



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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STATE OF DESERET.

The General Assembly of the State of Deseret, as our readers have seen by last evening's NEWS, met yesterday, organized, listened to the Governor's Message, passed the necessary acts and adjourned until the 22d day of next February. The Message appears in our columns to-day, and the recommendations contained therein should receive attention from and be acted upon by the people. It was very suggestively said yesterday that we should keep the State machinery well-oiled, in running order and free rust. It should not be laid aside as old lumber, but should be kept ready for use.

Under our present organization as a Territory, we have all the scope to do good that we wish. Our freedom of action in most respects is as unrestrained as if we were living under a State organization; and we believe that whatever restrictions there may be upon us, as the inhabitants of a Territory, they are less galling to us than they would be, probably, to any other people in the Republic. They would prove very irksome to us in view of the injustice we have received at the hands of those from whom we should have expected better things, were it not for the reflection that God rules, and that everything will be controlled for the good of those who put their trust in Him.

Yet our Territory has been treated with great unfairness in many respects. Rights have been freely granted to others no more entitled to them than we, which, though imprescriptible in their nature, have been withheld from us. They have been withheld, too, without the least show of justification, though studied efforts have not been wanting to make it appear that we were not worthy of them. Yet we can wait patiently for the time to come when all this will be changed.

As a Territory we are in a state of tutelage. Yet we have the proud consciousness of knowing that we are fully equal to the exercise of self-government. We have proved this. To-day Utah Territory stands in the foremost rank as being the best governed, and her finances the best and most economically managed of any State or Territory on the continent. Should the Territory be admitted into the Union as a State, her record as such will be pre-eminently glorious. She will enter upon a career of unparalleled greatness. When the time shall come for us to be thus admitted, He who has guided and preserved us thus far will prepare the way and remove every obstacle that would prevent such a consummation. The justice of God never sleeps.

MIS-STATEMENTS CORRECTED.

The ideas of many of the people East seem to be terribly mixed about affairs in Utah. We see a statement in the editorial columns of the New York Tribune, which betrays gross ignorance on the part of the writer. In alluding to our last election he says that "great numbers also voted who have avoided being naturalized, in order to escape liability to draft and the other disabilities of citizens. Many whose votes are returned, either voted, or are certified before Officers of the 'State of Deseret,' and not of the Territory of Utah."

If there is a man in this Territory who has refrained from taking out naturalization papers to escape being drafted, we should like to see him. We have never heard of an instance of the kind, and such a man would be a curiosity worth looking at. The great objection which we have heard urged against the emigrants to this Territory has not been that they have manifested too great a reluctance to become naturalized, but that they have been too eager to avail themselves of that privilege.

As to the statement, which we have seen in several papers of late, that officers in this Territory act under the "State of Deseret" and not under the Territory of Utah, and that we recognize the "State of Deseret" instead of the Territorial organization, that is easily explained. The fact is, no man professing to be a public journalist and pretending to possess any knowledge of public events should require explanation upon this point. He betrays either inexcusable carelessness or malice, when he writes upon a subject as many have, the writer in the Tribune among the number, upon the views of the people of this Territory respecting the State of Deseret.

It is well known that the Territory of Utah has been for years seeking admission into the Union under the title of the State of Deseret. A convention was called, a constitution was framed, an election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senators and Representatives, and a Representative to Congress, was held under that Constitution, and all the machinery of a State Government was fully prepared. United States Senators were elected, who with the Representative, presented the Constitution to Congress and asked for admission. The organization then commenced has since been maintained; not because it was deemed more valid and binding, not to evince opposition to the Territorial organization, or with the view of acting independent of that; but that nothing might be wanting to maintain good and efficient government here whenever the Territorial organization should lapse through the admission of Utah as a State into the Union. The officers of the Territory have, as a rule, been elected officers of the State of Deseret, but in acting in Territorial matters they have not acted as officers of the State of Deseret, but as officers of the Territory of Utah. Will this brief explanation satisfy our contemporaries who imagine they have found a large mare's nest in the organization of the State of Deseret? We shall see.

INVIOABILITY OF VIRTUE.

It is time that the world should know, what we have been endeavoring to impress upon it for years, that the people of this Territory are determined, by every means in their power, to check vice and foster virtue. Because we believe in and practice polygamy, there are many people, who, for the want of correct information, imagine that we are licentious and corrupt, and "think" of nothing but the gratification of passion. All the pulpit eloquence which finds vent against us, has this view of our character for its basis. In the congressional speeches which have denounced us, the same misconception on the part of their authors is apparent. Those who reside here have had opportunities of knowing how false is this estimate of the character of the people of this Territory, and many of them have not failed to correct the views of their friends and those with whom they have been thrown in contact on the subject.

