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### The American Party and Ticket

ON Monday last the American convention named the state, judicial, county and precinct tickets. It does not expect to elect any state ticket. It does hope, however, to elect a full county ticket, that this city and county may work in concord for the betterment of Utah. Of course, all the opposition possible will be hurled at the party and the ticket by both the old parties, trained and in the leash of the church. But that has been expected all the time. And if it was asked what object there was in naming the state ticket when there was no hope of success, the answer is that Utah is still in a formation state.

There are young men and young women in the meshes of the Mormon creed, young men and young women of good stock who still have been taught from their mother's knees that the great Creator in these last days selected a vice-gerent on earth to whom all men should bow; that he selected one with whom to communicate, and gave to his office that vitality which enables it to name its successors to enthrall men's souls indefinitely.

Some of these young men and women will ask why there is opposition and on what ground the opposition is based, and will learn, directly or indirectly, that this church is a government by itself, and that it is opposed to the free government of men and women, as much as was any barbarous nation of the old world, which ran its course and perished at last because it was not fit to live.

Joseph Smith, in his lifetime, aspired to that plane, but he himself said that the constitution of the United States was inspired, by which he meant that he knew what he was talking about; that it was directed by the same Infinite God that he claimed to have a mission from; but in his dim, worldly mind he could not see the inconsistency in saying that God this year framed a government for the earth and the next year framed a new one for the purpose of overthrowing that government, and with it all the old civil governments of the earth.

Since its creation, our republic has expanded until it has taken in all the continent between the seas, its flag has become the very glory of the earth, and in majesty and power it has attained more in one hundred brief years than any other nation ever did in a thousand. It is not going to be overthrown, and that this bogus power is permitted to thrive here in the midst of this republic, to hold its degrading hand over women, to try to relegate her back to where her sister women were in the old days of mental slavery, is because it is so weak that it does not as yet disturb the colossus that rules this land, but it will some time have to come within the government of the United States.

In the beginning, the fathers planned that no religion should be interfered with, but with just as firm a will they decided that no religion should, under the name of religion or through

any other excuse, usurp the functions which belong to the state. The struggle of this institution, founded by Joseph Smith, for sixty years has been to break that edict of destiny, and as one of the apostles once stated in the Tabernacle, to make it appear that vox Dei is vox populi, and not that vox populi is vox Dei. It is an absolute reversal of our theory of government, and we see its insidious, withering hand everywhere.

And so the American party, asking nothing from any church except obedience to the law, has been organized; it has put a ticket in the field, and it calls to all men to support it on the sole ground that it is more worthy of support than either other party which looks to this same arbitrary and merciless power for success. The ticket is all that it should be; its enemies, looking it over, admit to themselves that, under the management of the men nominated on Monday, the county and state will prosper, and hence it claims the suffrage of free men and free women all over Utah.

It does not expect to win this year, but it does expect to win eventually. One form of slavery was broken down forty-three years ago; it went out in blood and smoke and wreck, and amid such losses and such sorrow as no nation in modern time has been called upon to meet; but those who were most bitterly disappointed then admit now that it was right; that God was watching and did not permit any mistake. We tell the men of Utah that God is still watching; that the government which he helped the fathers to frame is the government that he approves, and that when any man assumes that he has a right to tell an American citizen how he shall vote, whom he shall support, and whom throw down, that man is an enemy to his country and to his people.

The most bigoted Mormon must see that this state has been actually under the rule of Reed Smoot for four years, because he was delegated and set apart to run the politics of Utah. No man can imagine for a moment that he has the intellectual or the moral or any other quality to direct and control the policies of a great state, much less the right to dictate to men his superiors in every way how and for whom they shall vote. It is a protest against his methods, against his church and its methods, that the American party was born and that it is progressing and looks for ultimate victory.

Under American rule, Salt Lake City sprung like a phoenix from the ashes of that burned-up Salt Lake that shouldered here under the fires of contention for forty years and made no progress. That is an earnest of what the American party will do when it gets the county, and later when it gets the state. It will take the hands off the brains of men and open all the opportunities of the state alike to all of her children, and it is for this that the members of that party call upon the men and women of Utah, not to support them, but to be true to themselves, to be Americans as they were born, to be free citizens as per their inheritance.

### The Reason

SOME people have asked us why we assail President Roosevelt when he is bending his efforts to elect Mr. Taft, a Republican president. There are two answers to that question. What he is doing, in our judgment, is hurting Mr. Taft very much; but the chief objection is that of making it possible, by entering into a squabble between men, some of whom the country never heard of before, to enable men of no importance to call him who holds the highest office in the world a common liar. The place the people of the United States gave him ought to keep him out of all such squabbles as that. His respect for the office, if not his self-respect, ought to restrain him. One can hardly imagine George Washington or Abraham Lincoln mixing in a political campaign, personally writing to a candidate of an op-

posing party that some of his friends and confidants are unworthy men, belittling the great office to the level of ward politics and reducing his own stature to the level of a common politician. No such spectacle was ever presented to the people of the United States before; we hope it never will be again.

Then, one of the infirmities of the president is that, in his own arrogance and egotism, when he makes up his mind or receives a vivid impression on any subject, if any one opposes his views, no matter how high or low he may be, he is ready to get off his presidential chair and adopt the weapons of the fishwoman and become a common blackguard. It was written long ago that "the idols are broken in the temples of Baal," and this last two years there has been a great breaking of idols. There are a few great offices in the United States which the people still have a profound reverence for. It would be better not to disturb that reverence and not to get the impression in the minds of the common people that it is possible for one who is by nature a good deal of a blackguard to obtain that office.

### Local Politics

NATIONAL politics is running its course. In the meantime, Utah is having its own campaign, and it is of much interest to every man who, with a clear and patriotic mind, stops to think. For several years prior to the organization of the American party, elections in Utah were merely perfunctory matters. Each party nominated its ticket, and it was known in advance about which ones would be elected.

It was as was directed at the headquarters of the church. The election of Apostle Smoot and the way he directed political matters in this state were what precipitated the crisis. We need but cite an incident or two. Four years ago an overwhelming majority of Republicans wanted to renominate Gov. Wells. His course had convinced the people that he desired to be a just governor. But he was peremptorily sat upon and out of the shadows Gov. Cutler was called, and, of course, elected. This year he wanted to again be a candidate, but he in turn was sat upon and Mr. Spry was, under direction, nominated.

Then some Democrat had an inspiration, and



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