

EDITORIALS.

AN OLD "LIBERAL" TRICK REVIVED.

It is said that "straws show which way the wind blows." Fraud in small things only awaits a chance to become fraud in big things. The "Liberals" have been practising their old tricks. Certain of defeat in a fair contest, they have resorted to foul means to effect their purpose. The opposing tickets are as different in appearance as they are in names. But numbers of the People's Ticket have been handed round to voters today, with the name of the "Liberal" candidate for Recorder neatly pasted over the name of the People's candidate.

This is a contemptible and distinctively "Liberal" dodge. It was designed to deceive. It is fraudulent in its purpose and intent. It is, in spirit, a violation of section 26 of the election laws. It shows what kind of men are scheming to control this county. It warrants every word we have said concerning them during this canvass, and justifies much more. Those who will commit fraud for a purpose in little things, will do so in greater things, according to their opportunities. They are unfit for office, they are unfit to represent any people or party except cheats and a party of fraud.

We do not believe that the conservative "Gentile" element of this city will approve of this vile attempt to obtain votes for one person which were intended for another. The scheme came from "Liberal" tricksters and is a sign of their status and object. It is a bit of the old Tooele leaven. It is of the nature of that villainy which grasped the county by fraud and then nearly bankrupted it by robbery.

Let the people take notice, and let all decent men pause, if they think for a moment that such schemers are worthy of the slightest support or the smallest mite of respect.

LEGISLATIVE POWER OVER CORPORATIONS.

JUDGE BREWER has recently rendered a decision in several railroad cases in Minnesota, which will strike sensible people as being just and clear and likely to be sustained by the highest legal tribunals.

Under the laws of that State the regulation of rates on railroads is placed in the hands of a board of railroad commissioners. The Supreme Court of the State had ruled that their powers were legitimate, that railroads were common carriers, and that their rates for freight, etc., could be regulated by law. The commissioners proceeded as though the railroad corporations had no rights, but that the public had all. The rate for switching loaded cars of grain or flour at Minnesota was \$1.50 per car. Under pressure from the people, the commissioners ordered the rate reduced to \$1 per car. It was proven that the actual cost to the company was \$1.14 per car, and of course the company resisted the order, claiming that no lawful power could compel them to perform service for less than actual cost. The commissioners took the lofty ground that under judicial rulings the powers granted them by the legislature in these matters was unlimited and that the railroad company had nothing to do but submit.

The commissioners had, as they supposed, not only the public sentiment against railroad corporations at their back, but the judicial power, which seems to have been generally used very much in the direction of the popular will. But, to their surprise, Judge Brewer declared such authority as they claimed was unconstitutional and that no legislature could confer it. If they could compel the railroad company to perform service without adequate compensation, they could make the company do so without pay at all. It would be the same as depriving the company of property without compensation; it would be virtual confiscation. It would deprive corporations of those rights guaranteed by the federal constitution to every individual. The arbitrary will of the commissioners could not override the rights of the company.

This goes down to the root of the power of legislatures over corporations. There must be a limit to that power. It needs to be clearly defined. The Supreme Court of the United States will certainly sustain Judge Brewer when the case comes up for adjudication. And the rights of corporations as against the powers of legislation, State and national, must and ought to be clearly defined, established and defended.

CHINA BELLIGERENT.

INTELLIGENCE of some interest comes from Dunedin, New Zealand. It appears that the merchants of that city have been informed by letter from Peking that China does not propose to longer stand the constant snubbing and kicking to which it has been subjected by "perfidious Albion." The late legislation against Chinese im-

migration to the British colonies is looked at as the "last straw." Consequently the celestial empire has resolved to give John Bull the soundest thrashing he has ever had administered to him. Three years are to be devoted to getting ready for the fray. During that time the Chinese army of 13,000,000 is to be put in trim, by being equipped with modern arms and implements of war, and new ships are to be built. Before the terrible day shall be precipitated upon the Britons the Chinese now in the colonies are to return home. The question is, in this connection, during this three year interim, what will Britain be doing? Still an army of 13,000,000, even if they be Chinamen, are not to be sneezed at. It is something new for China to threaten to come outside of herself to whip a powerful nation. She has evidently, providing the dispatch conveys the truth, got the spirit of the times, and adds her might towards swelling the volume of "rumors of war."

POINTEDLY PUT.

