

lives, as a point of principle flowing from a settled conviction, something which the bigot not only does not believe but looks upon as spurious and misleading, is enough to cause all the forces of opposition at command to be arrayed against the offender. It matters not that men's mental susceptibilities and forces vary very much and that honesty of purpose can exist where ideas are irreconcilable; the bigot must have it all his way.

Luckily, there is in almost if not quite every community in the country a leavening element which stands as a bulwark against the mad, methodless iconoclasm which demands so much and concedes so little. It was powerful enough even in the infancy of our governmental system to secure the recognition of God in the Constitution—a thing which the negationists have not yet ceased to fight against. The spirit of fairness, except in isolated cases, has been sufficiently pronounced to secure to religion its rights and nothing less, to secularism its rights and nothing more; albeit the constant, unceasing struggles of the latter to enlarge its sway at the expense of the other has had to be fought with tireless pertinacity. The point aimed at was and is the complete domination of the religious by the irreligious influence, and to this end the exclusion of churchmen as such from the political arena.

This nefarious proceeding has manifested itself variously as relates to system and magnitude. It has run the gamut of the political scale from ward caucuses up to Presidential contests. As the Know-nothing party it had candidates before the people for President and Vice President with full sets of electors in the states. The object was plain. While the principles as enunciated were the securing of America to Americans, meaning the exclusion of foreign-born people from participation in governmental affairs, the underlying feature was the no-popery cry which some less timorous than the others made a slogan of. "No Catholics need apply," was what it meant at that time, but it has since had a more ramified application. It simply means that church doctrine, rituals and utterances must conform to the regulations of the state as construed by those who are the enemies of the church.

Is opposition to any establishment of religion one of the defensible privileges of a political party or person? How can it be when it is not a part of the nation's organic law or of that of any state? Those who seek to dethrone ecclesiastical power in the land, under whatever name it may exist, may do so unchecked for reasons previously stated, but they must not look to the great charter for support. Nor should they, as a matter of common sense, look for support from those whom they would deprive of their dearest rights. It may be urged that such deprivation is not sought as against the individual but against the institution of which he is a part. This is another absurdity. How is it possible for a system to exist without its entities? How are a man's settled convictions to have expression and scope without the man himself? It cannot be.

Those who seek political or other preferment should be made to understand, if they do not, that to treat a case as an abstraction when they want support and as a concrete, direct and immediate proposition when not in want of such support will avail them little or nothing. The better-minded class of people recognize in an anti-religionist between times, an anti-re-

ligionist at election times; all of the people can't be fooled at once.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE.

Chauncey Mitchell Depew, L.L.D., made a great speech placing Col. Roosevelt in nomination for governor, in the New York Republican state convention yesterday. It was such an effort as Dr. Depew is equal to at all times, especially when, as in this case, it was prepared some time beforehand. Perhaps the result would have been the same in any event, as Roosevelt's immense majority over his only opponent, Governor Black, shows that the delegates' minds were trained in pretty much one direction. But then, such things must be invested with the customary forms and consummated with the necessary eclat to start them going along the political road with sufficient momentum.

However the result may have been reached, it was a great compliment and a rousing triumph for the chief of the Rough Riders, as deserved as it was pronounced. But the echoes of the cheers over his nomination had scarcely died away when a cloud of threatening aspect hovered over the scene. The nomination is to be contested on the ground of non-residence. On the 21st of last March he took an affidavit in Washington that since June of the previous year he had resided in and was a resident of that city. The Democrats, or some of them, claim that this was to evade the payment of taxes in Greater New York, but whether this is true or not the circumstance as a whole amounts to a very dangerous snag in the colonel's way. The constitution of New York provides that no person shall be governor or lieutenant governor unless he shall have been a resident of the state for five years next preceding his election. This, with the affidavit, would seem to be a pretty effective bar to the colonel's onward march to a great political honor, but it is as well to wait till his side is heard from before reaching a definite conclusion.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

The present activity of Vesuvius has caused a panic among the inhabitants of towns and villages menaced by the fiery streams of lava the mountain emits. There are now eight craters from which sulphurous smoke, steam, lava, ashes and stones are almost constantly poured out. Peasants are fleeing from their homes, saving whatever they can of their belongings, and pious groups gather petitioning the Almighty to stay the destroyer. The city Torre del Greco is said to be in danger of destruction. Crowds of sight-seers are also gathered in the vicinity of the mountain, and their gay songs form a marked contrast to the piteous cries and lamentations of the ragged fugitives whose property has been destroyed, or is in immediate danger of destruction.

