

the world, since, as a matter of fact, works of that kind deal with no trivial subjects. It is a testimony to the importance of the Church, of a similar nature as that of the cartoons or the humoristic press relative to their subjects. But for all that, people who suppose they are legitimately earning money by publicly exposing to ridicule subjects that should be sacred, will some day find out that they are mistaken.

#### CHURCH AND STATE.

Our readers have been informed of a re-convened convention of the Democratic party, to be held in Salt Lake Theater on Tuesday, October 22. It has been held, and has adopted a lengthy declaration and address, the burden of which is that there must be absolute non-interference by the church in the affairs of the State. The expectations of the party managers as to the enthusiasm and unanimity of the delegates would appear to have been realized; and it is sincerely to be hoped that good and not harm will come from it to the Territory at large and all its people.

If it takes the declaration of an adjourned convention to substantiate and reiterate that Church and State are separate in Utah, the meeting yesterday will not be without benefit. If the solemn assertions of the leaders of the "dominant Church;" and if the article in the recently framed State Constitution; and if the planks in the platforms of both the leading parties—all these, we say, have not yet convinced the politicians of every stripe and creed that no domination of civil affairs by the Church is to be desired or attempted in Utah, and if the addresses of political conventions or meetings are necessary as a climax and cap-stone and finishing touch to all the rest, then conventions and meetings will, we presume, be in order at any time.

The NEWS gives the substance of the address or declaration adopted by yesterday's convention. In connection therewith we are gratified to be able, and feel it a duty, to reiterate upon honor and in all sincerity that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not desire the political serfdom or subserviency of its members. Its leaders have not received one step from the position they took when division on party lines occurred and when their letter which is referred to, was written. They exercise no unrighteous dominion over, and do not seek to restrain, any man in his political rights; nor do they justify or sustain any lesser authority in such efforts. This is as positive, as plain, and as true as language can make it. At the same time they have the rights as individuals which they accord to others. They have their own honor and manhood to defend and maintain. They cannot be denied the right of condemning and resisting improper attacks upon their acts or their motives. And in their official positions they have responsibilities to carry and duties to perform with reference to the flock over which they preside that no other man is entitled to belittle or impugn, since in these respects they are answerable only to their God.

We have no wish to add to the complexities or problems of this or any other political campaign; rather would we seek to remove every disturbing element that would lead to injustice, recrimination and bitterness on any side. But we cannot in silence permit misconstruction of either acts or utterances of the leaders of the Church to work injury to that Church. This has been done by ill-advised persons on both sides of the dividing line. Many on either side have been only too willing to make use of any ecclesiastical or church influence that seemed suitable to their purpose. The result is that first one side and then the other would be wanting explanations, or renewed assurances; and it has even been held to their blame that the Church authorities have not on every occasion come forth with disclaimers and denials. I solemn politicians have deliberately placed these honored men in a false position by distorting their utterances, misquoting their names and private correspondence, or misstating their acts, other scheming politicians have been too ready to pass by the real offenders and assail the Church authorities. We want the blame placed where it belongs. This has not been done in the past, and this has led to all the trouble—that is, all the trouble there is. If both parties as organizations, and all their honorable leaders, will do as much to promote purity in elections and the true independence of the citizens as the Church has done and is willing to do, Utah will be a model and not a hotbed for politics.

#### A TELEPHONE NEWSPAPER.

Electricity is driving out the horse, and is a strong competitor of steam, in the affairs of mankind. Is it also going to supplant the printing press? "Look to Backward," that strange, idealistic creation of Edward Bellamy, hinted at the distribution of the news of the day by telephones instead of newspapers; and that this was not extravagantly fanciful is shown by recent news from Hungary, where it is really an accomplished fact. Various electrical journals last month had accounts of the arrangements now perfected and in operation in the Hungarian capital. The story reads enough like Jules Verne's work to be interesting, besides which it is absolutely true. The practical idea of diffusing unwritten news, it appears, was originated by the Hungarian, Theodor Albert Puskas, and the Telephone Herald has now been working successfully for over two years. The 6,000 subscribers are served by one wire, measuring 168 miles in length, and running along the windows of the subscribers. Each subscriber forms a station, and a separate line is connected with each station by means of a special apparatus, so that the main line is not affected if there is a block at one of the stations. The bulletins are carefully edited and arranged in an orderly program. The staff is on duty from 7:30 in the morning until 9:30 in the evening, during which time twenty-eight editions are spoken into the transmitter. Ten men with strong voices and clear articulations act as

speakers, and take their turn in shifts of two at a time. One of these speaks a series of items, but for no longer than eight or ten minutes, and every new item is introduced by the word "new." Toward evening, when news is growing scarcer, the subscribers are entertained with vocal and instrumental concerts. Connection has been made with the opera house and music halls, so that operas, as well as concerts, given in different parts of the town, are transmitted to the subscribers, who are often lulled to sleep by the strains of some favorite melody. The same arrangement has been made with the principal churches for Sundays and saints' days, especially for the Easter festival. The Budapest concerts are sometimes listened to throughout the whole dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary and even beyond its borders. Other features of the evening news service are original literary articles or essays, often spoken into the telephone by their authors and thus heard in their own voice. The cost is only two cents a day, the wire and apparatus being installed free, providing the subscriber binds himself for one year. The company started with a capital of \$120,000, but has now invested \$200,000. Before any news is imparted, instead of "hello," a shrill, trumpet-like blast is sent through the circuit, which is said to be audible in the whole room of a subscriber.

#### LAKES DRYING UP.

Referring again to a subject treated in these columns a week or two ago, we note that the St. Paul Pioneer Press has now completed the publication of a series of reports from the various counties of Minnesota and North and South Dakota on the disappearance of the lakes and smaller streams in those states. From the reports it appears that the water system in all the states mentioned is gradually drying up. Minnesota, at one time, had something like seven thousand bodies of water, while many of these now have entirely vanished, and farms and fields occupy their former sites. Others have diminished in volume and are slowly disappearing.

The Pioneer Press finds nothing to cause a change in the belief that the chief reason for this fact is that the breaking up of the soil for farming purposes has had the effect of cutting off the natural drainage, the water being absorbed by the sandy loam. For the smaller and shallower lakes the disappearance is supposed to be permanent, while the larger lakes may probably gradually be filled up again.

Commenting on this subject, the Peoria Journal calls attention to the fact that no such heated and rainless period from the middle of August has been experienced in this country before. The magnificent floating palaces that once plowed the Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi rivers are giving way for a class of boats that hardly draw two feet of water, and even these cannot find depth enough at all times of the year. The reports of the department of agriculture show that all water supplies in the New England states are exceptionally low. The