

"OUR GOVERNMENT IS BASED  
ON THE CONSENT OF THE  
GOVERNED."  
—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

# THE BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE.

"THE QUALITY OF LIBERTY  
WE POSSESS IS EQUAL TO THE  
QUANTITY OF RESTRAINT  
WE PUT UPON THE GOVERN-  
MENT."  
—DANIEL WEBSTER.

VOL. I.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, APRIL 25, 1896.

No. 35.

## THE CRISIS IS HERE.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH made his appearance as attorney for the recent Church manifesto at Provo, on last Sunday. According to reports the gentleman made a convincing plea, although he had a bad case, and carried the majority of his audience with him. One would infer that the creed of the manifesto was a new departure, from the fact that it is being read to the Stake Conferences and ward meetings, and after a one-sided discussion it is submitted to the people for their approval; after which it is presumed to be the established law of the Church. The creed or tenets of a church may change, or be modified, but it is rarely ever done until there has been thorough discussion and investigation, and a substantial reason assigned therefor. In the present case, the promulgation of this edict favors more of strategy than honesty. It was railroaded through the General Conference at its closing hours without any apparent opposition, simply because it came as a surprise, its adoption strenuously urged by the Church leaders, and quietly acquiesced in by the people without debate or deliberation. Its passage was accomplished by about the same methods that the demonization of silver was achieved in 1873. Many who favored it did so upon the recommendation of others, not knowing or realizing what they were doing when the matter came up. Legislation either by the church or state that is secured in this way is pernicious and dangerous, and is always resorted to for the purpose of getting the advantage by a trick. It is almost always followed by a reactionary sentiment in a free country, and the tide of public opinion flows as far in the opposite direction as it did in its favor. President Smith in his Provo address assumed to expound the full meaning of the manifesto, when he maintained it was the province of the Church to direct and control in temporal as well as spiritual affairs of the members of the Church. This is the true logic of the manifesto, and this is doubtless its true intent; and no one understands it better than President Smith, who was one of the authors and supporters of this new creed.

What the effect of this dogma will be upon young Utah remains to be seen. We believe, however, that the intelligent American portion of the Mormon Church will repudiate this attempt to enslave the mind and conscience of mankind; that they will upon reflection, say to these church bigots, we are the followers of the man from Galilee, who came upon earth to make men better, and to make them free, and not to enslave them. All that is needed just now is a leader who has the courage of his convictions, and who will bravely stand up and denounce this innovation of the sacred rights of the citizen, and call upon all who want freedom and liberty of conscience to assert their natural born rights, and refuse to bow the knee to church interference. If this is done, thousands of the best of the Mormon people will be found who will stand together and maintain the true doctrines of the church, and preserve themselves and their children from drifting into a theocratic despotism; and the American people all over the Union will approve and applaud the courage and consistency of such a declaration. Stirring times may

be looked for in Utah within the next few months. The old fight must not be started; it would only make matters worse. The remedy should come from the Mormon people themselves; they alone have the opportunity of bringing Utah up out of great tribulation, and of making her the brightest star in the West. Where is the man or the set of men who will seize the opening and lead on to glory? Now is the time to act, for delay is dangerous. Some of the purest and brightest members of the Mormon Church openly condemn the spirit and purpose of the manifesto, and in them lies the hope and prosperity of our young State. We must have peace if we have to fight for it, and we can have no peace until Utah is in line with the other American States. Let it begin with those we have indicated and the contest will be settled forever. Selah.

## DESPONDENT DEMOCRATS.

Last Tuesday, the *Herald* of this city published an editorial entitled "To Despondent Democrats," which to a reader a thousand miles away from Utah would sound all right; but when uttered to the Democracy of Utah immediately upon the rising of a storm cloud, which threatens to cover the State with Egyptian darkness for years to come, the criticisms of Democrats by the *Herald* is mockery, prompted either by stupidity or unlimited gall. Yes, the Democrats of Utah are despondent; they are paralyzed and disorganized. They feel that many of the professed followers of Jefferson and Jackson in the State of Utah, have yet to learn what Democracy is. They feel that before marshaling their forces on the field of battle, it would be far better policy to get them over the hills and in some quiet valley let them practice on the awkward squad of politics until they know something of veteran service; and the editor of the *Herald* would doubtless derive information and benefit by doing duty in this body of recruits.