This is the way the New York Commercial Advertiser puts the question at issue in the present great political campaign. Pungent paragraphs like this often convey a principle much more forcibly and clearly than whole columns of labored argument. These words are addressed specially to working men:

"When you buy a coat, a hat, a pair of socks, dishes for your table, knives and forks, window glass, salt, lumber, nails, hardware of any kind, tools, implements of husbandry, or any other of the ten thousand manufactured articles that you must have, or any article that has been transported on steel rails, you pay a heavy tax, a small part of which goes into the government treasury, while the rest goes into the pockets of men who grow rich by taxing all the rest of the people. The President and his party propose to reduce or remove those taxes. The republican party until recently proposed the same thing. Now it proposes instead to make the taxes on the common necessities of life still higher, giving the rich monopolists a still larger proportion of what you pay. On which side will you cast your ballot?"

NATURAL GAS.

It would be a great pity if the supply of natural gas should give out, as is predicted by many practical and observing men. The wells in Ohio are said to be even now showing signs of exhaustion, and in other places the flow is much less than at first. It has come into great favor wherever it has been utilized and has given promise of a revolution in many manufactures. It has been used to great advantage in various branches of art, and bids fair to solve the smoke problem in Pittsburgh, which is like another place since its usefulness has been demonstrated in that grimy city. Dependence should not be placed upon it as the sole illuminator in any populous place, and capitalists thinking of investing in it where newly discovered, would do well to pause and learn something definite as to its staying qualities before risking very much in its development. We hope the prognostications as to its failure may turn out to have been without solid foundation.

DEATH OF SHERIDAN.

Of all the diseases which afflict the bodies of men, perhaps none are so treacherous as affections of the heart. The victim of such a malady knows not the day nor the hour when it will suddenly slay him, nor do his attendants know that he is really dead beyond hope of resuscitation, until the chill of the grave creeps over the deserted clay home of the spirit.

The last telegrams given to the public prior to the bulletin which made the abrupt announcement of his death, represented General Sheridan's condition as convalescent, and full of hope; and on the other hand, especially during the early part of his illness, it was several times supposed that the spirit of the great warrior had taken its flight hence forever.

The name of Sheridan is an Irish patronymic, and many a talented and patriotic son of the Emerald Isle has been and honored it. Philip Henry Sheridan was born of Irish parents, in the village of Somerset, Ohio, Mar. 6, 1831. His boyhood days were passed in deep poverty and obscurity, and at the age of twelve years he was employed in a country grocery store at the rate of twenty-four dollars per year. It is related of him that, when but a lad, he was passionately fond of reading military literature, and entertained a warm desire to be a soldier. He continued to be engaged in mercantile pursuits until he had nearly attained his majority, and at the age of seventeen was manager and bookkeeper of a store, and was paid the meager salary of three dollars a week.

He secured an appointment to West Point, and graduated when twenty-two years of age, which was in 1853, and was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry, and assigned to Fort Duncan, on the western boundary of Texas.

In 1855 he was made a first lieutenant and sent to Oregon, where he figured for a time as a successful Indian fighter. In 1861 he eagerly espoused the cause of the Union, was made a captain, and became a staff officer of Major General Curtis in Missouri, holding the position of chief quartermaster. Subsequently he was appointed on the staff of General Halleck, from which time his career, until Lee surrendered, increased rapidly in brilliancy, his successes so far outweighing his misfortunes as to throw the latter into obscurity. An account of his work and victories during the war is a history of many of the leading features and events of that great contest.

Ten years after the close of the war, on June 3, 1875, he married Miss Irene Rucker, daughter of General D. H. Rucker, his old and steadfast friend. On March 4, 1869, he was made Lieutenant General, and on November 1883, on the retirement of General Sherman from the position of Commander-in-Chief of the army, he succeeded to that position. With him the office of "Lieutenant General" expires, he being the last of the three great American generals who have held it during recent years, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. If we are not mistaken, General Schofield is now the ranking general in the army.

Of General Sheridan's illness the following account is given in the Associated Press dispatches:

"The illness which has just resulted in Gen. Sheridan's death commenced on May 12th last immediately after his return from a tour of inspection out west. He complained of feeling unwell and worn out, but came down to his office every day. He was then forced to remain indoors, and on Tuesday, May 22, he had a severe attack of heart failure, which greatly alarmed his family and physicians. On Friday of the week ending May 26 he had several attacks of heart failure, and these increased in violence with each succeeding attack.

Several times during his illness it seemed as if life had become extinct, but by the adoption of radical measures, the action of the heart was stimulated and he was brought around again. His heart at one time ceased to beat for a few seconds, but the extraordinary watchfulness and care of the attending physicians brought him back to consciousness again. New complications set in and hope was well nigh abandoned several times, only to be renewed by the great vitality and determination of the stricken soldier. The history of these relapses and recoveries are familiar to the readers of the daily press. With the approach of warm weather it was decided by his physicians, after several consultations, that the patient must be removed, as he would be unable in his weakened state, to withstand a period of prolonged heat. Accordingly on Saturday, June 30, he was taken to Nonquitt. The General had made his will and all preparations for death, and was ready to face it, though determined that life should not be given up without a severe struggle. He leaves a wife and four small children, three girls and one boy."

