

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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THE MISTAKES OF ELI.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* interviewed Governor Eli H. Murray in this city, and we copy his remarks as reported in that paper. The conversation occurred previous to the Delegate election; if it had taken place after, the Governor's opinions might have been in some respects different:

"Political speaking is something new in Utah," said the Governor. "The Mormons never saw a torchlight procession until the other night, and they never attended any public speaking except those of their minister. Hearing politics and the Edmunds law discussed is a new departure from the expounding of the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. The great majority of the people are totally ignorant of politics, and many do not even know the difference between the two parties."

"What effect has your recent campaign speeches had upon the masses of the Mormons?" asked the *Courier-Journal* correspondent.

"While a great many attended the meetings with curiosity," replied the Governor, "they also wanted to hear the arguments made against them; yet those same men are getting restless under the tyranny of church rule, and this is creating a dissatisfied element, or even division in their ranks. And again, the young element, who are now so strongly wedded to their church, are thinking for themselves and being persuaded over. They see that their polygamous parents are disfranchised, and that the infamous institution which they were taught to regard as 'heaven-born' is made a crime. They wish to escape the odium of the one and the punishment of the other, and are cutting loose from the ignorance, the superstition and immoral practice of their parents."

"What proportion of your audience are Mormons?"

"More than fifty per cent.," replied the Governor, "and the majority of these are young men and married women. They listen earnestly and applaud with vigor, and it is very evident that they come for a purpose other than curiosity. So far there has been no effort to break up or disturb any of our meetings, though I understand that eight years ago the Mormons did break up Gentile meetings. When Mr. Baskin was running for Congress against the polygamous Cannon an open-air meeting was advertised in this city. The Mormons came in force, took the stand and ran a meeting of their own."

Said your correspondent: "It was thought that very few Mormons would attend Gentile meetings after the Mormon candidate for Congress refused joint discussion on the ground that it would furnish Gentiles with an audience that they otherwise would not get?"

"That is exactly what was meant," replied the Governor, "but it seems that the order had little effect, if any, for the audiences were very large even in the thickest Mormon communities. A point that we impressed upon the Mormon women is that they are deprived of their natural right of dower. Under the laws of this Territory a married woman is not entitled to dower. They tell their subsequent wives that they have deprived the first wife of dower in order that they may show no partiality. But they do not explain to the first wife why they have robbed her of her natural inheritance."

The Governor referred to the secret ballot, which is a great lever to those who wish to vote the Gentile ticket, and yet from political motives would not care to have the Church officials know of their defection.

The Governor thinks if Congress were to appoint a Legislative Commission and place the local government of the Territory in their hands

the power of this theocracy would soon be broken. Of course the Commission would have to abolish female suffrage, and then the Mormons would have 3,000 or 4,000 majority. Some leading Gentiles have said to your correspondent: "Let a Commission be appointed and do away with the elective franchise in Utah. It might as well be done, for we are in such a minority that our votes count for nothing anyway." Others think that if this is not done, Congress should pass a bill disfranchising those who publicly uphold polygamy, such as monogamists who make public speeches saying that it is a "constitutional right," and advising the people to continue the practice.

It will be news to our people to learn that they had "never seen a torchlight procession" until the recent political canvass. Such as they witnessed long before they ever heard of Eli H. Murray, must, we suppose, be set down as "mostly imaginary." Those who are under the impression that they have attended many meetings of various kinds, political and otherwise, previous to the stump campaigns of Van Zile, Murray, Bane & Co., must set the idea down as the "fabric of a vision," because it would not do to say that the Governor was trying to mislead the newspaper man; that would be, according to gubernatorial definitions, "rebellion," "treason" and "nullification." The "Mormons" may be "ignorant of politics," but they have sense enough to know the difference between the party of slander, trickery and false promises, and the party composed of their friends and the friends of true liberty, and also between whisky-flavored oratory and plain common sense.

It will strike the candid observer, too, that the Governor's self-flattery concerning the effect of his own spread-eagle-ism was without warrant in the result. Even the "Gentiles" did not vote their full strength—unless many of them cast a ballot for the People's nominee—and it is certain that the "Mormons" did not support the Governor's candidate worth a cent. The secret of the numerous attendance at the "Liberal" meetings was not a desire to escape any "odium" or for any of the reasons he alleged, but simply to see a man with a wide reputation for personal beauty and a peculiar mathematical idiosyncrasy. A person who, in these enlightened times, imagined that 1,357 was a greater number than 18,568 could not but be regarded as a phenomenon, a living curiosity worth seeing for once at any rate. And many ladies thought they would like to behold the noted masculine production of Kentucky. That is what drew them out to the "Liberal" pow-wows. At any rate they showed very clear discrimination when they went to the ballot box.

