

THE PRESS AND POLITICS.

The great preponderance of politics above everything else, in nearly every paper which reaches us, is very distinct. The subject is not confined to what might be termed political papers. Newspapers of every kind, periodicals and religious journals devote a large portion of their space to the fruitful theme. But, seldom does a paper come to hand which professes to take an independent position on politics. Party and party interests are all absorbing; and it seems as if the belief very generally exists that a newspaper can not live and flourish without being a political hack. The great questions of the hour, some of which affect the national vitality, are viewed from a partisan stand point and dealt with in a partisan spirit. And the character, motives, opinions and actions of political opponents are dragged through the mire of vituperative controversy, while leaders and members of the party in whose interests the paper acts, are lauded beyond all bounds, their very vices being tortured into apparent virtues.

This condition of the press throughout the entire republic is highly suggestive. It marks the tone of public feeling, to a great extent. For though the press may sway the popular will, it must travel at least partially in harmony with that will, or its power for good or evil is greatly limited.

It is but a few years since this supremacy of politics, as a subject of great public interest, was confined to the eve of election contests. Then, in the heat of excited feelings, utterance was given to many things which in calmer moods would have been unsaid, and which were willingly forgotten by all parties as the excitement died away. Now, this is of daily and continued occurrence. The bitterest epithets are hurled with recklessness from either side of contending parties, against those from whom they differ; and the wounds thus made are kept rankling by repeated thrusts of envenomed darts. In a republican form of government such as ours, the acts of every public servant are open to criticism, and the higher his position, the greater the trust reposed in him, the closer is he watched that he occupies with honor and dignity the position in which he is placed. This is according to the spirit of our national institutions. But to seize upon every trivial saying or act of public servants, with the eagerness of a vulture fastening on a morsel of carrion, simply because they hold other views and act upon other opinions, is, or ought to be, beneath a great people represented through its press.

That politics has become reduced almost to a science is well known; and that men make it a profession which they follow for a livelihood, is a fact too well substantiated to be controverted. And in the pursuit of that profession, every lever is used that can be, and every means are employed, no matter how unscrupulous or dishonorable, to "make it pay," and secure the triumph of party. The times when "loyalty" meant devotion to country and constitution, and not to a party, and when "patriot" did not mean partisan, are looked upon as antediluvian, slow and a long way behind the spirit of the present. The press teems with personal and public abuse; its wide-spread influence attacks the fine sensibilities of the young, who are becoming so accustomed to the liberal use of foul epithets that refined language and true gentlemanly politeness cannot but suffer from it. The people

are constantly called upon to watch the politicians; and the politicians are incessantly laboring to prove how disinterested and honest they, and the members of the party to which they belong, are, and that those to whom they are opposed must of necessity be corrupt, venal, and unworthy of public confidence. Thus, like a huge cauldron filled with ingredients that will not unite and mix freely, the politics of the nation are kept seething and boiling, with the press as chief cook and fire-tender.

When the influence of the press is exerted to honor labor and degrade fashionable and corrupt indolence; when men are sustained for office because they are fully qualified and will labor for the public good; when virtue in a public servant is lauded, and dishonor, corruption and dishonesty reprobated without respect to party or opinion; when men who claim the suffrages of their fellow-citizens are endorsed because they seek their country's, not a party's good; then the press will be engaged in a nobler labor, and will challenge, in an infinitely higher degree, the admiration and support of the intelligent and patriotic throughout the land.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

CAPT. MACKAY COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

PRIZE FIGHT AND SOME SHOOTING SCRAPES AT CHEYENNE!

EARTHQUAKE IN CHINA!

NEW INDIAN AGENT FOR UTAH!

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITAL!

Cheyenne, 10.—A prize fight for \$1000 aside took place this afternoon, a mile and a half from the city, between Joe Bean and Joe Riley; eighteen rounds were fought in thirty-eight minutes, when Bean's seconds discovered rosin on Riley's knuckles, which was claimed to be foul, and Bean was declared the winner. Large amounts of greenbacks changed hands. Two shooting affrays have occurred since the fight; no one was seriously hurt.

