether they are "legal voters" that is, registered voters, or not. "Custom" has to be made subordinate to law. The law has been changed and the "custom" has to conform to it.

Non-residents were allowed to vote, by the chairman's own admission, and the law says they shall not vote. Their votes then were illegal, and it is no use to multiply words about that.

Now as to the necessity of further school accommodations. The Trustees showed that there were 299 children of school age in the District, and that only 75 of them could attend school because of the smallness of the school-house. Some of these are of non-"Mormon" parentage. Applications have been made for further admissions, some of them from non-"Mormon" sources. An additional building is a necessity of the District. The Trustees are required by law to provide the necessary school accommodations. They tried to do this legally and consistently. Who opposed them? The very individuals who make a howl about the inefficiency of district school accommodations. The chairman of the meeting says there is a Ward meeting-house which some of the "Liberals" helped to build, and wants that used for school purposes. If they do-

nated anything it was as members of the Church which they have since forsaken. And one of the things about which they have raised another howl was the mingling together of church and school property and church and school affairs. The meeting-house belongs to the Church in the 8th Ward. The school-house belongs to the School District. This is how these matters are divided, almost if not entirely without exception in this county. Yet these very "Liberal" opposers of education want a return to the method which was unavoidable in early times but which has been outgrown, and which they have denounced vehemently and have kept on denouncing, for outside effect, long after its discontinuance.

The territorial tax is for the payment of teachers and cuts no figure in this dispute. The pretext—a false one at that—about sectarian bias has nothing to do with the question. The voting was unlawful, that is the point, and the chairman of the meeting, who was nominated by a person that had no legal voice or vote on that occasion, has not helped his cause by quibbling over a word, deliberately misquoting the News, or figuring as an opposer of a small tax absolutely essential to the cause of common education in the District where he resides. The whole movement in opposition to this necessary tax was mean and shabby, and unworthy of any person professing regard for progress and the promotion of influences that benefit mankind.

THE CAUSE OF THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

It would doubtless be of interest to some of our readers who are not fully advised regarding the war between France and China to have a clear explanation of it.

In the treaty of Tien-Tsin, between France and China, which was signed on the 12th of last May, it was stipulated that the Chinese should evacuate all of the towns they had occupied on the Tonquin frontier. In accordance with this treaty provision, the French, in the latter part of June, marched a column along the frontier of Tonquin to take possession of the towns surrendered by the Chinese. At Langson, one of these frontier towns, the French found a body of Chinese troops about four thousand strong, the commander of which refused to surrender on the ground that he had not been notified of the signing of any treaty, and had received no orders to give up the place. At the same time he threatened the French commander that if he advanced with his troops, he would order an attack upon his lines. The French advanced and were attacked by the Chinese, the French loss in the engagement which ensued being seven killed and forty-two wounded.

On receiving a notification of the signing of the treaty between France and China, the Chinese troops withdrew; diplomats took up the matter, and the French government made a demand on the government of China for forty million dollars, which, however, they finally reduced to sixteen millions of dollars. The French government claims that the government of China is to blame in the matter because it should have notified the commanders of its troops on the frontiers of Tonquin of the signing of the treaty of Tien-Tsin, while the Chinese government claims that the French commander was to blame for being too precipitate in the matter. On the final refusal of the Chinese government to pay the indemnity demanded by the government of France, the French fleet took possession of the coal mines of Kelung and destroyed the arsenal of Foo Chow.

OMINOUS PRECAUTIONS.

A SEPTEMBER 5th special to the New York Herald by Cable gives details of the precautions instituted for the protection of the three Emperors on the way to and during their meeting at Warsaw. Special police who understand the Spanish Language and thirty trusted servants had arrived at the Polish capital from St. Petersburg to act as personal attendants of the Czar during his stay in the Polish capital. The railway line over which the Czar will travel has been specially inspected, and will be furnished with military patrols along the entire way. Sixty-four persons suspected of plotting against the Czar have been arrested at Warsaw. A number of women are included among them. The police of Warsaw have ordered that all warehouses, shops and taverns shall be closed at nine o'clock each night during the Czar's visit. Each police agent is charged to watch five houses. Provisions for the Czar's table will be furnished direct from St. Petersburg. Emperors William and Francis Joseph will be the Czar's guests during his visit in Poland. M. de Giers accompanies the Czar. Cossacks have been sent to guard both sides of the Warsaw and Vienna Railway. The National Gazette of Berlin says that the three Emperors will meet on the 15th inst., and that Prince Bismarck will return to Berlin on the 11th.

