

against them. All these influences have operated to produce the present result.

It has been asserted that the Church influence has been exercised in this direction, but this is certainly not true, if by it is meant any interference by the general Church authorities. It is possible that local churchmen have, in their zeal for party, taken a course which has given rise to this accusation. It is difficult for some folks to distinguish between the citizen who is working for his party, and the Church officer, who does not act in that capacity when engaging in politics. Therefore, all men holding such positions ought to be careful of their course lest they be improperly judged by their fellow citizens.

If an influence has been used on either side in the name of the Church, that is wrong and in violation of the counsels that have come from the head. But it should be remembered that no man loses his rights as a citizen when he is called to act in a Church official capacity. The difficulty is that he may unconsciously exercise undue ecclesiastical influence, or he may be misunderstood, or his motives and acts be misconstrued by his political opponents.

It is to be hoped that the fervent heat which has fired the Logan heart will now cool down, and that the wounds that have been made during the political fight will be healed. It would be a disgrace to the people of Logan if factional feelings should be permitted to prevail among them and the conflict of parties be carried into social life.

Recriminations now are vain. Let the vanquished take their defeat in good humor, and let the victors be magnanimous and modest in their triumph. Men who pour oil on the troubled waters will prove far greater friends to the community, than those who seek to lash the waves into greater fury by harping on the past and imputing evil motives to anyone. Every citizen of Logan should act out the motto, "Let us have Peace."

THE REMEDY.

ONE of the leading topics of the Salt Lake Stake Conference which closed at the Tabernacle on Sunday, was the dilatoriness of a large proportion of the members of the Elders quorums. This condition was exhibited by the report from that department of the Priesthood. The chief reason for this delinquency was clearly stated by some of the speakers. Large numbers of young men had been ordained Elders to enable them to go to the temples to be married, without first having had any training to enable them to understand the nature, duties, functions and responsibilities of the Priesthood. They were not familiar with its genius and spirit, and therefore not prepared to operate within its pale. The form of ordination had been complied with, but the corresponding spiritual growth and fitness were apparently absent.

This situation is deplorable. The question of remedy is the leading thought connected with it. There

can be no doubt as to the propriety of refraining from placing grave responsibility upon those who are unprepared for it. The probability is that greater care will be exercised in this respect in future than heretofore. The important part of the subject is, however, to produce the needed development in young men, so that there may be no necessity for their being denied the inestimable privilege of entering the marital state under the full auspices of the Gospel as understood by the Latter-day Saints.

It seems as if the matter is to a large extent in the hands of the Bishops. It is from them that recommendations for ordinations to the office of Elder issue. They ought to be based on the general fitness of those to whom they are given. If not they are liable to mislead those officers of the Church in whose hands is the duty of taking final action.

In addition to this fact is another of equal if not greater importance—that the production of fitness of the candidates is largely in the same hands. The process by which eligibility is reached is both natural and divine—graduation. Unless this is provided in the wards where the young men of Israel reside, it is hardly possible for them to obtain it at all. Within those local divisions the facilities exist. The chief necessity is to keep them in active operation. If they are allowed to remain stagnant the young men of the community grow up loosely, without any definite idea as to their true position, their privileges, opportunities and duties. Finally their minds become so barren, from sheer stagnation, that it is well nigh impossible to turn their attention in the proper direction, and they drift into the lifeless sea of spiritual indifference, and become a prey to skepticism.

The chief consideration is to give the youth something to do and treat them generally as if they were a very important factor in the community, which is the fact. Such of them as are worthy ought to be ordained to office in the Lesser Priesthood, the first being that of Deacon, and the next in order that of Teacher, and the next Priest. The quorums of the several orders ought to be kept full, according to the revelations on the subject.

These steps are only preliminary. If the members of these quorums are left to themselves, it will be found that the organizations will dwindle, dissolve and, so far as any practical progress is concerned, will die out. Where this occurs it would probably have been better if no steps whatever had been taken in the premises. The law of divine economy has been violated, by conferring the Priesthood on those who were not ready to make use of it in the interests of progress. The situation would be just what is complained of in regard to many of the quorums of Elders now.

These lesser quorums of the wards need looking after and ought to be cultivated by the fathers—so to speak—of these minute local subdivisions of the Church. The young men have not the necessary confidence and experience to lead out in the path they should pursue without assistance and encouragement. Those who are older and have under-

standing ought to meet with them and instruct them not only in the duties of their own offices, but in the nature of the Priesthood as a whole, that they may have understanding concerning it and be prepared for advancement. They ought also to be instructed in the principles of the Gospel, and thus be enabled to obtain a hope of salvation and give an intelligent reason for possessing it. They should also be taught how they can instruct each other, by a mutually beneficial process. For these purposes there are no organizations that afford facilities equal to those presented by the quorums of the Priesthood.

Unless the means that the Lord has placed in our hands for the purpose of developing the youth are utilized, startling delinquencies on their part will continue to exist—a natural result of our own shortcoming. They cannot well take hold of these facilities themselves. They must be called, directed, taught and used. The greatest of all the capabilities for presiding is that faculty which will enable a leading officer to use to the best possible advantage all the intelligences placed under his watchcare.

"GARBLED AND TINTED."

THE *Ogden Standard* gives particulars of an interesting conversation with "Kentucky" Smith, on his return from Washington. We have not space today for the full account, and do not know that it is necessary to reproduce it all in any event. But Mr. Smith corroborated the statements made by Mr. C. C. Richards in reference to the "garbled and tinted" reports, sent to the *Tribune* of this city, in regard to the proceedings before the congressional committee, and this will be interesting to our readers.

The *Standard* reporter asked:

"Do you confirm the statement by Mr. Richards that the *Tribune* representative, after complimenting you on your speech, said he would have to 'roast you,' that his paper did not want the truth and that he was going to lie about you like the devil?"

"Yes sir! that is true."

"What is there in the report that you and others 'doctored' the transcription of your speech?"

"There is nothing in it. I made my speech before the House committee on the 10th of February, and before the Senate committee on the 11th. On the 13th I received the transcription from the Senate, but it was not until the 17th, after the Liberals had finished their arguments, that I received the report from the House. I found it in a fearful state. Not more than two-thirds of what I said had been transcribed. A large number of interlineations and erasures had been made, many of them undoubtedly by the reporter. Yet he told me the other party had already had a chance at it."

"What party did he mean?"

"The Liberal party, I think Judge Rathbone had it, but I can't say it with certainty. In speaking of the vetoing of the appropriation bill some six years ago by the Governor I said it was done because the bill did not suit his caprice. The original transcript had it 'because he did not see fit to.' This had been stricken out and changed to 'because he was not fed.' Instead of rewriting it I changed it to 'because it did not please him.' That is all there is in it."

All this goes to prove what we sur-