It is true there is an apathy in Democratic circles; but why is it, and when did it begin? The "tired feeling" came unexpectedly upon the young Democracy of Utah on the 7th of April, 1896, and was rendered more potent a few mornings afterward, by the publication of a leading editorial in the great Democratic (?) daily in this city, apologizing for, and justifying the blow, that made the Democratic party in Utah "bite the dust."

With a large number of ecclesiastical Democrats, together with the leading journal of the party, turning their backs to the principles of the party of Jefferson, is a spectacle which causes an American Democrat to not only blush with a sense of shame, but covers him with confusion and weakness. What is the use of effort or energy on party lines, if, after all the struggles a few men can, by "giving counsel," neutralize and overturn the entire effect?

Such is the situation in brief; and no wonder there is a feeling of despondency pervading the entire State. The editor-in-chief of the *Herald* constitutes one of the number of the men who are directly responsible for the distrust now brooding over Utah.

The Democratic party can never fight under the banner of church dictation, or under the leadership of a newspaper pledged to main-

tain any such monstrous and un-American ideas. Before Democracy can flourish and take heart again, there must be a withdrawal or modification of the church manifesto, and an outspoken Democratic newspaper in Salt Lake, that will stand up for the party "through evil as well as good report."

It is true that the cause of Democracy is growing brighter all over the country every day; that the West can see a star of hope by way of the South, but until we in Utah can get in line with the American spirit, there is but little encouragement to fight for party success when it can be manipulated by a power greater than the people themselves.

We have expressed ourselves plainly in these few words, because we believe it is to the interest not only of the Democratic party, but of all other parties, and of all the people of Utah, that there should be an awakening to the condition that confronts us. The remedy must come from those who brought about the condition. They have it in their power to dispel the gloom and invite the sunshine of prosperity to light up our valleys. Will they do it? We pause for results.

## IS THE CHURCH TO BE SUPREME?

AND so the manifesto is to be presented to the people in the several Stakes?

We are still curious to know wherein this is necessary. Moreover we think it will have a prejudicial effect on Utah's interests. We would that they hadn't asked the people's voice in the matter. As a matter of fact the people can do no less than expect their honored (church) heads, presidents of quorums, missionaries or others whose time should be given to their calling to so devote it without being told by them what they should not do. We do not tell a trusted employee not to steal, nor should it be necessary to tell them not to mix politics with their religion, or their religious duties.

We hoped the *Deseret News* would have enlightened an anxious public of its necessity for general dissemination. Is it designed that all members of the church (or priesthood) shall submit to another's advice, counsel or dictation?

If so, then is not the Mormon church behind the political throne, hence the dictator in Utah, and a potential factor in all the surrounding States, with a power in the nation that is a menace of the whole country?—*Springville Independent*.

We are glad to note that the press of Utah is not to be muzzled. Such plain talk as the above shows that there is yet patriotism enough in the State to preserve our Americanism.

## WHITE REPUBLICANS.

They Will Meet in Houston, Texas, Tomorrow.

Houston, April 19.—The white Republicans of Texas meet here tomorrow in state convention to elect four delegates at large to the national convention at St. Louis, and to arrange plans for the future, to rescue the party from negro domination. There will be about three hundred delegates in attendance, among them half a dozen negroes who are identified with the reform movement. The delegates at large will be four of the most prominent Republicans in the State, and a hard contest will be made for seats at St. Louis for a full delegation of thirty votes from Texas. Two of the delegates will be Congressman Noonan of San Antonio and H. F. McGregor of Houston. The executive committee held a meeting this afternoon and agreed on Look Me-

Daniel for temporary chairman and A. B. Norton and W. S. Nevins as temporary secretaries. This is the last convention of Lily Whites at which delegates have been regularly elected. The vote has increased materially since the first nomination, and the leaders are sanguine of making a good showing. No instructions will be given delegates and they will be left free to act as they see fit.

The above needs no comment, for it is in perfect accord with what the Broad Ax has always maintained. The Republican party hates the negro race at heart, and only shows them friendship when they can use them for their own selfish ends. There will soon be need of a force bill for the g. o. p. in the South.

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