

"are," in order that the individual states would always be spoken of and thus kept in mind. But let the student of history contemplate the sequel. Let him give thought to what such a state of affairs brought about. It made some of the states arrogant, others aggressive, others sullen and all insecure. Those that had adopted slavery as a feature of their social and political fabric realizing how strongly they were entrenched in the defense of that system, not only tempted fate many times before its blow fell upon them, but in their blind fanaticism and unreasoning insolence sought to carry the curse beyond their own domain and plant it in the new states where the climate, conditions and sentiment were all against it. One friction led to another, until finally the slavery section, wild if not mad in its fancied severity, demanded of its active supporters in the other sections that they abjectly surrender in order that the President might come from and be a representative of the dissonants. The demand was refused and the latter split the party with which they were acting by making separate nominations distinctly representative of the slaveholding section. The result was more than foreshadowed, it was designed and carried out. The conflicting elements could no longer even live together, and the looseness of our national structure made possible if it did not invite the great struggle which followed. It was a struggle to determine whether the Union was to be maintained in its entirety, or whether any portion of it could at will withdraw and maintain a separate establishment. The slavery question was the immediate agency by which the conflict was brought about, because but for that the question of state's rights could not have been brought up to the extreme phase which made a collision inevitable. The great President Abraham Lincoln, before the struggle began, gave voice to the prevailing sentiment of the Unionists when he said that the nation could not exist half free and half slave. This meant that slavery must be abolished by one means or another, and the war to preserve the national structure in its entirety became the means. Slavery, through state's rights, brought on the war, and the war freeing the slaves preserved the Union and demolished so much of exclusive state sovereignty as impaired the solidity and threatened the perpetuity of the structure as a whole.

To sum up: The looseness which characterized the federal fabric by reason of giving undue prominence to the entitles has been completely remedied by leaving the sovereignty of each portion unimpaired, but substituting for the right to secede the higher and better right to be on terms of equality with each and every other portion. That is, "a better Union," to quote from the preamble to the old Constitution, has been established and will be maintained, a Union that while not effacing any of its parts, does not permit any or all of them to efface it. "E pluribus unum"—out of money, one—has been realized unto us as one of the results of our fought-out misunderstanding. In other words, the states "are" and the nation "is."

"CONTINUED SILENCE."

"There is continued silence on the part of the Deseret News on the part of Mr. Roberts' candidacy and his alleged moral influences for the place. The attention of the 'News' is called to this matter because that independent newspaper is the official journal of the Latter-day Saints. As the organ of this people, the 'News' should place before them what it will mean if Mr. Roberts is elected."—Springville Independent.

Undoubtedly there is "continued silence" on the part of the "News" regarding the subject spoken of and will continue to be silent until something different from what has yet taken place makes it necessary for us to speak. It will, it is hoped, not be lost sight of that even now this paper is replying to nothing said regarding the qualifications or disqualifications of any candidate, but simply to the impudence of the imputation that the "News" can and ought to, but for occult reasons will not, clear up the situation for the politicians.

It ought to be known, and we believe is known, that this paper is seeking neither to advance nor retard the political fortunes of any candidate for office, high or low. It took no part in compassing or opposing the nomination of any person whosoever. Neither is the implication that as the organ of the Church the "News" should make some political showing possessed of any measure of force or aptness, but it does disclose a most woeeful lack of judgment on the part of the one who uses it. The "News" is minding its own business, true to one great principle of Mormonism. It has no quarrel with any political party as such, although it sometimes becomes necessary to point out the inconsistency, to say nothing worse, of the efforts made to shift the responsibility for the eventual outcome of the election over to the shoulders of a religious denomination, after the members in good faith have divided on party lines.

THE COAL COMBINE.