The Governor should have either told the whole truth about that "meeting of their own" which the "Mormons" "run," or said nothing about it. And is it not a trifle contradictory, even for that arithmetical functionary, to state that there had been no political meetings in Utah till he held them, and then talk about similar meetings held by Mr. Baskin? And against the statement that the "Mormons never attended any public speaking but those of their own minister," to say that they "came in force and ran a meeting of their own," years before he came to the Territory? At the meeting referred to, an invitation having been extended headed, "Come One Come All," the people filled up the hall—it was not in the open air—and being in the majority, they elected the chairman, and managed the meeting according to parliamentary methods. The Governor cannot point to a time when "Mormons" interfered with a strictly "Liberal" meeting, even though its chief characteristics are always virulent abuse of "Mormon" leaders and misrepresentation of "Mormon" beliefs and intentions.

That the reason assigned by Mr. Caine for not meeting Mr. Van Zile in public debate was sound, is apparent to every one who witnessed the immense gatherings of the people at the meetings held by the People's candidate, which dwarfed the "Liberal" gatherings to insignificance, even with its "Mormon" attendance of "more than fifty per cent." And if the "Mormon" people are under such coercion as Governor Arithmetic Murray wishes to make out, how was it that so many of them attended the "Liberal" rallies? Either there could

have been no such "order" as he speaks of, or the people are not under the bondage that he imagines. As a matter of fact no "orders" of that kind are ever issued; the people do as they please, and with the secret ballot from which the gentleman expected so great results, and which by the way was no new thing in Utah, they showed to him and all the world that they pleased to vote for their friend, and had sense enough not to vote for their enemy, even though he baited them with so many fine promises.

The whole hub of the gubernatorial scheme, around which these minor things revolve, is in the last paragraph of the above quotation. The "Legislative Commission" to govern Utah; the destruction of all republican institutions in the Territory; the perfect bondage of a hundred and fifty thousand people; the abolition of the elective franchise; the establishment of absolutism worse than in any European autocracy. And wherefore? Because the "Gentiles" are "in such a minority that their votes count for nothing." And the men who have the impudence and the villainy to talk like this, profess to be Republicans! By the same rule, in every part of the country over which Congress claims exclusive jurisdiction the majority should be deprived of every political right, because they will not give up all local power to the minority. In Utah twenty-three thousand voters are to be disfranchised because they will not bow down to five thousand. Every man who favors such a scheme, and for such a reason, is unworthy the name of Democrat or Republican, he is a traitor to the institutions of the country, an enemy to human rights and a ruffian in his heart.

A bill to disfranchise men for upholding principles which they believe to be for the benefit of mankind would be in the same line as others recommended by the villains who wish to crush out all freedom in this Territory. But the days of free thought, free speech and free discussion, even of doctrines obnoxious to the multitude, are not yet gone by in this republic, and those who wish to put a muzzle on men's mouths as well as deprive citizens of all voice in the regulation of public affairs are too few to count for much in a government like that of the United States. While the public mind is blinded by prejudice arising from ignorance, such persons will pass unscathed because their villainies are directed against the unpopular "Mormons." But when those clouds roll by and the public vision is cleared, these plotters will be seen in their diabolical blackness and be treated with the scorn and contempt which they merit.

THURLOW WEED.

A TELEGRAM received just before we went to press last evening announced the death of the veteran journalist, Thurlow Weed. That well known political manager was born at Cairo, Greene County, in the State of New York, November 16th, 1797. He learned the printing business in early youth, being apprenticed to the trade when twelve years of age. In 1812 he served in the war as a volunteer, and when he reached his majority established a paper in the western part of his native State.

In 1826 he was elected to the Legislature and served for two terms. In 1830 he established the *Evening Journal* at Albany, which wielded immense political influence for thirty-one years under his direction, during which time by his acknowledged ability and power he virtually controlled many important nominations for office, refusing all such positions for himself. In 1862 he went to Europe in a semi-official capacity and at urgent request of President Lincoln. When he returned he became one of the editors of the *New York Times* and subsequently, in 1865, of the *New York Commercial Advertiser*. He was the friend and intimate acquaintance of Clinton, Webster, Lincoln, Seward and other illustrious men and his advice on political affairs was sought by the foremost Statesmen and politicians of his time. He was strong and firm for the Union in the hour of trial and his sagacity and judgment were generally acknowledged. For many years he has been in feeble health and for some time nearly blind, but has been engaged upon his auto-biography. He passed away at the great

age of eighty-five, and will be long remembered by his countrymen and the well-informed of all civilized nations.

"COUNTED IN."

THIS is the way that the veracious (?) press dispatcher at Salt Lake reported the result of the canvass of votes for Delegate to Congress from Utah.

The Utah Commissioners have counted John T. Caine as Delegate to Congress, and to morrow he will leave for the East.

The protest of the "Liberal" candidate and that of his blundering attorney were dressed up and telegraphed as though they were formidable impediments in the way of the People's Delegate. But the result is given in the above misleading style. "Counted in" is a fine way of announcing that the Board of Canvassers decided the votes to be: For John T. Caine 23,039 for Phillip T. Van Zile 4,884. But we need not look for fairness from a source whence the foulest falsehoods emanate, and which pours out slander as naturally as a deadly spring sends forth bitter water.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 22.

Serious Accident.—This morning Mr. Dan. Edgington, of the Twenty-first Ward, was riding on horseback in the vicinity of St. Mary's Hospital, near the eastern edge of the city. His animal suddenly slipped and fell to the ground. The unfortunate man's leg being under the animal, the limb was badly bruised and broken. He was taken to the Hospital and attended to by Dr. Benedict.