But there is a class of men who drift into this country, as in all frontier places, who seem to be utterly indifferent to what may be the views and practices of the people here. If they ever think of the matter, their thoughts receive the coloring of their own corrupt minds. Disreputable in character, all they care about is to accomplish their own ends. In other cities, similarly situated in many respects to this, the citizens have felt it necessary to organize themselves into vigilance committees, to teach the scoundrels by whom they were troubled that there was a limit beyond which it would not be safe for them to attempt to pass. We have not been under the necessity yet in this Territory of having any recourse to such an organization. There has been so much union of feeling and views among the people here that crime has not been able to make much headway. The determination is almost universal here that vice shall not be countenanced; that no compromise will be had with its votaries; but that those who seek to prey upon virtues shall meet with speedy and vigorous justice.

Had there been less firmness and vigor manifested upon this point than there has been, our condition would have been pitiable. Our degradation would have been completed. We have been assailed by men who have had no more regard for truth, virtue or honesty, than so many wild beasts. If they could have had their way, every woman in the land would have fallen a prey to their machinations, and they would have revelled unchecked in their

filthy pleasures. But while we have honored marriage and encouraged the honorable and virtuous intercourse of the sexes, on the other hand an unyielding determination has been shown to crush out every illicit and libidinous practice, even if harsh measures had to be used to accomplish that end.

The people of this Territory have long ago resolved that the chastity of their daughters, sisters and wives shall be sacredly maintained, and that the man who seeks to seduce them from the path of virtue, or makes them the victim of unbridled lust, shall receive the penalty of his crime. If a farmer or shepherd catches a wolf preying upon his flocks, he kills it, if he can. Shall a wild beast in human form, who with hellish duplicity seeks to mislead and destroy the innocent members of his family, be any more leniently dealt with?

If we can have the power, and we doubt not but we can, we will rear around this Territory such a bulwark that under its protecting shelter virtue may rest secure and free from annoyance—a bulwark against which the tide of corruption may surge, but surge in vain. Already evil-doers are afraid and tremble. They look around with fear at every cloud which passes over their guilty heads, not knowing from which one the bolt of vengeance may descend. We do not wonder that their coward souls shrink with dread, or that they circulate stories about Danites and destroying angels, for the torment they suffer must be great. We have no sympathy for their terrors; but would like to see such a fear seize upon them that our land will be freed from the contamination of their presence. We repeat the statement, which has frequently been made in these columns, that in no country on the earth can well-behaved, orderly people enjoy greater civil and religious liberty than in this Territory; but for men who seek to destroy virtue this country is not healthy. They are likely to come to grief, and we would like this information to be generally known.

A FALSEHOOD—JUDGE TITUS SAID TO BE THE AUTHOR.

A few days ago a statement appeared in the *Sweetwater Mines*, published at Fort Bridger, made on "good authority," that about ten days previously, "the body of some unfortunate wretch was discovered near the Hot Springs, three miles from Salt Lake City, pierced with knife wounds, and his skull mashed in, evidently with the heel of a boot." The writer added, "no mention of the fact has yet made its appearance in the Salt Lake papers." Of course our silence on the subject was deemed ominous, and an ugly inference drawn from it.

In noticing and contradicting this statement, we asked the *Mines* to "post us with the name of this good authority." In the issue of Saturday, the 29th ult., the editor writes as follows:

The *Deseret News* of the 24th, wishes us to post him, which we very cheerfully do, as to our authority for the story published in our columns a week ago to the effect that the dead body of a murdered man was found near Hot Spring Lake, within a short distance of Salt Lake City. We derived our information from Judge Titus, who related the story to us in the presence of a half a dozen bystanders.

In view of the many falsehoods which have been put in circulation by one and another respecting the people of this Territory—falsehoods of a more outrageous character than this—it would almost seem as if this story about one man being murdered at the Hot Springs was too trifling to notice. We should not have given it any further attention had the statement been made on the authority of some persons. But Judge Titus is really too high an authority for him to make a story of this kind and then it be suffered to pass unnoticed. He is in the city, we believe, at the present time, and can make the needed explanation or denial. Such explanation or denial is required from him. He knows whether he made such a statement as this attributed to him or not. If he made it, he also knows upon what grounds it was made. A man who will deliberately tell a story of this kind, and put it in circulation, without any more foundation than this has, is not to be trusted in matters of greater importance and which more closely affect the interests of the people among whom he has resided.

