

and so it will be interesting to note just what the Mormon Elders will do and how they will do it."

These two editorial paragraphs appeared in the Home News of Dec. 16th:

"The New York Tribune, commenting on the heading, 'Mormonism in our Midst,' advises that a physician be called. The suggestion is probably what induced Elder Whitaker, the first evangelist of what he calls 'the Church of Christ, or Latter-day Saints,' to call to his aid in this city several other Elders. Mr. Whitaker has been here for one week, but he has held no meetings, though he is calling upon prominent citizens with a view of getting a fair hearing, and with the understanding that polygamy shall not be advocated, that tenant of the Mormon Church having long ago been abrogated by proclamation of the head of the Mormon denomination, in accordance with a "revelation" from Heaven. The Mormon evangelists are not likely to get a foothold here, as we already have every brand of politics and religion. The field is pre-empted."

"An effort is to be made in this city by a missionary of the Church of Latter-day Saints to establish a footing for that religion. The prophet who comes to preach this new gospel will not seek to preach polygamy, for he says that that principle of the Mormon faith is now but slightly adhered to, but will show the beauties of his creed as preferable to that of any other. The Elder from Salt Lake cannot expect an enthusiastic reception in New Brunswick, a center of the Dutch Reformed church, of collegiate culture, and a place where every well-established denomination of the church has a zealous following. He may not well hope to find recruits among the pious-minded; the indifferent say they have all the varieties now they could wish to choose from, and the wholly frivolous and non-believing will find no undiscovered joys in the new faith."

Probably these newspaper utterances represent fairly well the prevailing sentiment. While unfavorable they are not bitter. In his letter Elder Whitaker says that some of the ministers in the town have warned their flocks against the Elders and that the latter were soon to commence systematic "tracting" but the results must be awaited.

#### A COLORADO EDITOR'S VIEWS.

The Mesa County Mail is published at Fruita, a western Colorado town, by Wagner Brothers. Its issue of the 22nd inst. contains editorial correspondence written from this city. The writer shows a spirit of fairness that used to be rare on the part of newspaper men in treating of the Mormons, but which, happily, is becoming quite prevalent among the fraternity during recent years. A portion of the article is subjoined:

"Anything that has stood the test of persecution grows and strengthens under it, is entitled to permanence, and gets it, as a rule. More than fifty years of wonderful growth, struggling against persecution from without and apostasy and false teaching from within, surely entitles the Mormons and their works and institutions to candid and careful consideration before condemning them."

"The pioneers of Utah, nearly all of them Mormons, came here when the country was desert and wilderness. They have made it blossom and bear fruit. Where the savage Indian and the wild beast then held undisputed sway, we now find a civilization that is as high, yes higher averaging all its units, than that of the New England states. Art and literature and

music are cultivated here to an extent unknown even in Boston. More people take an active interest in intellectually building up themselves and their fellow members of society, than in Massachusetts where all Utah people are supposed to be Mormons and Mormons are looked upon as barbarians."

"Here, too, there are fewer people suffering from lack of the necessities of life than there are in the 'highly civilized' East. Careful inquiry develops the strange fact that few, so few as to be exceptional, of those needing assistance, are Mormons. A Mormon Bishop said the other day that 'if people were all Mormons, and practiced their preachings, poverty would be unknown.' True it is that these people own their homes; very few of them being renters. They very seldom mortgage their property, thus showing wisdom it would be well for many Gentiles to heed. The great properties and institutions built up and owned by the Church are never mortgaged. When the people need a school or an assembly hall they all work together and build it."

"Utah is more nearly self-sustaining and independent than any in the sisterhood of states. Manufactures of all kinds are in operation. Loyal citizens of the State take special delight in patronizing home industry, many of them when buying anything inquire whether it is manufactured at home or abroad. This is something in which we would like to see Colorado follow the example set by Utah. Nothing will build up a community or state faster, and make her institutions more prosperous than this principle put into practice. H. C. W."

"Salt Lake City, Jan. 20, 1898."