Of the personal traits and characteristics of General Sheridan, much of interest might be said, as he was a remarkable personality. He was of small stature, but was built with singular compactness. Physically he somewhat resembled the first Napoleon. He possessed one trait often seen in great fighters, reticence. He was not given to talking, and scarcely a public man can be named, of a prominence anything like equal to his, from whom the public have heard so few words as from him. He was a fine disciplinarian, and an able financier, was devoted to his wife and children, but seems never to have figured in or admired the role of a society soldier. He was indeed a fighting rather than a parlor general. Yet he was graceful in manner, and courteous in his bearing towards all with whom he came in contact.

He was one of the mighty spirits whose strength was developed and displayed during the great struggle in which he took so brilliant a part. His rise from the depths of poverty and obscurity in which he passed his early years, to the exalted and glorious position he held when he died, comprises a career fraught with a romantic interest rarely exceeded in real life, and displaying wonderful traits of personal courage and merit.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

Now that the struggle is over and the smoke of battle is clearing away, let us take a calm survey of the ground and the issue. The "Liberal" faction, which has made the disturbance, knew from the start, that in a fair contest for the county offices the People's Party were sure of victory. The plan was therefore prepared to capture, if possible, one or two of the offices by any means that could be invented or adopted, so as to make a break into the ranks of the majority and thus give encouragement to "Liberal" hopes for the future.

The Recordship was settled upon as the point of attack, for three reasons. First, it was looked upon as a lucrative position. Second, there had been some complaints against the incumbent, who was a candidate for re-election.

Third, there were two or three nominees for the place at the People's Party convention, and it was hoped that friends of the unsuccessful nominees would do some scratching and, perhaps, in their chagrin, vote for the opposition candidate.

The objections against the Recorder were magnified and harped upon and made to appear great and widespread. Many untruths were told and many fallacious arguments were used, and these were put in such a way as to catch minds not very logical and persons rather excitable. Examined in the light of truth and viewed with calm judgment, they amount to very little. They are chiefly urged by real estate dealers who were hampered in their speculations during the blighted "boom," and chatty people who think it smart to find fault.

But there are a few individuals who give something like substantial reasons for complaint. They say mistakes have been made in abstracts, there was too much delay in work during the rush, and then the charges were too high. Investigation shows very few errors in all the business that has been done. Perfection is not of this world and mistakes will sometimes be made in the best regulated offices. The Recorder and his bondsmen are responsible parties and any loss that may occur through haste and inaccuracy is recoverable. But we believe that fair and impartial inquiry will show there has been as little ground for grumbling on this score as in any office with a similar amount of business in the county.

The pressure of applications during the real estate excitement occasioned delay in getting out abstracts, no doubt. It could not be otherwise. There is only one set of books. The Recorder was responsible for errors. He had to examine the work done by his employees. He worked night and day for a long time, and did his best to meet the unwonted demand. He engaged as much help as there was room to employ in the quarters at his disposal. It is objected that they were young people. It is but a short time since there was a cry that the young folks should have a chance, that the older men should retire and let younger ones come to the front. Some people will never be satisfied. It is so easy to say what ought to have been done when the trouble is over. Perhaps if half a dozen skilled hands could have been obtained to assist during the now burst "boom," there might have been less delay. But how many experts of that kind were hunting employment at that time? A number of young men and women, some of them University students—not "children" however—were pressed into clerical service, and the Recorder, who was personally responsible for the abstracts, personally supervised the work. These are the facts; the rumormongers raised about it is mostly folly and fiction.

As to charges for abstracts, it will be found on fair inquiry that there are fixed fees for all work done in the Recorder's office. People not familiar with the records can form no idea, from an abstract, of the labor performed in tracing up titles. It is not simply for writing out the abstract that fees are charged, but for searching the records in order to show the chain of transfers and to see if there are any mortgages or other encumbrances on the property. Fees of recorders as well as other county officers are regulated by law. A change of Recorders would not necessarily make a change in charges for work. If there has been any extortion the matter can soon be rectified. We do not believe any such objection can be sustained.

Now as to the talk about offices "for life," by "inheritance," etc. Let us see how much cause there is for it in this case. George M. Cannon was first elected in 1884. The term was four years. This is, then, his second term. Is there any rule that a man must only serve the public for one term? What sort of encouragement would that be to a young man or an old man? How many competent and able men would be willing to serve the public, with the certainty that no matter how faithful and diligent they might be, the end of the term would be the end of their employment?

