

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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PEOPLE'S RATIFICATION AT PROVO.

THE People's Ratification at Provo on Monday was a huge affair. In the afternoon the Court House was filled to overflowing by an enthusiastic audience, who were addressed by Hons. S. R. Thurman, John T. Caine, James Sharp, W. N. Dusenberry and the Chairman, Hon. John E. Booth, in effective speeches on the topics of the times. The building being too small for the crowds of people who thronged to listen to the speakers, the evening meeting was held in the Tabernacle.

A little before seven o'clock a procession was formed in front of the residence of Judge Dusenberry to escort the People's candidate and party to the place of meeting. Three brass bands were in attendance from Payson, American Fork and Lehi respectively. The music was stirring and patriotic, a torchlight brigade formed part of the escort and the march to the Tabernacle was very fine. The building was crammed full in every nook and corner and many had to remain outside.

The Chairman very humorously introduced, in turn, Hons. F. S. Richards, John T. Caine, C. W. Penrose, A. O. Smoot, W. W. Cluff and James Sharp, who entertained, instructed and aroused the vast audience with speeches on the main points in the respective platforms which had been read in full in the afternoon. Roars of laughter greeted the sallies of humor and pointed anecdotes which were told to illustrate the truth of the People's principles, the falsehood of the "Liberal" platform, and the absurdity of the "Liberal" pretensions. Between the addresses music was given by the bands, and vehement applause was bestowed on the hits made by the speakers. J. R. Milner, Esq., moved the adoption of the Declaration of Principles and the endorsement of the people's nominee, which received a unanimous vote followed by three volleys of applause, and then three most tremendous cheers, to which the People's candidate responded neatly, and appropriately. It was an ovation. Provo was moved to the very centre, and the whole affair was a thorough and hearty response to the action of the People's Territorial Convention.

This morning most of the party went with Mr. Caine to Nephi, where a rousing meeting will be held to-night, and to-morrow they go to Sanpete.

MORE "LIBERAL" FALSE- HOODS REFUTED.

WE do not propose to occupy valuable space in this paper with notices of the numerous audacious falsehoods uttered by so-called "Liberal" speakers in various parts of the Territory, during the present attempt to catch votes for the "Liberal" candidate. But we will make reference to a couple of statements which are being frequently repeated, and which have no foundation in fact. One is that at the Constitutional Convention the Committee of Twenty-One which was appointed to amalgamate, revise and arrange the reports of several committees and formulate the Constitution, agreed when in Committee to insert a section abolishing polygamy, and then in open Convention, through the dictation of Church leaders, all but three "went back" on their agreement and dared not sustain their action in committee. The other is that at a Priesthood meeting held in this city on the 6th of October, President John Taylor said as "Cameron ruled in Pennsylvania and Kelly in New York, so the Priesthood ruled in

Utah; that political conventions were held merely for form's sake; and that the name of the People's candidate was adopted at that Priesthood meeting."

At the People's rousing and enthusiastic ratification meeting in Provo, on Monday, October 30th, both these infamous fabrications were refuted by the speakers. Persons who had been present at the meeting last referred to denied the statement in toto, Hon. A. O. Smoot saying, "I denounce these charges as utterly false. I was at that meeting; no reference whatever was made to politics or to a candidate, or to Cameron, or Kelly, or anything that could be implied as bearing on the political questions subsequently considered at the People's convention held in Salt Lake City." Hon. James Sharp, in an equally emphatic manner, denied the statement concerning the Committee of Twenty-One, related the facts as one of the committee present at all its discussions, and showed that the charge was the exact reverse of the truth. The villainy of that charge is rendered greater by the fact that the "Liberal" candidate, after making the statement, was informed by reliable gentlemen, one of the committee, that it was an egregious error, and the truth was explained to him yet he has since repeated in public the same whole cloth falsehood. And of such are most of the "Liberal" allegations.

