

THE SILVER-TONGUED.

TOM FITCH of the "silver tongue," as his admirers used to call him, ten or twelve years ago, when he was recognized as one of the most eloquent of the Republican orators of California, is about returning to Nevada to continue the Democratic heart during the approaching political contest. We don't think it probable that Tom will, either in that contest or any other in which he may be hereafter engaged, exert much influence. His career has been that of a political nomad, and he has never worn well in any community after the glow of novelty had been lost. Though he came to California under a cloud, his youthful and almost boyish appearance, his ingenious and handsome countenance, his splendid voice and dashing oratory, impressed every one favorably at the beginning, and won for him troops of admirers and friends in San Francisco. A splendid future seemed to open before him, and had he been of the pattern that will "wash," to use a phrase borrowed from the dry goods line, he might without presumption have aspired to the United States Senate and occupied a seat there before now as one of the California delegation. But he had the qualities which excite admiration rather than those that inspire confidence, besides lacking judgment and stability, and was guilty of indiscretions which alienated many of his warmest friends and caused men to doubt his reliability. Then he changed his base of operations to Nevada, where he ran a Republican paper for a short time, made a failure of it, and was compelled to make another change. In Nevada he was politically successful for a while, and a new career seemed open to him. He was sent to Congress by the Republicans of Nevada, where he made several brilliant speeches, but not an entirely satisfactory record. Becoming a candidate for re-election, he was beaten by Kendall. Then he again fled, and sought refuge in the sagebrush. It was reported that he was going to settle in Nevada, but he was practicing law there; but on his return from the East he stopped at Salt Lake to try his fortune in Mormondom. For a time all went well, and the wanderer seemed likely to rise high in the influence of the Prophet. But either these expectations failed, or the "silver-tongued" saw the handwriting on the wall, and so he once more folded his tent and now goes back to his former camping-ground in the sagebrush. His career is one of those that carry with them a most important lesson for all ambitious and aspiring young men. It should convince them that in a public life something more than the gift of genius is important to success; that without steadiness of purpose and the qualities that inspire confidence, the "silver-tongued" talents can achieve no durable and valuable results. —San Francisco Chronicle, July 18.

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