This is indeed a picture indicative of the perilous character of the times. Surely never before were heads wear-

ing crowns so uneasy as now. And yet it is not personal animosity that directs the death-intending shafts of the revolutionists, the objects whose demolition is sought being the systems of which they are the heads. Thrones are tottering, and will fall, and existing governments become as "chaff upon the summer threshing floor." We live in times without parallel.

AN EXCELLENT WORK.

THERE has just been issued from the press of this office the "Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow." It is a work of nearly 600 pages, and is from the gifted pen of Eliza R. Snow Smith, the sister of the subject of the work. It is a complete literary production of its kind, as will be seen by the following, from the preface:

"It is designed to be handed down in lineal descent, from generation to generation, to be preserved as a family memorial. In adapting it to this purpose, both in the matter originated and that compiled, the writer has varied materially from the usual course of biographers. That it may constitute a historical point to which my brother's posterity, to the latest generations, who shall honor the Gospel of the Son of God, may trace their origin in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and find a record of their illustrious ancestor—his wives, children and grandchildren—a full genealogical record is inserted. That his descendants may profit by his instructions, selections from his letters and discourses are copied into this work; we also have inscribed missionary sketches of some of his sons and sons-in-law."

The frontispiece of the work is embellished by fine steel engraving portraits of Brother Snow and the author. It is printed in large clear type, on good paper, and is handsomely bound in cloth and leather. It is one of the largest books ever published here, and presents the handsomest appearance, besides the interesting character of the contents.

A CLASS OF HUMBUG.

THE Sacramento Bee, in a late issue, exposes a form of humbug from which the mining districts of Utah are not free. It is in the shape of "diviners" who use all kinds of humbugging apparatus by means of which they fleece the superstitious and unthinking.

There is no scientific basis whatever for the pretensions of these "loosefinders." The "instruments" they use, to which superstition attributes some mysterious power, are mere shams. No method has ever been discovered by which the existence of a subterranean lode can be ascertained above ground.

It appears from the Bee that one of these pretenders has a variation upon the usual "divining rod." It is an alleged "electrical battery" which he carries in his hat. Assuming that it is really an electrical battery, it might as well be a stick of stove-wood for all the good it could do in indicating the location of concealed mineral deposits. Those belonging to the class of mineral "diviners" are necessarily humbuds and should be so regarded.

MILITARY ACTIVITY.

THE military activity of the leading countries of Europe is unparalleled in the history of the world. In explanation it is claimed by them that in order to preserve peace, war establishments must be kept in the highest condition of readiness for emergencies. Then for the present the vast armaments of Europe must not only continue, but be increased by enormous additions, involving immense expenditures of public funds.

This involves the placing upon the masses of financial burdens that grind them into the dust. The indications are plain that they will not long continue to endure those heavy oppressions, and will eventually throw them off. This will cause, and is causing internal disruptions which will greatly weaken the particular nations afflicted by them, and place them in a position to be preyed upon by their stronger neighbors. Indeed, the whole situation is favorable for leading up to one of the most gigantic struggles on record. Circumstances are such as to cause those who study the signs of the times to look forward to a day not distant when "war will be poured out upon all nations."

"THE PARTY OF PROGRESS."

WE have occasionally furnished a few criminal statistics of this and other leading cities of Utah. They have doubtless constituted delectable dishes for the furious anti-"Mormons." For their benefit and for general information, "Historicus" presents a collation of that character in this issue. The "Liberals" can masticate it at their leisure. Whether their digestive apparatus will be equal to the task of properly appropriating it through that medium is open to question.