Experts express the opinion that the eruption will assume serious proportions. The largest of the lava streams is 750 feet wide and 50 feet high and advances at the rate of 11 feet an hour. It moves towards the sea with a tremendous roar. The other streams are descending in other directions and among the cities threatened is Resina built almost on the site of the ancient Herculaneum, five miles southeast of Naples.

Vesuvius is the most celebrated volcano in the world. It rises to a altitude of about 4,000 feet in the midst of a region densely populated. In ancient times the volcano was regarded as extinct and people planted their vineyards on the slopes, probably not suspecting the nature of the soil. As early as the year 63 of our era, after centuries of rest, Vesuvius commenced to resume activity. A succession of earthquakes

occurred which spread panic among the people of Campania. The earthquakes continued for sixteen years. Then came the great catastrophe which stands out as one of the calamities of history. On August 24, in the year 79, a terrible explosion occurred. The earth trembled; the sea retreated from the shore; smoke, dust and stones fell for miles over the country surrounding the mountain; flashes of lightning illuminated the air, while otherwise the country was wrapped in Egyptian darkness for three days and nights, owing to the dense clouds of smoke and dust. When finally the eruption was over, it was found that at least three cities had been buried and that many human lives had been lost. Herculaneum, Pompeii and Stabiae had been wiped out of existence.

For nearly fifteen hundred years Vesuvius remained in a state of activity but without doing any considerable damage. At the beginning of the seventeenth century there were again evidences of a paroxysm. Earthquakes became frequent and on December 16, 1831, an eruption took place. Vast clouds of dust and stones were hurled into the air and carried for hundreds of miles and finer particles were observed to fall in the Adriatic and at Constantinople. It is thought that 18,000 people lost their lives in this volcanic outburst. Since then the mountain has never been entirely at rest.

In late years an observatory has been built at a safe distance from the crater and the pulsations of the mountain are being watched constantly. With the aid of scientific observations it should be possible to give forecasts reliable enough to warn the people in the vicinity of approaching danger and thus save many lives.

INDECENT POLITICS.

It seems to be an impossibility to some people to keep themselves clean during a political campaign. In smirching the character of others they usually besmear themselves. The coldbloodedness of political selfishness, whether in an aspirant for political station or a common ward heeler for cash, gives its possessor an impetus for carrying on a fight with whatever material or weapon may come first to hand, and decency is not permitted to count in the case at all.

It is a rule with such people to win at all hazards. Character, reputation, the family of opponents are assailed with the slime of slander. Falsehood stalks abroad, and money is that with which it is shod. And this is the apparently approved means, and the means employed, by which some of our kid-gloved aspiring statesmen seek to reach the goal of their political ambitions. True, the way seems easy; slime is usually slippery; and the defamation of others sometimes tends to draw attention from the character and personal calibre of the detractors themselves, so that they frequently slide into office on the slime they have made. All such means and methods as these should be eliminated from our political campaigns. They should be frowned down. The practice of mud-slinging will never filter the dirty waters of politics; the opposite is the result. And so it is that when evidence of this kind is presented, going to show the intention of some to descend to the level of indecency that success may come to them, a most vigorous protest should be made, and if ineffective of itself, then those who thus debase themselves and pollute the atmosphere for others, should be taken in hand by the proper committees and promptly muzzled. If this is not done, then the only thing for the people to do is to show their indignation by refusing to follow the lead of mud-slingers and vote them into oblivion.