We hereby endorse the testimony of Messrs. Smoot and Sharp, having been present in the committee, taking part in its debates, and having listened to the remarks of President Taylor at the meeting alluded to. The evidence of those gentlemen at Provo is true; the statements reiterated by the "Liberal" deceivers are false and without foundation.

The object in making up stories of the kind here mentioned is to bolster up the allegations that "in Utah the Church dominates the State," and that it "destroys the freedom of the citizen by assuming the right to dictate his political action and control his ballot." These charges cannot be proven because they are not true. Therefore to give some color to their assertions these "Liberal" defamers resort to fictions like those we have exposed. They pretend to be anxious to "free every voter from priestly dictation," but in reality desire themselves to be the dictators and controllers of the people, and failing this, have pledged themselves to work for the enslavement of all the citizens of the Territory, by placing them at the mercy of a Commission utterly irresponsible to the people for whom they are to frame such laws as suits their pleasure.

We are not even to have the liberty of choosing our own advisers. Every political party has its managers, and they shape the general affairs of the party and give advice to the members. We must either submit to the dictation of the "Liberal" clique or expect their abuse and threatenings. While they cry "liberty" there whole course tends to bondage. They threaten their own members in various ways if they dare to vote for the People's candidate, and hold up the bugaboo of further special iniquitous legislation before the People, to frighten them into supporting the "Liberal" nominee.

Every citizen of Utah, however, with common understanding, knows that in the secret ballot lies the refutation of the falsehood about "priestly dictation," and a safeguard from all the terrors which "Liberal" imagination can invent. No one can learn how any man or woman votes if the voter does not choose to make it known. The people are left entirely and absolutely free so far as the Church is concerned, and nothing can be truthfully brought forward in evidence that anything more than advice has been offered to influence them in their politics, except that which has come from "Liberal" threateners and libellers.

They would like to deprive every member of the "Mormon" Church of voice and vote. That is their aim and intent. For that the "Liberal" candidate for Delegate to Congress will work, as he has worked. A Methodist priest may preach politics, control caucuses, influence conventions, bring church pressure upon Congress, promote special legislation and do anything of a political character, but a "Mormon" Elder must sit down, say nothing and do nothing which by any possible stretch of imagination can be construed as a connection with political affairs.

We maintain the right of every "Mormon" leader or follower, to use lawful influence in politics; to advise others to vote for the candidate of his own choice, to seek and follow such advice as seems best to him; to take part in political assemblies of every kind; to hold such offices as the people may elect him to and for which he is eligible; to support the measures and the men that commend themselves to his judgment and act in any capacity to which he is suited and in which he is lawfully placed. And any one who asserts to the contrary is either lacking in fair common sense, is ignorant of the spirit of American institutions or is an enemy to that freedom which every citizen ought of right to enjoy. That is all there is of the pretended "priestly influence in politics in Utah," and every assertion to the contrary is without evidence in its support, or the pretended proofs are of the same character as the two "Liberal" falsehoods touched upon in this article.

MORE ERRORS REFUTED.

"THAT in Utah the operation of the Edmunds bill has inaugurated a new era in politics, is shown by the fact that the Saints are beginning to hold political meetings and appeal to the support of all sorts of voters. Heretofore, all these matters have been settled in Church meetings. Candidates have been elected by the heads of the Church, and the faithful have been told in their tabernacles for whom and when they were to cast their ballots. No doubt the old agencies have been as busy as ever, but the adoption of those which are new is a tribute to the forces which are freshly at work in the Territory. It shows that, with a great body of the most zealous Saints and their wives disfranchised, there has arisen a possibility that the remainder may not be strong enough to carry the election."

One of the secondary questions raised is the character of the text books used in the public schools of the Territory. To pay for these a tax is levied on all the property in the Territory. But the School Board take care that the children are taught, by text and illustration, the story of the Church and its sufferings as the leaders wish to have it told. Joseph Smith is exalted as a martyr for the truth; the acts of the National Government are denounced as oppressive. Naturally the Gentiles of Utah do not relish paying for this kind of literature, and they have sued out an injunction to put a stop to it."

