

it is our intention to have the five acre lots next to the city, to accommodate the mechanics and artisans; the ten acre lots next, to be for the smaller description of farmers; the twenty acre lots join in succession, followed by the forty and eighty acre lots, which will be farthest from the city and where farmers will build and dwell, and all these different varieties will be enclosed in one common fence, which will be seventeen miles and fifty-three rods long, and eight feet high. And to the end that every man may be satisfied with his lot, and put away hardness that may occur by any other method of dividing the land, we have proposed that it shall all be done by ballot, or casting lots as in the days of old, it was judged expedient among Israel."

This, in short, is the primitive history of the Big Field of Salt Lake City. There were no corner lots for the speculator in this arrangement. Everything about it bespoke order, equity and equality. There are some of the original occupiers still on these lots, but the vast majority of them have changed hands many times since the first drawing took place.

The Epistle is dated from Great Salt Lake City, Oct. 9, 1848, and signed Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Thomas Bullock, clerk.

OGDEN POLITICS.

The election here, which occurs on Monday, Feb. 9, is being looked forward to with considerable interest at home and abroad, not merely because it is an election and because, as the second city in the Territory, great interests are at stake; but mainly for the reason that this will be the first important municipal election in a place wrested from the control of the People since the Tooele episode.

Naturally, the "Liberals" are on trial, or rather they have been tried, and the verdict will be recorded on Monday next. If there shall appear a majority against the ticket of that party, it will be an expression of condemnation more or less pronounced, according to the size of the majority; if they win, they will be endorsed to an extent corresponding with the degree of their preponderance. This is the case in a nutshell.

In order that the News might have something more substantial than mere predilections, preferences and surmises to base an opinion upon, I took the trouble to intrude myself into every group or knot of people who were discussing the universal theme, wherever such action was at all proper, and learn from the lips of each and every one their preferences and opinions when expressed; from individuals of experience and long residence in the city, these "interviews" being confined to people of no particular class, line or shade of sentiment, but being as nearly as possible completely distributive. The strictly American system of argument in such cases—betting or offering to bet—of course figures extensively as a factor in the proposition, and putting this and that together, the opinion is irresistible that the "Liberals" are fighting up-hill.

The organized opposition to the party in power up to the present time comes almost exclusively from those who were and are of themselves—that is, "Liberals." These naturally comprise the more conservative and consistent element in the ranks, and are largely men of affairs, intelligence, property and experience in the community. Looking upon the record made by their organization as the governing power in municipal affairs, they find many more things to condemn than commend, and are honest, independent and outspoken enough to say so and act accordingly. We can all understand how it is that schisms in political parties sometimes arise and threaten if they do not accomplish the disruption of the organization; but when the party is purely local and observations upon its conduct are thereby based on closer contact than is the case with the great parties in States or the nation under similar circumstances, the grievance in such cases must be actual and considerable. Neighbors are more likely to overlook wrong-doing among neighbors than when the wrongful acts occur in a place or places more or less remote; and thus it is, from what actually is and what I have heard, the conclusion above set out is the correct one at present.

So far the People's party has not dawned on the political horizon, but it will and at once, the primaries occurring in the various wards this evening. What their action will be no man knoweth, or if any man does he has managed to keep his own counsel with singular seclusiveness. Only two courses are suggested—the nomination of a ticket of their own, and the endorsement of that of the Citizens' party—as the organized opposition to the "Liberals" so far apparent is named. It is even now too early to predict the outcome of the primaries to-night, especially in view of the circumstances stated; but the prevailing belief is that the People's and Citizens' parties will fight shoulder to shoulder against the common opponent. This need not, however, be received as a foregone conclusion by any means.

The two tickets so far in the field, it must be admitted, are immense improvements over that put forth by the "Liberals" two years ago and the men who have been controlling the municipal government since that time. It thus appears that the charges of inefficiency (if nothing more serious) against the powers that be are sustained as well by admission as accusation; only one of the present regime has been re-nominated, and he, no doubt, because of the custom which seems to have obtained to give a new legislative body a reasonable leavening of old material. Unquestionably the regular Liberals have abandoned their former outposts and no longer seek or expect to hold on to power by direct assault; their chief reliance is to "head off" the opposition by resorting in advance to similar tactics—the nomination of new and comparatively unobjectionable men for the places of trust, honor and profit. Unless all appearances are utterly deceptive, however, they are destined to find when the votes are all counted that the "reform" movement came too late, more particularly when, with words savoring strongly of self-stultification, they plant themselves upon their record.

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In the expressive if not elegant language of Sir Lucius O'Trigger—"It's a very pretty quarrel as it stands." There is, however, this difference remaining—that out of the Ogden quarrel good is likely to come. If the Citizens' or People's ticket, or both united, shall win, we all know there will be an improvement, which the opposition promise but only promise, with two years of misgovernment before us as the security offered. A few days more will tell the tale.

PROPERTY RIGHTS OF POLYGAMOUS CHILDREN.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. 1327.—October Term, 1890.

George H. Cope, appellant, vs. Janet Cope and Thomas H. Cope. Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah.

[January 19, 1891.]

This was an appeal from a decree of distribution, originally pronounced by the Probate Court of Salt Lake County, affirmed by the District Court of the Third Judicial District of Utah, and again by an equal division of the Supreme Court of the Territory.

The sole question presented for consideration was, whether George H. Cope, the illegitimate child of Thomas Cope, was, under the facts of the case, the heir of Thomas Cope, deceased. The finding of facts, so far as the same are material, was as follows:

1. That Thomas Cope, deceased, died at Salt Lake County, Utah Territory intestate, on the — day of August, 1864, leaving certain real estate therein, the description of which is immaterial.

2. That said Thomas Cope left at the time of his death surviving him, Janet Cope, his lawful wife, Thomas H. Cope, his only legitimate son, and George H. Cope, his illegitimate son by Margaret Cope, his polygamous or plural wife, and that the marriage of the said deceased with Margaret Cope was contracted while the said Janet Cope was the living and undivorced wife of said deceased.

And as conclusions of law the court found:

1. That the sole heirs-at-law of said Thomas Cope, deceased, are Janet Cope and Thomas H. Cope, who are alone entitled to share in the distribution of the estate of said Thomas Cope, and that all the real estate above mentioned descended to and vested in said Janet Cope and Thomas H. Cope, subject to the administration upon such estate.

2. That the said George H. Cope is not an heir of said Thomas Cope, deceased, and not entitled to any share of said Thomas Cope's estate.

Mr. Justice Brown delivered the opinion of the court.

The appellant, George H. Cope, who is admitted to be the illegitimate child of Thomas Cope, by Margaret Cope, his polygamous wife, claims the right to inherit a share of his father's estate under a territorial statute of Utah, enacted in 1852, which provided as follows: "Section 25. Illegitimate children and their mothers inherit in like manner" [as legitimate] "from the