

Here is shown the superiority of a system in which each individual member of the force is something more than a part of a machine. In the fleet of any other country, the absence of the admiral at the critical moment most probably would have caused a moment of confusion which might have cost a victory. Not so in the American fleet. Each ship instantaneously went to work even without waiting for orders to close in and engage the enemy.

This suggests that a country when contemplating the propriety of enlarging its military forces, should not forget that the quality of its fighters on land and sea is even more important than numbers. The armies of Europe would be a great deal more formidable than they are, were they composed of men with intelligence and patriotism superior to that which can be expected of recruits forced into service, often against their own will. It would undoubtedly pay any country with strong military aspirations to reduce the number of their soldiers and to spend the money thus saved on the education of the remaining ones. The suggestion is one which the coming peace conference of the czar would do well to consider.

#### PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

On the 8th of next month, the people of Utah will vote for two State and full lists of county officers in their respective counties; not only for these, but for or against five proposed constitutional amendments. These have not received sufficient attention so far, and it is time that those who are not familiar with them should become so in order that they may be able to vote intelligently thereon. They have been published weekly or posted up in conspicuous places in every county, but everybody is not presumed to read the papers in which the proposed amendments have appeared, nor to have passed the places where the posting has been done. Certain it is that there is a lack of familiarity with the provisions which the suggested changes to our charter contain, and in view of the importance of the subject and the nearness of the election, the press generally should come to the rescue.

The first amendment is "Senate Joint resolution No. 9," which proposes to amend section ten of article seven so that it shall read as follows:

"Section 10. The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all State and district officers whose offices are established by this Constitution, or which may be created by law, and whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for."

This is simply a reiteration of the Constitution as far as it goes. The amendment provides that if, during a recess of the Senate, a vacancy shall occur in any State or district office, the Governor shall nominate some fit person to hold the office ad interim, but he shall nominate no one who was previously rejected by the Senate for the same place, this provision being the gravamen of the amendment, the design being of course to prevent the executive from taking advantage of the recess of the Senate to make an appointment upon which that body had set the seal of its condemnation.

The next amendment is to section six, article ten, and provides as follows:

"Sec. 6. In cities of the first and second class the public school system shall be controlled by the board of education of such cities, separate and apart from the counties in which said cities are located."

The only change in this from the present reading is the omission of the words

"maintained and" before the word "controlled." The object is plain; it means that there shall be a sort of taxation without representation outside of the cities of Salt Lake and Ogden in their respective counties—that is, the country districts may be required to contribute to the support of the city schools, but the latter shall be controlled by the board of education of those cities respectively.

The next proposition is as to article six, to which it is proposed to add a new section as follows:

"Section 32. Every bill and joint resolution signed by the presiding officer of each house of the Legislature, as provided in section twenty-four of this article, and signed by the Governor or passed by both houses over his objections, as provided in section eight, article seven of this Constitution, and deposited in the office of the secretary of state shall, in all courts, be taken and treated as conclusive evidence of its due enactment and authenticity.

Number four proposes an amendment to section nine, article eight, which when amended will read as follows:

"The Supreme and district courts shall have such appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law; provided, that from all final judgments of the district courts, there shall be a right of appeal to the Supreme court."

The Constitution at present defines the jurisdictional powers of the courts in a tolerably lengthy section. The amendment would leave all that, with the single exception of preserving the right of appeal from the final judgments of the district courts, in the hands of the lawmakers. This amendment was the cause of considerable discussion in committee and in open session of the last Legislative Assembly, and arose out of the claimed necessity for some means of invoking the revisory power of the Supreme court available in such cases where attorneys or parties are dissatisfied with interlocutory orders or proceedings, anterior to final judgment. The amendment is decidedly sweeping, as we look at it, and breaks down a bulwark which it would seem should be essentially maintained, however much it might need improvement in detail.

The fifth of the series proposes an amendment to section 3, article 13, so that it shall read as follows:

"The Legislature shall provide by law a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation on all property in the State, according to its value in money, and shall prescribe by general law such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property; so that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to the value of his, her, or its property; provided, that a deduction of debts from credits may be authorized and that no tax shall be collected on household furniture when the value of the same is two hundred dollars or less; provided, further, that the property of the United States, of the State, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations and public libraries, lots with the buildings thereon used exclusively for either religious worship or charitable purposes, and places of burial not held or used for private or corporate benefit, shall be exempt from taxation. Ditches, canals and flumes, owned and used by individuals or corporations for irrigating lands owned by such individuals or corporations, or the individual members thereof, shall not be separately taxed so long as they shall be owned and used exclusively for such purpose."

The principal if not the only essential change in this is the exemption of \$200 worth of household furniture from taxation, a proposition which if carried will exclude nearly all renters and the majority of the smaller householders

from that burden of citizenship altogether. As to whether this would be salutary or not would be for each voter to determine for himself.

There is one thing in this connection, however, that should not be altogether overlooked, and that is the desirability or otherwise of patching up the fundamental law so soon after its adoption. Undoubtedly the instrument is imperfect in places, and should receive attention at the proper time, but is this, after it has been in operation less than three years, the proper time? None of the defects sought to be remedied is vital, none is of that oppressive character that demands immediate action. The charter of a state is a solemn document of such vast consequence to the people that it should enjoy some degree of immunity above and beyond that accorded to legislative enactments. At least it should not be pounced upon every time some slight or even material defect not in itself amounting to a grave and threatening danger is discovered. The most probable thing in the world, when a tyro lawmaker settles down to business, is that he will begin a system of Constitution tinkering and law-amending, and in unskillful hands nothing is more dangerous to the body politic, especially when such work gets through the law-making processes and before the people. Undoubtedly, in the case of proposed amendments, they then have their remedy. The referendum is brought into play and that can "knock down, drag out and scalp" if it so please them. The present would seem to be a propitious time for them to act in the manner indicated. Let the Constitution stand as it is for the rest of this century anyway.

#### TRIUMPH IN TRIALS.

The unceasing conflict between light and darkness forms one of the striking features of New Testament history. No sooner is the announcement made of the advent of the Master before trembling and fear seize upon the rulers of the land, and they decide to destroy Him. The cruel murder of innocents at Bethlehem is all due apparently to a misunderstanding of the Scriptures concerning the Messiah, but in fact to an influence of evil, well aware of the mission of Him whose life was so eagerly sought. It was the same influence He encountered in the desert of Juda, offering him the world as a reward for yielding to temptation. It was the power that at times represented Him as the associate of transgressors, as the plotter against Rome and the blasphemer of God, and that succeeded in condemning Him to death. It was the power that pursued His followers until nearly all of the prominent ones had been removed from earth.

There is an analogy to this sad chapter of human history in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. From the beginning the powers of darkness exerted themselves against the Prophet, merely because, like Paul, he testified that he had had a vision. Since that day, there has been a conflict. The points of attack against the Church have varied with times and circumstances, but never entirely ceased. This is a strong evidence that the Church is founded by the Almighty. Because it is God's, therefore the arrows of evil are directed against it.

It is well, then, to turn the leaf and look at the other page of the history. It tells us of a Providence overruling the affairs of men and directing all toward one end—the final triumph of that which is planted in righteousness and truth. Even the Cross means victory. The Church of God is invin-