House.—Paine offered a resolution declaring that the seat of government ought to be moved to the valley of the Mississippi; rejected, 77 against 97.—The House next proceeded to draw for seats, which occasioned much merriment. The Speaker presented a message with a partial report from the President, in reference to the trial and conviction of American citizens in England. Stevens asked leave to offer a resolution that the evidence taken on impeachment by the judiciary committee be referred to the reconstruction committee, with leave to report at any time. Brooks objected, when Stevens moved to suspend the rules. After some amendments in regard to providing for printing 50,000 copies of the testimony, and directing the General of the Army to send to the House a copy of the last letter received from the President, the objections were withdrawn, and the resolutions were adopted. The House then went into a committee of the whole to consider the legislative and executive appropriation bill. After some discussion, the committee rose and the House adjourned.

Senate.—Ramsey presented a petition from the citizens of Colorado asking admission as a State. Pomeroy introduced a joint resolution relative to the ocean mail service with China, referred. Henderson introduced a bill to set apart Indian territory in Nevada and other Territories; also authorizing the distribution of surplus condemned property among the Indians.

The supplementary reconstruction bill was taken up; Harlan and Tipton spoke in favor of the bill.

Montgomery.—Seventeen counties in Southern Alabama have given a majority of 3700 against the convention; other counties will increase to 10,000 behind the vote of last fall.

London.—Capt. Mackey has been examined for committing an assault on the Martello tower at Duncannon; the evidence was conclusive and he was fully committed for trial. A very young man, barely twenty-one, and several rioters, who attempted to rescue Mackey, were also committed. In the melee two policemen were dangerously wounded.

Washington.—In the Supreme Court, Justice Nelson pronounced an elaborate

opinion in the case of the State of Georgia against Stanton, Stuart and Pope, praying that they be restrained from doing certain acts contemplated by the reconstruction laws. The court dismissed the bill for the reason that it presents a political question, and therefore does not properly fall under its jurisdiction. The Justice said that this opinion was also applicable to a similar petition from the State of Mississippi.—Justice Nelson said the court was unanimous in the opinion with regard to the Georgia case. The decision is regarded as virtually settling all similar cases before the court arising under the reconstruction bills.

New York.—A fire in John street, on Saturday night, caused a loss of over half a million. Wm. Jessup and A. W. Paine are the heaviest losers.

Chicago.—A private bulletin from Simonton says that Pickering's message is all right. Washington special, tonight, says the President has nominated Charles J. Tuckerman, of New York, minister to Greece.

The House committee resumed consideration of the charges against Judge Field. The editor of the paper in which the statement first appeared, refused to answer the questions, and the committee not having power to commit him for contempt, adjourned. The President will nominate Gen. McLellan for minister to England. The President's reply to Grant's letter, was sent to that officer at noon; its contents have not been disclosed, but it is said to be toned down from the first draft.

London, 10.—The Marquis Dazeglia, the Italian Minister, has resigned and asked to be recalled immediately. Much excitement at Warwick in consequence of the anticipated attempt of the Fenians to rescue Burke, confined in Warwick jail. Dispatches from China announce that Minister Burlingame has departed for the United States. A shock of an earthquake has been felt at Shanghai and Ningapoo; no destruction of property or life is reported; but it caused great consternation. The Imperialists report another battle with the rebels, and claim that the rebels were defeated in all these encounters, and that the Imperial arms are rapidly regaining lost ground.

Cork.—Last night a squad of policemen patrolling the streets was attacked by a mob with stones and clubs; the policemen were outnumbered and fell back, and when reinforced the crowd had dispersed and none could be found.

Berlin.—The national customs conference will soon assemble here. It is regarded as not only important to the interests of commerce, but likely to advance progress. The German unity national party, are assiduously laying their plans to give a political character to the approaching conference.

Washington.—The President has nominated Captain Green to be commander in the Navy on the active list, in place of Cicero Price retired; also, commander John Cooper to be Captain in place of Green, promoted.

The Senate confirmed the following: L. Scott Stewart, of Penn., Consul to Osages, Hiago; James W. Henderson, Register of the land office in Humboldt, Cal.; Pardon Dedds, Indian agent in Utah; L. E. Webb, superintendent of Indian affairs in New Mexico; George M. Hallett, receiver of public money in Colorado; Irwin G. Stanton, Register of the land office in Central City, Colorado. The President recognizes Charles Wolcott Brooks, of San Francisco, as Consul to Japan.

Chicago, 11.—Washington specials say that a delegation of railroad men from the east went before the House committee on Post office to-day, urging an increase in the amounts paid for carrying the mails; they represented that they cannot afford to transport the mails at the old price.