The facts and figures are presented at the imminent risk of giving fresh vigor and impetus to the anti-"Mormon" campaign; for the "party of progress" cannot well afford to have the cloven hoofs of the regenerators so plainly exhibited without a desperate resort to the "refuge of lies" with which to cover them from the gaze of the inquiring who have been so long deceived by their subterfuges.

This exhibition of comparative criminality will require a renewed application of "Liberal" tactics, so that the "Mormon" community may not stand as a reproach against the moral status of their venomous and unscrupulous detractors. The Latter-day Saints must be corrupted by the adjuncts of modern civilization which have been established and are being perpetuated here in the face of their unqualified protests and earnest efforts to the contrary. The process of seducing the youth of the community from the wholesome moral restraints of the Priesthood and their religion that they may enter the paths of sin, must be renewed with redoubled vigor, as advocated by the Salt Lake Tribune, the organ of the anti-"Mormon" regenerators. Its advocacy of the youth being entrapped by drinking saloons, gambling dens and houses of ill-fame will have to be taken mere to heart by its sympathizers, and put into wider practical application, that the progressive "American gentlemen" may not be reproached by such stubborn facts and figures as those furnished by "Historicus."

Such a picture as that drawn by our correspondent is likely to raise an increased anti-"Mormon" howl, for the purpose of covering up the tracks of reproached "Liberals." But if these "spotless" people get offended at the truth, we really cannot help it.

That 6,000 of the population should produce incomparably more criminals in a given time than do the remaining 19,000 is somewhat extraordinary, but we live in times when remarkable developments are constantly occurring. The figures show in which direction the "party of progress" makes the greatest advancement, and, in the meantime, in relation to the comparative statistics, we will merely remark—"Look on this picture, and on that."

MORE ANTI-"MORMON" RUBBISH.

THE following appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune of this morning, being part of an anonymous correspondence from Montana. It is another of the class of tales by the circulation of which that paper seeks to create prejudice against the "Mormons" throughout the country, and by which it has been the indirect means of causing such scenes as the Tennessee massacre:

"Ten days ago the Tribune published a sermon preached in the bowery in Salt Lake, September 21st, 1886, in which the doctrine of blood atonement was set forth in strong language. It may be interesting to know when this doctrine was first attempted to be put in practice. I to-day listened to the recital of incidents which point to the time, as told by a truthful gentleman now fifty years old. He was raised near the Hill of Cumorah, and Joe Smith was a frequent visitor at the residence of his grandfather, whom we will call F., Sr., and designate the hero of our story as F., Jr. At that time, 1831 or 1832, F., Sr., possessed lands and property valued at \$30,000 or \$40,000, and this appears to have been an object of covetousness on the part of the founder of Mormonism. The Prophet Joe visited the mansion frequently, talked glibly, prayed with the old gentleman and lady, and had persuaded them to sell their property and gather with the Saints. F., Jr., the parent of our informant, did not like this, and going to the house one day, found the Prophet praying with them. He ordered him to leave, and told him if he ever entered the house again he would unmercifully chastise him with a horse-whip. Soon after this F., Jr., was engaged to work in the field, when he saw Smith riding to the house. Dropping his work, he hastened to the barn, properly armed himself with a whip, and reaching the house by a circuitous route, so as not to be seen, he entered the room just in time to find Smith pouring out supplications in behalf of the aged pair whom he was trying to ensnare. Taking him by the hair, he lifted him up and carried into execution his promise to whip him unmercifully. Having accomplished the work he ordered the seer to retire and forever to remain away, which he did. A short time after this F., Jr. was engaged in work in the field, when a man in disguise approached him and snapped a gun at him in such a position, had it went off he would have killed him. Being active and powerful he wrenched the gun from the hands of the would-be assassin, and gave him such a drubbing that the man begged for mercy and became so penitent as to tell him why he had attempted to take the life of a man who had never wronged him. Smith had called upon him, one of his followers to do what he dared not do, and this man being a ready tool was the first to attempt to put in practice the decree of blood atonement. This incident saved a worthy family from going into Mormonism, and made their descendants detest that Church."

