

The Deseret Weekly.

PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50.
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . 1.50.
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, . . . EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . March 1, 1890.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF'S VIEWS.

THE following account of an interview between President Woodruff and an Associated Press reporter, who was in this city a few days ago, is published in the eastern papers:

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 11.—President Woodruff, the head of the Mormon church, today gave to the Associated Press the only statement he has ever made upon the political fight which has just ended here. His interview, which is as follows, can be understood as the feeling of every Mormon in the Territory:

"President Woodruff, I would like to get your views as to the political campaign here and the questions at issue."

"Well, sir, I consider this as something more than a mere question of what men shall compose the city government and what party they belong to. There is a deep-laid scheme to deprive the Mormon people of all political right and privileges so that the minority here may obtain control of the Territory. They cannot do this by fair means, so they resort to foul."

"By misrepresentation and taking advantage of popular prejudice against the Mormon, founded chiefly in ignorance, they succeeded in securing the disfranchisement of the older settlers who made the country, and then of all the women. This not giving these schemers a majority, they have sought other means. The Edmunds-Tucker act has helped them somewhat, but the test oath it provides can be taken by a majority at least as well as by their opponents."

"Now they want every Mormon deprived of the right to vote and hold office, no matter how good and law-abiding a citizen he may be. At the Ogden election a year ago, large numbers of the names of resident voters were stricken from the registration lists, hundreds of non-residents were imported and the election was carried by the Liberals by open fraud, and since then, by fictitious valuation, the assessments of property have been raised from three to five times the former amounts of taxes, vice has flourished, official salaries have been raised. Public improvements have not advanced and the change is deplored by the best people of both parties."

"Boasts were made after the Ogden election, that Salt Lake would be the next point of attack, and that it would be carried by similar means. The result has proved the boast not to have been made in vain."

"I consider the election has been gained here by striking from the registration lists hundreds of legally qualified citizens and by the votes of hordes of new comers not lawful citizens."

"I regard the action of the registrars, their sitting as a court to judge of their own acts, and the whole course pursued, as part of the scheme to capture the city at all hazards. I view it with profound regret as prostitution of law and official power that should sadden every lover of fair play and welfare of his country."

"What effect will this change have upon the Church and the People's Party?"

"Oh, as to that I cannot see that the Church will in any way be affected as an organization. It is entirely separate and apart from political matters; members of the Church belong to the People's Party, and they will naturally feel that they have been robbed of their rights at the polls. But I presume that it will not affect their political views or status."

"The Church was not in that campaign and the result will have no bearing upon it at all that I can see."

"What will be the future policy of the Church?"

"So far as I know, it will be to preach the Gospel to all the world; instruct its members in their religious duties, and move forward to its divinity-ordained destiny as the actual living Church of Christ."

"Is there any probability of the Mormon Church or people removing to Mexico or elsewhere?"

"None that I know of. I do not see any necessity of such removal. Individual members may go where they choose to better their condition, but there is not nor has there been any contemplation of any such exodus as you ask about."

"What is the Mormon idea of its rule as the kingdom of God?"

"It is this: we hold that this Church was set up and organized by command of the Almighty; that it has the right to formulate and maintain rules of church discipline applying to its own members; that the extent of its punitive powers is the excommunication of the transgressor; that it has no power to punish anyone by deprivation of life, liberty or property or personal injury in any form; that governments should not regulate the church, nor the church seek to control the state; that all men should be politically free and equal, free to vote as they please and to sustain what politics they please, so that they do not infringe upon the rights of others."

"We believe this Church will prepare the way for the coming of Christ to reign as King, and that this Church will then develop into the Kingdom of God, which all Christians pray will come; that the will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven. We believe in the full and free agency of man, and that when that kingdom is established there will be perfect liberty on earth, civil, political and religious."

"Then you do not feel gloomy as to the ultimate result of this election?"

"No, I believe taxes will be raised, that there will be such a looseness of restraint imposed upon immorality and such a striking contrast formed under Liberal rule that order, honor, honesty and consistent progress of the city under the People's regime, that as in Ogden, the more respectable people of all classes will soon desire a return to former methods. The plotters against the majority will probably be emboldened to pursue their plans for the destruction of a republican government in the Territory, but I should be sorry to believe that Congress or the country will proceed to such unconstitutional and infamous extremities as those that will be proposed. In any event, there is a Power superior

to all men, who will overrule all things that happen for the good of those who serve Him."

President Woodruff appeared to be in good health and not in the least worried over the result of the election. He is now in his 83rd year and apparently as strong and well preserved as the ordinary man at 50.

THE POLICY OF REWARD.

THE nature of causes is exhibited by their results. This truism will bear an application to an incident that occurred on February 15.

To illustrate it is necessary to go some distance behind it. During the progress of the recent election campaign our esteemed cotemporary the *Herald* intimated that Judge Powers, chairman of the "Liberal" central committee, was laboring for financial reward, it being understood that he was to receive a stated sum providing the opposition should gain the election.

There are a great many besides our cotemporary who believe that the amount of disinterestedness in the political operations of Judge Powers could be thrust into a person's eye without drawing water. Be that as it may, he did not wish that view to exist unopposed in the earlier stage of his operations. So, like a true and honest patriot, he denied the soft impeachment over his own signature. He recoiled with horror at the allegation. He was laboring for the good of the cause that had crept into his expansive bosom and nestled snugly by the spot where his heart is supposed to be located. His manly breast throbbed with sorrow at the bare intimation that he should for pay recognize the running of R. G. W. special trains to the Colorado line to register gangs of workmen that they might come in on free passes and vote for the "Liberals" in the election of a city which many of them had never seen. The idea that he would support the fraudulent swelling of "Liberal" and the illegal diminution of People's registration for a monetary consideration worked on the pure, spotless political soul of the intrepid Michigander; so he denied it.

The incident of Saturday was connected with a banquet given him by his political bedfellows at the Walker House. One of the features of that mutual admiration circumstance was the presentation to Judge Powers of a certified check for \$10,000 as a recognition of his services to the "Liberal" party during the late campaign. Of course, recognition means payment, except