The price at which coal of all kinds is sold in this city has been a subject of considerable animadversion in times past and is a crying evil yet. The figures are too high, as has been demonstrated at various times and in divers ways. One of the evidences is the profits which result from the traffic as compared with the amounts invested and the risks run, the latter being so nearly nothing as not to require special mention. Another is an occasion such as that of a few days ago, which comes along once in a great while but does not stay long enough to be diffusive of general good to the community—a war between the rival dealers. When this takes place we enjoy the spectacle of a reduction of from ten to forty per cent in prices and still the business goes on and undoubtedly makes something or it would not be run at all. If money can be made with coal sold at, say, 25 per cent off the present figures, it follows that consumers are being robbed of just that amount, that is, 25 cents out of every dollar paid. In order that this kind of thing may be maintained and prices kept up to the high profit mark, a truce is suddenly reached, difficulties are brushed aside and the competition which alone gives the people practical protection is dissipated.

We say "practical protection" advisedly. There is a law on the subject, which was framed to meet just such cases, but if it has ever been enforced we are not advised of it. That is, buyers have the benefit of a statutory regulation which cannot enforce itself and might as well have no existence at all for all the good it does. Its provisions are sufficient too. It is aimed at combinations of or agreements between persons having for their object the controlling of prices of any article of commerce and makes violation of its provisions a felony, severely punishable. Section 2 of the law is quite sweeping, which is here quoted in full for the benefit of all concerned:

"Sec. 2. If any person or association of persons shall create, enter into, become a member of, or a party to, any pool, trust, agreement, combination,

confederation or understanding with any other person or persons, to regulate or fix the price of any article of merchandise or commodity, or shall enter into, become a member of, or a party to, any pool, trust, agreement, contract, combination or confederation to fix or limit the amount or quantity of any article, commodity or merchandise to be manufactured, mined, produced or sold in this State, such person or persons, shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of a conspiracy to defraud, and be subject to punishment as hereinafter provided."

There need be no mistaking the meaning of that language. It is designed to promote free competition in necessary articles of every day use, one of which is coal. For the dealers in that article to make an agreement with each other by the terms of which prices are arbitrarily held up to a schedule designed and carried out by themselves, is simply a violation of the spirit if not the letter of that law, and why it can be ignored while others are enforced is and will probably remain an unanswered question.

This is the way Sam Small puts it:

"In the Grand Order of Drunkards there are degrees, just as in other fraternal organizations. In this one there are four—the sheep degree, the monkey degree, the lion degree and the hog degree. In the sheep degree you get the wool pulled over your eyes. Next comes the monkey stage. Maybe some of you can remember when you were taking the monkey degree. At that stage a fellow can tell more funny stories and sing more funny songs than anybody else in the crowd. At the next stage, the lion degree, he wants to fight. He is ready to fight anybody and everybody. And the last degree in the grand order is the hog degree. That is where the member wallows in the gutter."

The "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" consist of 115 volumes, published at an expense of \$2,585,462, or about \$3 a page, says an exchange. There are still about fifteen or twenty volumes to be added to the work, which was commenced in 1874. The well paid historians have recently been officially told that they cannot indefinitely postpone the completion of the work nor spend money on persons not actually necessary.

This, from the New York World, states the case forcibly to say the least of it: "It is in Illinois and near the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, that negroes have been shot down for the crime of seeking what Lincoln called 'the right to labor and to enjoy the fruits of their labor.' Truly the whirligig of time brings in strange revenges!"

Those who wish to send the boys at Manila any little Christmas presents or delicacies have now an opportunity. By paying the freight or expressage on them to San Francisco, the government will then take charge and deliver the articles free to the consignees. Don't forget the boys; it begins to look as if they would be a long time away from home, and little keepsakes and dainties will be highly prized.

The big mountain in Alaska, seen this summer by the Edbridge Geological survey, is said to be the highest mountain in the world. It was discovered in 1896 by W. A. Dickey of Seattle and Mr. Monks of Boston. The discoverers have named the mountain McKinley, and the Indians call it "Big Man," which a cotemporary thinks is really the same name.