

**THE PRACTICAL POLITICIAN: A DIGEST
OF READY INFORMATION AS TO THE
FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE GREAT NATIONAL POLITICAL
PARTIES, THEIR RISE AND PROGRESS
WITH PAST AND PRESENT ISSUES**

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The Practical Politician: A Digest of Ready Information as to the Fundamental Differences Between the Great National Political Parties, Their Rise and Progress with Past and Present Issues by S. A. Kenner

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THEIR RISE AND PROGRESS, WITH
PAST AND PRESENT ISSUES.

ALSO A

LIST OF THE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR
CABINETS, THE VICE PRESIDENTS,

THE PROCEDURE IN THE MATTER OF ELEC-
TION OF PRESIDENTS, SENATORS,
CONGRESSMEN, ETC.

WITH A REVIEW OF THE

LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION.

By S. A. KENNER.

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PREFACE.

No excuse will be looked for as a prefatory or other accompaniment to this little volume, and certainly none will be offered. To say that it fills, or is designed to fill, the traditional "long-felt want" would be to fairly state the case in part; for that there is need, and much need of a political instructor in Utah—one whose words will be those of simplicity and whose conclusions will at least approach a settlement, of the propositions discussed, will scarcely be denied.

Perhaps more noticeably in Utah than elsewhere, the people are confronted with an altogether new era—one greatly at variance with all of those preceding it. Formerly the people here had but little use for politics, because the situation was such that none were* required; it was simply a question of the supremacy of those holding to a certain ecclesiastical view, or of those opposed to or at least not in consonance with such view. As everything and all organizations must, for the sake of convenience, have a name, the former of these was called the "People's party" and the latter the "Liberal party," but as a matter of fact they were not parties, in the strict meaning of the term, if at all—as herein suggested, they were just disputants over a social problem. This state of affairs, as the overwhelming majority in Utah now believe, is with and of the past, and political controversialism as it exists elsewhere has taken its place. The Liberal party, notwithstanding, so far refuses to join in

*If it is anywhere justifiable to speak of politics in the plural number, it ought to be here where this work is produced. Within a year or so we have had in the field the Democratic, Republican, Liberal, Citizens' and Independent Workingmen's parties. From one extreme to the other, truly!

the new movement, claiming that the hand of the ecclesiastical authorities is still visible in the manipulation of the local governmental machinery; but with this exception we are Democrats and Republicans here as elsewhere.

The change came all at once when it did come, and it is not straining at a point to say that to a great many of the people it came somewhat "like a thief in the night;" that is, they were not altogether prepared for it, and yet it did not come a moment too soon. There had been nothing in their past experience, except by reading and talking, to prepare them for the "new deal;" in short, they found themselves with their former and all-along political anchorage gone, and that which supplanted it coming as an untried quantity—welcome, of course, as all other strangers are within their gates, but still practically unknown. Under the circumstances, I think they have done very well for a beginning, and are quite excusable for not being skilled politicians at the outset. It is with the hope of saving them some little labor in the way of research, of providing them with a ready reference as it were, that this volume has been brought forth.

The study of politics is as commendable as that of any other subject affecting our temporal welfare. I know that in the minds of a great many the word "politician" is closely and perhaps inseparably associated with "rascal," "knave," "schemer," and so on. This is because here and there a rascal who makes politics his business is unmasked, and because it is an occupation which admits of a good deal of underhanded work. The same thing in a lesser degree, perhaps, may be said of any profession and many of the trades. The fact is, a man can be as honest, upright and patriotic in the field of politics as in any other field, and the great majority of those who attain to eminence in it are as herein described, popular prejudice to the contrary notwithstanding. It is a calling which depends more

largely upon human understanding and civilized methods than any other, the law alone—which it resembles in some respects—excepted.

We have it on no less an authority than Emerson that—

Parties are founded on instincts that appear better guides to their own humble aims than the sagacity of their leaders. They have nothing perverse in their origin, but rudely mark some real and lasting relation. We might as wisely reprove the east wind or the frost as a political party whose members, for the most part, could give no account of their position, but stand for the defense of those interests in which they find themselves. Our quarrel begins with them when they quit this deep natural ground at the bidding of some leader and, obeying personal considerations, throw themselves into the maintenance and defense of points nowise belonging to their system. A party is perpetually corrupted by personality. Whilst we absolve the association from dishonesty, we cannot extend the same charity to their leaders. They reap the rewards of the docility and zeal of the masses on which they trade. Ordinarily, our parties are parties of circumstances, and not of principle; as, the planting interest is in conflict with the commercial; the party of capitalists, with that of operatives; parties which are identical in moral character and which can easily change ground, with each other in the support of many of their measures.

As in most other cases, it is the abuse, not the use, of politics that is disreputable. Its use leads to a better understanding of the functions of government and the citizen's relation thereto, of the powers and limitations of makers, administrators and expounders of law, and consequently enlarges the view of his own duties and prerogatives. It is not stating it too strongly to say that no man can be a perfect citizen without a knowledge of at least the rudiments of the political structure to which he contributes support. He need not make it his constant study by day nor his un-falling dream by night, need not of necessity make it a business or even permit it to turn his mind from that which is his business, his dependence for support or prosperity; but he can and should be thoroughly "posted," should know the right and the wrong of all political things directly or incidentally affecting him or those depending upon him.

I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the fact that the people of Utah, as a rule, learn well what they learn at all. They do not cross a stream till they arrive at it, but are not addicted to tarrying long on its banks. This means that our political status will not hereafter be weak, faulty or inefficient. Those among us who have the ability to "command the applause of listening senates" are neither few nor far between. Some of these are well developed and others are coming on. The physical and economic history of our Territory is conspicuous among current subjects of surpassing interest, and it is a fair prediction that its political future will also stand out as brightly and conspicuously as that of any commonwealth anywhere. So mote it be.

In preparing this volume, personal predilections (I am a Democrat) have been set aside and the information and comments herein contained placed upon a strictly non-partisan basis. It is designed to be as useful to Republicans as to those of my inclining, and to the independents, or those whose preferences have not yet matured, as to any others. Everything is condensed as much as possible and in every case is, I believe, entirely accurate.

With so much by way of introduction of the book, I confidently "pass it along."

Respectfully,

S. A. KENNER.

CHAPTER I.

THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The United States is a Federal Republic, that is, a country in which the will of the people is the supreme law and every part is an integral portion of the whole.

Blackstone, in his Commentaries, impresses it upon the student of law as one of his first duties to cherish an affectionate loyalty to the sovereign; adapted to our land, this means an inextinguishable preference for the system of government above outlined, and unconditional fealty to the Government itself. The politician's education and practices would be seriously defective if not actually bad did they not rest soundly upon the foundation named; above and beyond all preference for the methods by which our national affairs are or may be administered, should securely exist an impregnable and undying regard for the Nation itself. In other words, the politician should be subsidiary to the patriot. Partisan differences thus resolve themselves into their proper shape—conflicting means to gain a common end.

At the head of our Republic are:

1—The President, through whom (constructively)