#### UNHEALTHY SYMPTOMS.

The constant recurrence of questions propounded by county officers to the attorney general, in relation to the limit of indebtedness beyond which the county cannot legally go, and in relation to liabilities that are in dispute because it is not clear whether or not they are within that limit, constitutes an unhealthy symptom of the body politic of the commonwealth. The struggles that the city councils in many of the larger incorporated towns of the State are having over the same class of problems, shows that the disease has permeated cities as well as counties, in a municipal capacity. The anxious inquiry is, how much bigger can we make the burden the people have to carry? And the burden is made as big as the limit, and some times a little more so.

The subterfuges and stratagems and juggling with figures that have to be resorted to in order to give an outward appearance of legality to county and city warrants, is disgraceful; and the number of municipalities, including both cities and counties, that have been practicing such methods, is surprising. It is fast becoming the exception rather than the rule for municipalities in this State to live within their legitimate incomes. A mania for issuing bonds seems to prevail, while the old-fashioned custom of cutting the garment according to the cloth is looked upon with disdain, and a public officer who urges it is called a moss-back and his first term in office is likely to be his last.

There is another unhealthy symptom widely prevalent in this State, which can better be perceived under the light of a contrast with former conditions than otherwise. A few years ago the appointment of a postmaster, particularly in a small place, excited little or no interest or comment. The appointee accepted the office more as an

accommodation to his neighbors than an honor or source of profit to himself. Such a thing was rarely or never witnessed as wire-pulling or log-rolling for the purpose of securing such an office as justice of the peace, constable, road supervisor, etc. But since Mr. McKinley became President, every little one-horse, ten cent postoffice in the State has become an object of envious and jealous strife. Men who, a few years ago could not have been prevailed upon to accept the office of postmaster, now "wire-pull" and "log-roll" to get it, as if it were a Klondike placer. There is no less rivalry over such offices as justice of the peace, constable and road supervisor; while the honor of being elevated to the position of town dog pelter is the inspiring ambition of many a stout yeoman. Petitions without number are sent in to boards of county commissioners and city councils, and other sources of appointive power, asking for places of one kind or another. A man will often strive hard to secure an official position that will not pay nearly as good a salary as he could earn in private life. Public pay has come to have an astonishing charm for hosts of men in our youthful State, and it is a bad sign.

Some people may not have made the discovery, but the public debt symptom and the office seeking symptom grow out of the same disease, and are pretty sure to go together. Perhaps it would be better to say, that the latter causes the former. When the man seeks the office the public purse is not likely to receive such protection as when the office seeks the man.

Existing conditions are radically at variance with the old-time training and public opinion of the people of Utah, and there should be a return to first principles. In old times in Utah the petty office-seeker was regarded by his neighbors with sentiments akin to contempt, and it would be a good thing to revive, at least to some extent, that kind of a public opinion. Give the small postoffices to the women. Take some good old man who is not strong enough to do hard work but possesses sound sense, and let him be justice of the peace. The office of constable is well adapted to some brawny fellow who is too lazy to do hard work, but an American citizen with lofty aspirations should and will aim for something higher. Frown down this petty place-hunting!

When the people of this State make up their minds that business principles are more vital to their welfare than partisan advantage, and will fix it so that the office will seek the man, and that the man who seeks the office will be turned down, their municipal burdens will be lighter, and a higher standard of public morality and manly dignity will prevail.

#### CALIFORNIA'S CELEBRATION.

Today, Jan. 24, is witnessing the opening scenes and ceremonies of a magnificent celebration, by the state of California, of her Golden Jubilee. It is eminently proper that the anniversary should be gloriously signalized; that the hands should play, that the orators should charm the multitude, and that red and golden lights should illuminate the sky. It is fifty years ago today that Marshall found the bits of metal that set the world aflame, and drew, as if by magic, a population great enough to found an empire.

Let the celebration be worthy the event it commemorates. All Utah is in sympathy with it, for she harks in its reflected glory, because some of her founders uncovered the gold that made California what she is today. No power on earth can deprive Utah of a share in the honor which flows from those