The foregoing is from the Philadelphia American. It is one more "fearful example" of the manner in which intelligent journalists muddle everything connected with Utah. The "new era in politics" will be new information to Utahians, seeing that "political meetings" have been held here periodically ever since the pioneers opened up to civilization this vast mountain region, planted the United States flag upon Ensign Peak, and applied to Congress for a State Government. Neither the People's Party nor the so-called "Liberal" party is a new organization. They have both been in existence and active operation for many years; the former managing the political affairs of the majority of the people, and the latter intriguing against them, circulating falsehoods, on the stump and through the press, and seeking to deprive them of the little political liberty they are permitted to enjoy.

True, there is perhaps more stir now than in past times. But this is due, not to any "new era," but to the increase of opposition and the determination which has been aroused to meet and conquer it. There are no "forces freshly at work in the Territory." The same old forces, but with augmented audacity and greater bitterness, are at work, and it requires a more vigorous effort to expose and resist them; that is all.

There is no doubt, even in the minds of the so-called "Liberal" faction, as to the capability of the People's Party to "carry the election." It is certain that it has all the votes necessary, and plenty to spare. But it does not intend to be caught napping, and therefore is on the alert to keep the duty of voting citizens clearly before their minds, and to post the People on the nefarious schemes of the clique which is trying to bring them into bondage.

As to the "secondary question," the American is wrong again. There are no school books paid for out of "a tax levied upon all the property in the Territory." The law

specifies that the tax shall be expended for the payment of teachers only. It is in fact so used and for no other purpose. The pupils, or the parents pay for their own books, so that the "gentiles of Utah" are not taxed for this purpose. Neither is it true that the School Board takes care that the text books tell any story of the Church, its sufferings, the martyrdom of Joseph Smith, the oppression of the National Government or anything of the kind. The text books used in our District Schools are selected from those in use in other parts of the United States and are not "Mormon" books in any sense of the term. The National series, the Pacific Coast series and others of like character published by noted book firms out side of this Territory, are the Readers in use. The National and Elementary Spellers, Ray's Arithmetic, Montiehs and Cornell's Geographies, Harveys, Clarks and similar Grammars, Scribner's writing books, and the popular works on history, philosophy, astronomy, science in its various branches, etc., in use in the public schools throughout the Union are those adopted here, and from the primary charts to the highest classic none are used but those commonly known throughout the land.

Now as to the injunction. It was a piece of the most consummate folly and impudence ever attempted. There was not the slightest reason for it. The men who started it Messrs. P. T. Van Zile, E. D. Hoge and Parley L. Williams, became ashamed of their nonsense and never pressed it to an issue. As they were all "Liberals" they may have designed it for some political effect, but it was too stupid and senseless to use or even mention afterwards. The Board appointed by law to select the school-books to be used in the District Schools is composed of the Territorial Superintendent, the County Superintendents and the President of the Faculty of the University of Deseret, who are authorized in a regularly called convention to decide what the text books shall be, so as to secure uniformity; and no change is allowed in a period less than five years.

At a late convention, thus composed, the subject was discussed of obtaining the publication through one of the eminent book publishing houses of the country—notably A. S. Barnes & Co., of New York and Chicago—of one of their series with a different gradation of lessons adapted to the local method of teaching. Nothing was contemplated or designed in regard to any Church ideas, history, doctrine or polity. For be it known that whatever may have been said on this question, "Mormonism" is not taught in our District Schools, neither is any attempt made to give them a denominational character. The plan referred to was not consummated, having been voted down before the application was made for the injunction, and the injunction sued for would not have had a leg to stand upon, even if the proposition had been adopted and carried into practical execution.

We are not surprised at newspapers committing egregious errors in touching upon Utah affairs, because most of the press dispatches they receive from this point are deeply dyed with falsehood, and their work is done in a hurry. But we think that a journal like the American, with time, opportunity, and ability to ascertain the facts, should not repeat the stupid slanders which are circulated for base purposes concerning a Territory and a people underserving of the opposition of the friends of truth and liberty. We ask the American in fairness to correct its mis-statements, which we are sure were not made intentionally.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 3.