Uncongenial Spirits.—The *Ogden Herald* learns that a few days ago, a number of Harrisville boys, while out hunting found an empty bottle which smelled powerfully of bad whisky. On Monday a young man was wandering about the same vicinity when he discovered the dead body of an Indian, frozen stiff, on hands and knees, with the face close to the ground. An investigation disclosed the fact, that there were no evidences of violence on the person of the defunct red man. There appeared to be an intimate connection between the empty bottle and the dead body. The spirits evidently left the bottle and went into the Indian, and the spirit of the Indian left the body in consequence of the spirits of the bottle causing the spirit of the Indian to be incapable of taking care of the body. It is the old, old story, winding up as many newspaper tales of death, desolation and woe—"whisky did it."

Weddings.—We have great pleasure in extending our congratulations to-day, to a number of our young friends who have launched their vessels upon the ocean of matrimonial life. Mr. Jesse Stratford and Mr. Louis A. West have taken to wife daughters of our esteemed friend Elder Richard Ballantyne, of Ogden, and Mr. Imri Brown has received for his companion Miss Jenny Garrard. They are all worthy young people, with whom we are acquainted. Born among the people of God, reared in veneration of the principles of righteousness and united from choice to the Church of their parents, they have the promise of peace and felicity which the world cannot bestow. We wish them all that enduring happiness for time and eternity, that can only come through faithful affection and the divine approval. God bless them!

The Delegateship and Statehood.—In the forefront of next week Hon. John T. Caine, Hon. James Sharp, F. S. Richards, Esq., and Hon. D. H. Peery, members of the delegation appointed by the constitutional convention to present and urge the claims of Utah upon Congress for admission into the Union as a State, will leave for Washington to attend to that business.

Mr. Caine, the Delegate elect to the Forty-eighth Congress, will, at the same time, seek to secure his seat in the National Legislature for the unexpired term of the Forty-seventh Congress, to which Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon was elected. The claim of Mr. Caine lies in the fact that he was nominated for the unexpired term by the People's convention, and that when the votes were

cast for him for the Forty-eighth Congress, the same ballots, though not subsequently canvassed or counted, included a vote for the Forty-seventh Congress.

The delegation will go with the determination to work faithfully for a recognition by Congress of the claims of Utah for the ratification of her Constitution, and admission into the Federal Union.

SOUTHERN STATES MISSION.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WORK IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY.

This morning we were much pleased at receiving a visit from Elder John Morgan, President of the Southern States Mission, who, as previously announced, returned from his field of labor on Monday night. Elder Morgan first commenced his ministry in the States in 1875, the beginning of his work being in Illinois and Indiana, where he spent about nine months, and then proceeded to the Southern States. He has been in that field almost continuously ever since, having been at home about sixteen months during seven years.

The general situation in the mission is quite favorable. A greater number of baptisms have occurred during the last six months than in any previous twelve months. The opposition that was formerly very virulent and pronounced in many parts of the mission has practically died out. It is a curious fact that the anti-Mormon legislation has done considerable toward bringing about this desirable result. Only two anti-Mormon meetings were held in the entire south on the subject of the Edmunds bill, and they were of a decidedly feeble character, and as a rule the newspapers opened their columns to the Elders.

The position in opposition to the Edmunds bill taken by Senators and Congressmen from the South is doubtless remembered by our readers. This was made an issue in the recent elections, and the candidates who voted against the measure stood by their record manfully, maintaining the ground they took in opposing an unconstitutional measure, and yet they were returned to Congress with increased majorities, thus exhibiting the general sentiment of the people on the subject.

The closer contact of the Elders with the people and the plentiful distribution of pamphlets treating upon the faith and doctrines entertained by the Latter-day Saints has also contributed largely to allay opposition and persecution. The feeling of the people generally toward the brethren is generous and hospitable, the friends they have in every section being almost without number. The News is reported as having a most salutary effect wherever it reaches, in opening the way for preaching the Gospel and allaying prejudice. Brother Morgan says a prime necessity of the mission is literature of the right kind. He expresses the opinion that thirty Elders could do more work with the amount of money in Church literature required to take thirty more to and from the field than sixty with out this indispensable auxiliary.

We are pleased to again bid Brother Morgan welcome home.

Elder Morgan was accompanied to our office by Elder John Houston, of Panguitch, Garfield County, who has been laboring in Alabama and Georgia. The first nine months were spent in the first-named State. A few baptisms occurred there. In Georgia a good work was done, especially in emigration. 135 souls having left that Conference alone for Colorado and Utah during the past season. Brother Houston has been absent about two years, and performed a good mission. His associations with his brethren in the ministry and the people where he labored have been of the most agreeable character. Everywhere he was hospitably met and treated with unqualified kindness.

INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH DELIVERS AN ADDRESS.

Last evening, at the Sixth Ward School-house, President Joseph F. Smith delivered an address under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Association of that section of the city. He opened by saying it was the duty of parents to teach