

# THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY,

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$9.50

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50

IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . January 9, 1892.

## POINTERS FOR THE COMING ELECTION

SEVERAL ministers on Sunday took up the subject of local politics. They did this in a perfectly legitimate manner. That is, they did not espouse any party cause, or intrude their personal proclivities into the domain of religion, but they discussed the effects of certain political influences upon the morals and general welfare of this city. That we may not be open to the charge of any bias in this matter, we make extracts from their utterances as reported in the "Liberal" organ.

Rev. R. G. McNiece, in his discourse, argued that, "the individual is largely moulded by his surroundings," that "if a child is raised amid good surroundings he will grow up a good man," and that therefore we should "give our children a chance to begin life here under circumstances that will tend to make them noble-hearted." And "If we fail to remove the demoralizing element, God will justly condemn us as unworthy the trust he gave us." He said further:

"In a little over a month from now the city administration will be changed, and if the Christian people act wisely and faithfully, they can do much towards reformation. Things have not gone right in our city for the past two years, looking from a moral standpoint. Our city is getting a bad name throughout the land. We have not had the protection from lawlessness to which we were entitled. A number of our citizens have been waylaid and robbed on the streets of our city, while no criminal has been punished for it. It must be conceded that this is a terrible reflection upon those whose business it is to see that the laws are enforced. Some time ago a prominent business man told me that he was afraid to go out on the streets after dark. There has been no improvements in the morals of the city for the past twenty years. When the city came into American hands we had a right to expect that our rights would be looked after; but we did not experience any relief.

"We have about one hundred saloons here, some of them fitted up like palaces, whose main business is to corrupt the morals of men.

"The gambling dens are one of the worst features of the city. A thoughtful man tells me that any evening one can see from 100 to 150 young men in a certain gambling house in this city. The enforcement of the laws against these and the other evils is a sad and shameful farce.

"A member of the church told me a few weeks ago that he tried for two months to have the city authorities close up a disreputable house in his neighborhood, but

they paid no attention to him until he threatened to call upon the United States Marshal.

"I am told that there was a list of twenty-two disreputable houses, names and locations placed in the hands of those whose duty it was to report them to the grand jury, but they did not do this, and even went out of their way to cast reproach and slander upon a much respected, honorable, and conscientious man, because of a slight error in keeping his accounts.

"The way to proceed to close the saloons and gambling houses is not to vote for a man who drinks and gambles."

The gentleman might have stated, if he had not desired to make his remarks as easy as possible, that not only had there been no "improvement" over the former condition of affairs, but, as he admitted on a previous public occasion, there has never been anything like the deplorable immorality and lawlessness that have prevailed since what he calls "American hands" took the reins of municipal government?

Rev. J. B. Thrall touched the subject gingerly. He thought our City Council "above the average," but added:

"Men have been put in positions for political reward, where they have been under the control of the very evils they were to suppress.

"This is a grave mistake and must be corrected at whatever cost, and sometimes it costs the dissolution of the party which adopts such a policy. There is coming another election. I am one who believes in parties as something necessary to carry on elections. I am not one who bolts every time I see something in my party I do not like. I see things in the other party I do not like, so why jump from the frying-pan into the fire?

"But there comes certain times when a man must stand by his principles, cost what it may. This brings us down to the responsibility of the individual in political action.

"I do not like those politicians who are agreeing with your right principles and virtuous theories but are opposed to you when you try to put those theories into practice."

If "Christian" people stand by their principles, how can they support a party that depends upon the very elements that constitute or foster the evils complained of? How can they train with and under those politicians who thus talk "virtuous theories" when it suits their purpose but are opposed to them in actual practice?

Rev. Mr. Clay showed the powers of government as instituted of God for the good of mankind, but said:

"These powers are to protect the people in the enjoyment of all of their privileges as men and citizens. They are to be a terror to evil-doers. Never did God expect rulers to go hand in hand with the lawless elements of a community. No provision is made in God's word for bribery and corruption. It is always condemned. Rulers transcend all rights conferred either by God or man when they tolerate vile dens and occasionally mulct them in fines, and then allow them to continue in their iniquitous course. This makes the rulers as guilty of crime as the actual criminals. We elect men to enforce laws, not to evade or overthrow them.

"But we are part of the Government, hence we are responsible for its right or

wrong doing. It is therefore a question of greater concern to us than if we lived under some other form.

"Among the many difficulties in our way may be enumerated the following: Party spirit, the spoils system, the fear of the rule of our opponents, the rule of bosses and saloons. Too many men are in office for what they can make out of the office. The spoils are kept in sight. Men seek office on this account. It is not true, it never has been true, nor will it ever be true, that the country or city will be ruined if our opponents rule it. Yet this is the song of the demagogue. It is a doleful tune to sing; it is false, no matter who is governed by it. Our greatest danger is from the bosses. These men, who cut out work for the primaries in the saloons, are the ones who rob the people of their votes. Saloons ought not to control municipal affairs. Our duty is to vote for good men and not for party. No other way to be free. This insures good officers. The professing Christians in Salt Lake can elect good men if they want them, but they must maintain their independence, do right, and fear not."

These are the utterances of preachers who have heretofore helped the so-called "Liberal" cause. Their denunciations strike home to that faction. Let the decent people of Salt Lake City pay attention to them. While it is true that the community will not be ruined because "the other party" whichever it may be, has gained political control, yet it cannot be fairly disputed that a faction dependent upon the very worst elements of society for its support cannot be expected to raise its moral tone or render it all that "Christian" people desire it to be.

An election is approaching and every respectable member of society, whether he be religiously inclined or not, should see to it that such men are elected to municipal office as will not be under the control of those political bosses who are in league with the liquor, gambling and social evil elements, and to whose influence the present deplorable condition of our city is directly traceable. Pure government can only come from pure men. A change is most desirable and we hope that the people will see to it next February that the change shall be of the necessary character.

## THE COLORADO UTES.

It looks as though Colorado will accomplish its purpose in foisting the Utes upon this Territory. Senator Wolcott's bill has this object in view, and as Utah is only a sort of appendage to the nation and has no influence in national affairs, a powerful State has all the odds in its favor in a controversy with this Territory.

Delegate Caine did all in his power to prevent the movement when it was first mooted, and succeeded in staving it off during the efforts made in the