

is now appointed, while its duties were far less onerous.

The President has adhered to the policy of the platform of his party in this appointment, and also in that of Col. Elijah Sells as Secretary of the Territory. Both these gentlemen are *bona fide* residents. They have personal interests here which are identified with the progress and well-being of Utah. Whatever may be thought of the President's choice—and no doubt there will be different opinions on this by different people—it must be acknowledged by all that President Harrison has acted consistently and after much consideration.

Arthur L. Thomas came here in April 1879 as Secretary of the Territory, and was Acting-Governor during the legislative session of 1880, excepting five days, because of the absence of the Governor. He was very efficient and was much esteemed by the members. He was appointed to superintend the census of 1880 and was very painstaking and exact in the work, which was generally considered to have been done fairly and thoroughly. He was reappointed Secretary of Utah in May, 1883.

As Secretary of the Utah Commission, Mr. Thomas exhibited the same diligence and vigilance manifested in other official capacities, and when a vacancy occurred was unanimously recommended by the Commission for the position of one of its members, which he has occupied up to the time of receiving this appointment to the Governorship.

We hope the new Executive will devote his energies and abilities to the work of advancing all the material, social and political interests of the Territory. He is familiar with the situation. He knows much of the people, their condition, sentiments and desires. He can, if he will, do much towards the quieting of sectional agitations and internal antagonisms. A conservative course may be reasonably expected of him both from the majority and the minority. He should be Governor of the whole people, not the advocate or agent of a class. If he pursues this unbiased, dignified and proper course, he will receive the support and respect of all our citizens except a few extremists.

Governor Arthur L. Thomas enjoys the distinction of being the first "Gentile" resident of Utah to receive this appointment. Since the days of Governor Young, strangers have been sent to the Territory to occupy the chief official positions.

Let us hope that the change now inaugurated may prove the preparation for still greater changes, until Utah shall enjoy the full liberties, rights and privileges designed by the founders of this nation to be secured to all its citizens on every part of the public domain.

The DESERET NEWS congratulates Governor Thomas on his appointment and will support him in the rightful exercise of the powers conferred upon him, with the hope that under his administration the Territory will make its greatest stride toward that eminence, union, freedom and power which is its ultimate and certain destiny.

SAVE YOUR SYMPATHY.

THE papers have not yet finished their comments on the statistical reports read at the recent general Conference of the Church in this city. The number of persons holding the priesthood is dilated upon, and much commiseration is expressed for the poor Latter-day Saints who have to support such an immense paid army of Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons.

The idea that any religious minister officiates except for pay, does not seem to strike these newspaper editors. A sermon and a collection are essential associates in sectarian services. A salary and a minister are almost synonymous terms in the various denominations. The performance of any religious rite such as baptism, marriage, burial or other ceremony, means the requirement of a fee. Therefore it is not surprising that wonder and sympathy are both excited over the number of men in the "Mormon" Church who occupy sacerdotal positions.

But we will inform our contemporaries at a distance that this "army of priests" is not a paid ministry. We have no hiring clergy in this Church. Nearly all the adult male members bear a portion of the Priesthood by which the "Mormons" are supposed to be ruled, and their wives partake of its power by virtue of their matrimonial union. They are thus self-ruled and self-dominated, if there is any domination, and all are or ought to be, according to their faith, ready to minister in the gospel for mutual benefit and the promulgation of saving truth.

The "Mormons" are less "priest-ridden" than any religious people in the United States, and the very number of persons holding ecclesiastical office among them is evi-

dence of this, if those who are so ready to take a fling at them would only stop to think of it a little.

We do not pay men for preaching, we do not pay fees for ordinances; we do not usually take up collections, and whatever may be thought or said upon this subject, "Mormonism" does not make merchandise of the souls of men. Our friends may save their sympathies for themselves and others nearer home.

A NEW SECRETARY.

THE appointment of Col. Elijah Sells as Secretary of Utah is quite as surprising as the appointment to the Governorship. It was understood that the gentleman was a candidate for the Executive chair, that he had strong endorsements and was likely to obtain the position. No one here that we know of had any idea that he would receive the present appointment. Col. Sells is the first resident of the Territory appointed to this office since 1856. He came here in 1872 and has been chiefly engaged in the lumber business. He has been somewhat active occasionally in local politics and quite prominent in the Chamber of Commerce. We hope he is satisfied with the position and that he will occupy it with pleasure to himself and profit to the people. Mr. Hall, we understand, resigned the place less than two weeks ago. We may now look with some assurance for further Utah appointments.

HIS EYES WERE OPEN.

IN the Topeka (Kansas) Capital of May 3rd, there appears what purports to be an account of an interview between a reporter of that paper and Mr. Simon Greenspan, who had recently spent several months in Utah and was about to return here. He gave a detailed description of the Territory—particularly Salt Lake City and Ogden—and its resources, introducing also an intelligent explanation of the condition of affairs here and expressions of appreciation of the character of the population. The entire description given by Mr. Greenspan showed plainly that he had not viewed things here through the yellow spectacles of prejudice, manufactured by false reports. Were it not that our readers are so familiar with the facts he enunciates, we would here reproduce Mr. Greenspan's description, in which he does full justice to the nature and resources of Utah. There is