County Ratification.—This afternoon Hon. C. W. Penrose and Mr. T. V. Williams have been addressing a People's Party ratification meeting at West Jordan. Messrs. T. B. Lewis, J. B. Toronto and Geo. M. Ottinger have been doing the same at South Cottonwood.

United in Marriage.—In this city, November 2nd, Mr. David P. Felt, son of our respected townsman, N. H. Felt, Esq., and Miss Addie Spiers, daughter of George Spiers, Esq. A reception was held last evening at the residence of the parents of the bride, where a large number of the friends of the happy

couple assembled and spent a social time in honor of the occasion. Our best wishes are tendered to the happy pair.

Terrible Accident.—The following special to the News, from Monroe, was received this afternoon:

A horrible accident occurred yesterday about ten o'clock a. m. Horace Steele, of Salina, started for Arizona, accompanied by his wife. While going down Marysville hill he fell from his wagon, on which was thirty hundred pounds of freight. One wheel passed over his body, causing internal injuries. He was taken to Mr. Durkee's, and Dr. Dennis sent for and all that could be done for him was done but to no avail. He lingered until 9 o'clock this morning, when he died. They are taking him to Salina for interment.

A Useful Book.—A useful little work, from the pen of Elder John Jaqu-s, is now in the hands of the printer. It is entitled, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Its Priesthood, Organization, Doctrines, Ordinances and History." While the book will be highly interesting, considering the vastness of the subject, it is too small, as it will only consist of about thirty-two pages. This being the case, and the historical branch coming down to the present, or a very recent date, the matter is necessarily in a compendious form. However, besides being useful, as imparting a good deal of desirable information within a limited compass, it would form an excellent basis for a much more elaborate work.

A Mail Grievance.—John Cherrington, of Holden, Millard County, writes from that place:

"I have been a subscriber for the News the last 22 years, and always received my paper in time, with but few delays, until July last, since which time there have been many delays, and sometimes I receive no paper at all. Occasionally it gets into the Fillmore sack, goes south and comes back the next day. The papers we should have had on Saturday morning have not yet come to hand. We can get any paper from the Old Country or the States on time, but the News, the most important to us of any, we can not."

We have numerous complaints from the south of the same character, and we hope the postmasters will be more careful in future and that the mail authorities will see to the rectification of the wrong.

Shooting at Blackfoot.—A man named Charles Howard who was in Mester's saloon at Blackfoot, on Friday evening last, drinking some beer, started to leave the saloon when he met Scott Donnelly and constable Jim Westfall just outside the door. Donnelly commenced abusing Howard who warned him to stop, but he continued his abuse until Howard attempted to strike him, when Westfall took hold of Howard, and pushing back, both fell into the saloon door, Howard on top. Westfall drew his revolver while down and fired four shots, one shot passing through Howard in region of the kidneys; the second shot cutting off one finger from Donnelly's right hand and badly cutting the rest of them; the third shot breaking Fred Griswold's leg; while the fourth shot lodged in the ceiling.

Westfall was arrested and held until sheriff Homer who was telegraphed for, arrived and took him into custody and off to Malad for trial.—Idaho Enterprise.

Oregon Short Line.—A gentleman connected with the construction of this railroad is credited with the following statement to a reporter:

"The Oregon Short Line will eventually be the main Line of the U. P. so far as wealth of country is concerned. The best steel rails and selected ties show the road is being put to stay."

"The Wood River region will be especially rich. Its mineral and agricultural developments will be wonderful."

"Pocatella, a station, is building up rapidly. J. E. Nelson, the Chief Dispatcher of the Oregon Short Line and Utah Northern, is situated there, and is helping the place."

"The Soda Springs will develop into a National health resort."

"American Falls is considered now only a tent town, but will build rapidly. The Wood River country is 87 miles distant, extending across the Reservation and along the Snake River. Collins & Stevens, big mining men, are located at American Falls. Twenty miles be-