

THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50
IN ADVANCE

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Saturday, . . . August 13, 1892.

THE LAW AND ORDER MOVEMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY the law and order meeting held in Wasatch Hall last night was comparatively small. There were less than two hundred people present. The gathering was entirely out of proportion with the importance of the subject.

Those who issued the call were, as we pointed out last evening, largely responsible for the limited character of the assemblage. They confined the invitation to one class of the people—"legal voters." The resolutions passed by the meeting would have had more potency had they been adopted by a larger and more generally representative body of the people. This meagre aspect of the movement was entirely unnecessary, as the great bulk of the inhabitants of this city are in hearty sympathy with the subject, upon which should be brought to bear all the popular strength available.

In the speeches that were made, as well as the resolutions adopted by the meeting, it was asserted that the Mayor and Chief of Police had taken a decided stand against three conspicuous evils that have increased alarmingly in the community during the last few years—illegal liquor traffic, gambling, and social immorality.

For the cure of the first named wrong these officials have emphatically declared themselves and have taken steps to enforce the ordinances in reference to it. On reflection, it occurs to us, however, that neither of them has taken a stand against the other two demoralizing conditions, either by special declaration or enforcement of the laws. We think that these gentlemen ought to have credit for what they do, and no more. It is their duty, so far as their power extends, to enforce the ordinances of the city against all classes of law-breakers.

In connection with the attempts made to enforce the laws in relation to illegal liquor traffic, the meeting did the proper thing in placing an important portion of responsibility upon the City Council. The Mayor and the Chief of Police and his aids are comparatively powerless to correct the wrong if, when lawbreakers are arrested, a police justice blocks the way by inflicting nominal fines, enabling the saloon men to conduct their trade on Sundays, in defiance of law, at a clear profit after satisfying the trifling penalties imposed by the magistrate who tries their cases. If the Council shall permit an official to retain his position who thus perpetrates a parody on justice, that body will virtually give encouragement to habitual breakers of the law. The prerogative in the re-

moval of the police justice referred to in the resolution lies with the Council.

The call for last night's meeting was issued, we believe, exclusively by members of the "Liberal" party, and most of the speakers belonged to that political body. Many of those who have affiliated with it are necessarily humiliated and chagrined at the lawless record it has made since it assumed control of the municipal government in the spring of 1890.

Broad hints were expressed by speakers last night in relation to contracts which had been entered into between party managers on one side and saloon men and gamblers on the other, under which the "parties of the second part" were, in consideration of political support, to be allowed to break the laws with impunity. The speakers, just as well have come out in terms more flat-footed on that part of the subject, as everybody conversant with the local situation here knew what was meant. It is more than likely that the combination consisting of these contracting parties will be heard from soon in some shape if the determination to enforce the laws is followed up by practical work. And those officials who insist on doing their duty will not have a peaceful time.

It is gratifying to note that some of the better class of members of the "Liberal" party are exercised over the demoralized condition of the city, brought about by the section of the same organization who are not so respectable—to state it mildly. The latter, however, constitute a strong contingent. Take the gamblers and the saloon element out of the party and no intelligent person believes for a moment that it could, by any possibility, hold together for twenty-four hours. Unfortunately that class hold the bulk of power of the organization—the greater number of votes. This being the case, the prospect of inaugurating what Mayor Baskin called "a clean administration," is somewhat remote.

The situation is anomalous, because if the bulk of the party support lawlessness and vice, which has been proved to be a fact, the more respectable portion of the party is necessarily controlled by that element. More than that, by their continued allegiance to the party they virtually sustain the situation against which they indignantly proclaim. Any other view than this is illogical and absurd.

SHOWING HIMSELF UP.

If anything were lacking to show up what kind of person is the "Liberal" boss, it was furnished in the exposure made by Attorney Critchlow in the Parsons vs. Nelson libel suit, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in this paper. For once the sleek and eel-like Powers found himself in a strait from which he could not wiggle out, and subjected to a scorching such as he delights in inflicting upon others. He was positively stumped for an answer, and so had to "take his medicine" without talking back or attempting an excuse.

The entire manner of conducting the

defense in this case is characteristic of the man. First he suggests a transfer to another court, then he pleads that the transfer is illegal and states that it was done at the suggestion of the court. Next he tries to compel the County Attorney—for obvious reasons; to conduct the case, and furnishes to the *Tribune*, which he is defending, the letter he wrote to the County Attorney. Then he objects to the conduct of the case by an attorney well known to be experienced in prosecuting, and flies into tantrums when it appears that the gentleman has been duly and legally appointed.

Whatever may be the issue in the case, the manner in which the defense has been carried on will furnish one more illustration of the unscrupulous methods of the attorney, who rules the faction that is running its head against the rapidly approaching force which is to give liberty to Utah. And it all helps to show him at his real weight, size and value. The people are taking notes.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM.

It is to be hoped that Private Tams of the Pennsylvania militia will gain his case for damages against the officers who had him tied up by the thumbs and one side of his head shaved, besides inflicting upon him other personal indignities. In expressing this wish, we have no sympathy with him in the offence he committed. It was bad enough for him to express endorsement of the murderous attack on Manager Frick, especially as he was one of the soldiers called out for the maintenance of law and order. But we consider the conduct of the officers who inflicted the brutal punishment much worse than his. Justice ought to be done in this case and cruel officers be taught a lesson which would be of benefit to their subordinates.

Public opinion has had the effect of abolishing many of the barbaric methods by which discipline used to be maintained in the army. The cat-o'-nine-tails has been cast aside with the thumbscrew and the rack, the straight-jacket and the branding-iron. The stocks is an obsolete penalty, and so is the pillory and the cart-tail lash. But the vindictive and cruel spirit which invented the instruments of human torture and suggested brute force as the proper means of correction, still exists and crops out on board ship and in the army.

The men who serve in the ranks, whether it be in the army of workers or in the army of fighters, have rights which must be protected. The spirit which prompts the Frieks to force laborers to their terms, and the Hawkins' and Stretor's to maltreat soldiers is the genius of barbarism and oppression. It ought to be banished from this land in this century. If law is violated, let the law be executed. If military law permits such penalties as that inflicted upon Tams, it ought to be repealed. And if it does not, the brutes who used their official authority in such a manner ought to be cashiered as well as mulcted in heavy damages. And if they acted within the limits of military dictation, it was contrary to humanity, justice and right, and they ought to learn a lesson in civilization and the rights of man.