In England it has been found that the safest and best principle, in the employment of public servants, is that which governs in private business, viz., continuance in office during good behavior, or while it is for the interest of the employers. In this country the limitation of terms of office places it within the power of the employers—the people, to make a change whenever it is for the public welfare to do so. That is all right. But to oust a faithful and efficient public servant at the end of one term of office, on the stupid idea that there must be a change, is not good political economy or in accordance with common business principles. In this case there is no consistency in objecting to a second term for the Recordship, when all the candidates for the other offices are for a second term, with the exception of the Selectman, and he has just served a full term for the Probate Judgeship, and served it well, as we believe all the incumbents have done in their respective positions.

There has been much comment on the fact that the present Recorder succeeded his father, who also served two terms, and two only. The young man became familiar with the Recorder's work by employment as clerk in the office. He was adapted for the position by that training. Was it a fatal

objection that his father had held the office before him? Is it to be understood that no young man can be elected to an office previously held by his father? Is a family name to be a barrier to advancement or public service? We go as far as anyone in objecting to the policy of putting any man in position simply because he is some prominent man's son, brother, cousin or other relative. Nepotism is an evil that ought not to be permitted to grow in this or any other community. But let us be careful that in opposing nepotism we do not fall into the opposite extreme, and act upon the false and inconsistent notion, that no young man must be engaged in the public service who is related to an office-holder or one occupying any prominent place.

Fitness should be the qualification for offices, to the gift of the people. And when a public officer fills his post to the public satisfaction, he should be continued in it while such continuance is for the public good, and no foreign outcry or false issue should be allowed to sway the voters in whose hands rests the power to decide.

It was represented that there was a general feeling of opposition to the Recorder. That this was untrue is now made clear. In the convention the matter was discussed and other candidates were brought forward, who each received some votes. George M. Cannon received the majority and became the People's candidate. He is elected by a large majority over the "Liberal" candidate in whose behalf a tremendous effort was made, and to secure whose election several very disreputable tricks were resorted to by his pretended friends, we are glad to hear entirely without his endorsement. Even in the city precincts where it was said the "Liberal" nominee was sure to run ahead, Mr. Cannon has majority of over a hundred and fifty votes. He would no doubt have received many more but for the cheat, resorted to by the "Liberals," of pasting Kimball's name over Cannon's on the People's ticket, to deceive unwary voters.

Several People's Party citizens, too, were prevented from voting after being properly registered, by the obstructive tactics of some "Liberal" challengers and the action of some of the judges, who required the production of naturalization papers in a number of instances. Those who did not have time to hunt up their papers, or who had mislaid them, were thus cheated out of their privilege of voting.

But the People's Ticket has been elected for all the county offices, and all the noise and sophistry and falsehood and trickery of those who are so anxious to control the affairs of the county and the Territory have been in vain.

We have taken up this matter of the Recordship that sensible people may see how little there is of fact and reason at the bottom of all the bother and fuss that has been made about it. If a change is advisable in any office in the gift of the people there is a proper way to make it. In the primaries and the conventions such matters should be fairly, freely and carefully discussed. Then when a ticket is decided upon, all hands should be joined to elect it. Aspirants for office do not find much favor in the People's Party. We hope they never will. Whenever a man begins to run down another with the view of gaining support for himself, he commences to dig the ground from under his own feet.

Let us be consistent. Let us be wise. Let us be united. And remember this: It is neither wise nor consistent nor safe to echo the cries of an opposing party, or to divide on any issue or any person when by disunion withholding support or scratching a nominee of our own party, we are simply giving aid and comfort to the enemy. No man will gain, even in his own estimation, by committing political treason.

SPELLING REFORM.

THE National Educational Association has been in session at San Francisco. The exercises and plans have been published under the title of "Program for the Week." This mode of spelling the word programme is a meagre concession to the movement for spelling reform, which has struggled without making much progress for many years. There is no literary reason why "program" should not come into general use, as telegram, monogram and similar words have been adopted.

In spite of all that has been urged by philologists about the necessity of preserving the present irrational orthography in order to trace words to their root origin, common sense says that there are many changes which might be made in spelling that would be a vast improvement. We get along just as well in America by leaving out a u in colour, saviour, etc., as English writers do by retaining it. So with the single l in words that still keep the l in Great Britain.

There are many final vowels to words which are entirely useless and that might be dropped to advantage, and it would not be long before the old-fashioned and stupid style would look as peculiar as the words do now, with the unnecessary final letter omitted. There have been many radical changes in English orthography.