

tions cannot possibly infringe upon them without sooner or later plunging into difficulty. The very disaster resultant from departures from the lines of exact truth is in the nature of a corrective, tending to lead the victim toward an effort at recovery through the rectifying process of repentance, which means a return to conformity with the good and true. An understanding of eternal, divine laws by which all things are governed—except that which perversely insists on being a law unto itself—enables the individual to gauge matters in general, because the information comprises so many keys.

Light cleaveth unto light, intelligence to intelligence, and truth to truth. In this statement appears to be comprised a key to spiritual progress. An effort on the part of an intelligent spirit to grasp the truth is responded to by the Spirit of Truth, by which the mind is quickened. With this inspirational assistance the subject under contemplation is grasped. Thus truth is planted in the human mind. Other truth, having an affinity for that already there, seeks a lodgment beside it and gains admittance. Thus spiritual enlargement becomes a natural growth, being governed by law.

Some people in the Church have been known to say that their religion was practical. While they did not desire to be engaged in the performance of spiritual duties, they were always ready to do their part in temporalities, such as contributing to the support of the poor, or any needed work of a similar character. The support of the poor and duties of a similar nature are essentially a part of a spiritual labor, and should be attended to from that standpoint. But the meaning of the class referred to was that they preferred to confine their religious work almost exclusively to a certain line or limit. This disposition is liable to lead to self-stultification. The evenly developed religionist is he who is capable, by the blessing of God, of dispensing bread of both kinds—that which perisheth and that which endures for ever.

He who desires to be useful in the labor of increasing truth and righteousness in the earth must bring his powers into activity. To allow them to remain inert is a contravention of divine economy, whose demands cannot be disregarded with impunity. To allow the glorious gifts of the creature to stagnate must be displeasing to the Source from which they were derived. It indicates ingratitude to the Giver and lack of appreciation of that which He has bestowed,

## REPUBLICANISM AND DEMOCRACY.

We publish today another communicated article on the two great political parties. This, however, is chiefly historical. It will give to those who have not studied the subject some insight into the origin of the Republican party, and the principal distinction between it and the Democratic party.

There are only two points in the article which we think necessary to comment upon. One is the statement that while the Democratic party holds that Congress possesses no power except that which the States have delegated to it, the Republican party claims that the States possess no powers except those given to them by Congress. The other is, that "In the House of Representatives each member is elected by a constituency irrespective of State boundaries." Both of these we regard as erroneous.

The Republican party certainly cannot claim that the States possess no powers but those gained from Congress, because thirteen of the States existed before there was any Congress. We think the Republican idea is expressed too broadly. The Republican party has not yet repudiated the Constitution. It has only interpreted its provisions to favor a centralization of power in the Federal Government. The Republican judges of the Supreme Court of the United States have been quite as ready, in most instances, to recognize, within certain limits, the doctrine of State rights as have the Democratic judges. And the right of the people in each commonwealth to form their own constitution, and proceed in their own way to organize and obtain admission into the Union, has been conceded by the Republicans, particularly of late years, if anything more cordially than by the Democrats.

Prominent Democratic Senators and Representatives have recently argued that Territories could not hold conventions and frame State Constitutions without an enabling act from Congress. And, strange to say, the Republicans have disputed the proposition and affirmed the right of the people to do all this without any action by Congress. This shows that they do not hold the view on this subject which is conveyed in the article under discussion.

Every member of the house of Representatives is elected from an election district of some individual

and independent State. There are no election districts outside of State boundaries. There is no election district, sending a Representative to Congress, which is composed of parts of different States. Neither Montana nor Idaho possesses enough population to make up the full number of a Representative election district, yet each will send one member to the lower House, and each election district will be included in and comprised by State boundaries. Therefore the statement to the contrary is a mistake.

With these exceptions the article contains subject matter of profit, and we recommend it to the attention of our young people who are investigating the political history and doctrines of our common country.

## PRESERVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

THE following excellent article is taken from the *Chicago Times*. We commend it to the attention of our Hebrew citizens who join in the "Liberal" attempt to steal the property of the "Mormon" Church, and the "Liberal" scheme to rob the law-abiding "Mormons" of the elective franchise. One error occurs in the *Times* article which calls for correction. That is the statement that the "Mormon" religion "for a purely secular purpose taught polygamy." When the doctrine of plural marriage was taught and advocated by the Elders of the Church it was from a religious, not a secular standpoint, and the ceremony was shown to be purely ecclesiastical, seeking no recognition or sanction from the secular law. In other respects the article is worthy of strong commendation. The *Times* says:

"The second expedition of Columbus to the new world was furnished forth in part with funds gained by the wholesale confiscation of property belonging to Jews who were banished from Castile by Leon. Mankind's sense of justice condemns justly this robbery of a race whose only offense was a rigid adherence to the religious belief and practice of the fathers. Yet at the close of the fifteenth century it was thought no great crime to despoil men who denied the divinity of Christ and held tenaciously to that ancient faith which is the foundation of Christianity. Thus to have robbed and expatriated the Jew is now regarded with abhorrence as both impolitic and unjust. Spain was then not a constitutional but an absolute monarchy. All Christendom was barbarously set against the descendants of the chosen people, who persisted in denying the divinity of Christ, and it was then thought no crime to deprive them of their worldly possessions. We know now that this, as all anti-Semitic legislation and despoliation, whether practiced in England or on the continent; whether drastic or merely pro-