The President's reply to Grant contains the endorsements of secretaries Welles, Browning, McCulloch, Seward, and Randall, of the allegations made by the President against Grant on the score of veracity. It is believed that had there been a full House the resolution in favor of the removal of the capital to the Mississippi valley would have passed.

Halifax, 10.—The House is engaged in discussing the repeal resolution. Repeal meetings continue to be held in various parts of the country.

New York, 11.—The World's special from Montgomery, says the Radicals concede the defeat of the new constitution. It is variously estimated that the vote is less than half required by from ten to twenty-three thousand.

Letters from Madrid show that a misunderstanding exists between Minister Hale and Perry, the Secretary of Legation. It is said that Hale will come home unless Perry is recalled.

An examination of the World's correspondent develops the fact that the President assured him that he had promised Grant to assume all responsibility for the violation of the tenure of office act in case of the restoration of Stanton.

The Board of Directors of the Middle-Pacific Railroad, on Friday, voted to place the machine shops, depots, etc., at Cheyenne for the road east of the mountains, and for the mountain division, and make that the grand turning point at the east base of the mountains. The decision will cause the expenditure of vast sums of money.

San Francisco, February 11, 9 a. m.—The removal of the capitol of the State from Sacramento to a more suitable locality being discussed by the Legislature, San Jose offers the State the use of its court house free for five years; also to grant several acres of land for the erection of the capitol building.—The people of San Jose has also invited the members of the legislature to visit that place at the expense of its citizens. The invitation is accepted, and the legislature has adjourned two days for that purpose.

Correspondence.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 13, 1868.

Editor Deseret News.—According to promise, I write to inform you in relation to my labors. I will here confess to you that I did not much like laboring here in St. Louis, when I arrived in company with Wm. H. Miles and H. J. Richards, on the 21st of November. It appeared to me the place where the prodigals have rendezvoused from the days of Nauvoo to the present, and I really pitied the man who had to labor here, little dreaming that it would fall to my lot.

My labors and experience subsequently show, that although St. Louis is a retreat for every unclean thing, yet I find there are many honest souls here, who realize that there is nothing but the husks here to feed upon, and they are making every effort in their power to gather to the home of the Saints, where they can "live by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God."

On our arrival here Br. L. D. Rudd wished to be released to return home; President Miles accordingly released him, and desired that I should take charge until President Brown arrived. I took the responsibility upon me with a prayerful heart, feeling it my duty to do so when required.

Bro. Miles, Rudd and myself labored in concurrence until Brother Brown arrived, and counseled Brother Rudd to return home according to his wish, with his wife and daughter. In the meantime Elders Crosby, Smoot and Murphy joined us in the good work, preaching the gospel and comforting the Saints with recital of their experience in Utah.

President Brown gave us such valuable counsel, exhorting us to seek for the spirit of the Lord in prayer, to direct us in our labors in the ministry.

Brother H. J. Richards went direct to New York, by way of Chicago, where he called to visit a relative. Brother Crosby went to Alabama; Brothers Smoot and Murphy to Tennessee. Bro. Miles returned to New York by way of Cincinnati and Boston. Bro. Rudd, wife and daughter went to spend the winter with his brother in Crawford co., Iowa, with the intention of moving to his home in Utah in the spring.

President Brown remained with me until the 23d of December, when he took the cars for Du Quoin, Illinois, where he is at present. He writes me that the spirit whispers him to wait a little longer in Illinois; and he says that Brother Dussenberry is doing a good work in Mississippi, but he has heard nothing from Brothers Crosby, Smoot or Murphy, since we parted.

I have just had the pleasure of perusing a letter from our old friend and fellow laborer, Henry G. Boyle. He writes very encouragingly.

We meet in the Broadway Hall, St. Louis, and have good meetings, which are well attended.

I am at present, and have been since I left home, on the 10th of November, in the enjoyment of good health. My wants are few and amply provided for. I find many warm friends who have invited me to their homes to partake of their hospitality. They are very kind to me, as are all the Saints in St. Louis.

In conclusion, Brother Cannon, think of me with a prayer, and remember me kindly to Presidents Young, Kimball and Wells, Joseph F. Smith, &c.

My address is, for the present, care of A. G. Kershaw, 2006, North 14th street, St. Louis, Mo.

DAVID M. STUART.