It is not unlikely that some unsophisticated people may believe this

silly, yet malicious story, notwithstanding its utter absurdity and untruthfulness. Joseph Smith removed from Manchester, Ontario County, N. Y., in the vicinity of which the Hill Cumorah is situated, in December, 1827, nearly three years before the Church was organized, and went to Harmony, Pennsylvania. In 1829 he removed from the latter place to Seneca County, N. Y., where the Church was organized on the 6th of April, 1830, with six members. In 1831 Joseph Smith moved to Ohio, the first gathering place being at Kirtland in that State. During 1832 the residence of Joseph Smith was at Hiram, Portage County, Ohio, and he was in that State during that year with the exception of visits paid by him to Independence, Missouri.

It was said in relation to the former-day Saints that all manner of evil was spoken against them, but as objects against whom the most bitter, relentless and diabolical misrepresentation has been hurled, we believe the Latter-day Saints stand at the head of the heap, so far as history affords information.

THE EIGHTH DISTRICT SCHOOL MEETING.

THE CHAIRMAN'S DEFENSE.

Editor Deseret News:

Please allow me to answer some of your statements and criticisms in relation to the Eighth Ward School District meeting in which the Liberals took part, on the 5th inst.

You state in your Tuesday evening's issue that "the chairman, Mr. Henry W. Lawrence informed his fellow Liberals that any of them who owned a watch or other article of small value, were entitled to vote, whether they actually paid taxes or not." This statement is not true. The chairman did not convey any such idea. You further state "that the reading of the school law was called for by a prominent taxpayer," and that the chairman assumed to read it himself, but only read a portion of it." In reply to this I will say, that the school law pertaining to the qualifications of voters had previously been read by one of the school trustees who was present, and the chairman did not think it of sufficient importance to re-read all of the sections pertaining to the subject, and certainly did not understand that "the prominent tax-payer to whom you refer insisted upon a further reading of the law."

You complain further, "That the object of the meeting was not stated to those present, and therefore not legal." In reply to this I have to state that after the organization of the meeting was effected, the printed notice of the school trustees was read, which plainly set forth the object of the meeting, and furthermore, two of the school trustees, who were present, were invited to make such statements to the meeting as they saw fit in regard to the call, the efficiency of the school, and the need of further additions to the school buildings. After these statements had been made, and a free and full discussion had been entered into by parties for and against the propositions made by the trustees as to levying a tax for the school and additional buildings, the question as to who were entitled to vote on the tax was raised and discussed. Objections were then made by one of the People's Party against the women voting, whereupon the chairman ruled that those ladies present who were legal voters, and owned property in their own right or in connection with their husbands, should be allowed to vote, as that had been the usual custom in this Territory, which ruling seemed to meet the general approval of those present. As to the charge that non-residents of the District were allowed to vote, two such persons representing property in the District did vote—one under protest of the teller, the other under the ruling of the chairman, which was afterwards discovered by him to have been based upon a misconception of the school law and was since so admitted to the Trustees. There may have been other persons that voted on both sides who, under a strict construing of the law, were not entitled to do so, but that a large majority of the legal voters were opposed to levying the tax, there can be no question, and this opposition was not entirely confined to the Liberal Party in the District.

When the voting commenced, tellers were appointed—one from each party—to receive the votes, and any and all persons were allowed the right to challenge or object to any of the votes cast. The Trustees did not present to the meeting a list of the tax-payers of the district as implied in your paper, and no such testing of the vote was insisted upon by the members of the People's Party. The non-Mormons in the Eighth School District do not, at the present time, feel the necessity of further additions to the school house, inasmuch as there is a large ward house adjoining the present school building to which many of them have contributed freely at the time of its erection, and they contend if more school room is now needed the Church party should allow the school Trustees the use of this building for school purposes until such time as the taxpayers in the district feel able to erect more suitable school rooms.

The Liberals do not consider the district schools free from sectarian bias and influences, notwithstanding the statements of the Church party to the contrary. Besides this, a large