We have reason to believe that Judge Titus has been very unfriendly to the

people of this Territory. He has not liked us. But though he has always been prejudiced, and sometimes bitter, we have never, for a moment, supposed that he would stoop so far as to be guilty of such utterly contemptible meanness as to fabricate and relate such a falsehood as he must have told, if the editor of the *Mines* is to be credited. Having this opinion of his character we have restrained our pen, when we have had excellent opportunities of holding him up, in no enviable light, to the public gaze. And this we could have done with every show of justification. But we understand the Judge is intending to return East soon. If it be true that he has made this statement, his character should be better known than it is at present. For if he will, while here, be guilty of such fabrications as the above, what will be the nature of his statements when he reaches there?

We have viewed him as prejudiced and misguided since he has been here; but in addition to that, must we conclude that he deliberately and with malice prepense, tells falsehoods? Such a statement as the above is not dependent for its odiousness on the coloring which the prejudices of a narrator might give it; but from first to last it is without the least foundation in truth. The public should be made familiar with this, that they may learn what value to place on his statements. But should he be innocent of such a charge, it is due to himself and to the people of this community, that he may contradict it and make such explanations as will clear the matter up.

[Since the above was written, we have learned that Judge Titus has gone East, and that it was while en route that this statement was made. We still think it best to publish it, that it may be known to the public.]

HOME ITEMS.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY.

LISLE LESTER.—This lady reached this city from the west yesterday afternoon. As a reader she has gained great celebrity, and as an author and editress she is well and favorably known. As some of our contemporaries, north and east, have given her credit for being here and entertaining our citizens with her readings several weeks ago, we can assure them that if the lady feels so disposed we will notify them of the event, and will wish her *bon voyage* when she takes her departure for Montana or Colorado, should she go to either place.

ARRESTED.—At 2 o'clock p.m. John Redding was brought before Justice Clinton, charged with driving four head of stock from the west Jordan range, W. Jennings and Chas. Harman, of this city appeared and claimed two out of the four head, having recognized the same by the color of hides and the brands on them.

Z. Snow appeared for the people and Mr. Robertson for the defence. Redding was bound over in the sum of \$500 to appear at the next regular term of Probate Court.

Suspicion was excited in the minds of police by their going to the slaughter yard east at night and avoiding an inspection by City Inspector.

Better have got a certificate of register, John-ny.

GOING SOUTH.—A number of the members of our theatrical company will start south on Wednesday, for a short professional trip between now and the opening of the spring season. Among the number are Messrs. McKenzie, Lindsay, Margetts, Maiben, Miss Adams and Miss Alexander, with Mr. Thompson as business agent. We need scarcely speak commendatory of them and their abilities, for they are known throughout the Territory, and are well able to present performances a long way ahead of certain wandering professionals who have at different times visited many of our settlements north and south. As their stay will be necessarily short, we expect our friends in the settlements which they visit will extend them a cordial welcome and greet them with crowded houses.

DIED.—Bishop A. Cunningham, of the 15th Ward, died this morning at 4 o'clock. The funeral obsequies will take place, we are informed, at 1 o'clock to-morrow, in the 15th Ward hall.

COMPLIMENTARY.—A very large number of our most influential citizens, last week, tendered to Manager John T. Caine a complimentary Benefit at the Theatre, which he accepted, and named last night as the occasion, when a crowded audience assembled to manifest the public appreciation of his services in connection with the Theatre.

SOUTHERN ITEMS.—We condense the following from the *Dixie Times* of the 19th, ult., whose Editor, we trust, will have no more cause for complaints at not receiving exchanges:—

The "Mormon Battalion" had a party on the evening of Wednesday the 12th, at which everything moved off most harmoniously. Songs, sentiment, dancing, toasts and recitals of toils and hardships of the Battalion were engaged by all present.

The "Dixie Minstrels," a troupe of "burnt cork" amateurs, were to make a first appearance at St. George, on the evening of the 19th. Messrs. Russell, McAllister and Kenner, formerly of this city, are the principals.

The Washington Gardener's Club are making preparations for the erection of a club house and obtaining a library.

In St. George, a strong corps of bands were at work hewing rock for and laying up the walls of the Tabernacle. Work had recommenced on Pres. E. Snow's mansion.—Bro. Hershey—"Clem"—was rushing up a barber's shop; and Bro. Morris was putting up a store.

The Dramatic Association of St. George gave