

As a better way it is proposed to reverse the proposition and forbid a license to any show house within a given distance of a saloon. But this would put the established theatre at the same disadvantage as the established saloon, and perhaps the restrictions as to connections between such places would be sufficient to check the evil complained of so far as law can do so.

It is thought that the exception made as to hotels ought to be stricken from the bill. Perhaps that would be a great improvement. But it is conceded that a bar-room connected with a hotel is not as objectionable as an ordinary saloon, being kept orderly and chiefly for the benefit of guests to the hotel, and therefore it might be reasonably excepted.

We hope this measure, which contains some features essential to the general welfare, will not be defeated, but that a sufficient number of defenders of the right will rally to its support and place it upon the statute books of the Territory.

NEEDS COOLING OFF

THE "Liberal" organ is in a terrible rage. There must be something in the wind that causes it to fear for the future. It is desperately incensed against the DESERET NEWS and assails it in the fury of its former bluster. It is evident that the chief bully and blackguard has obtained full swing once more, and in the absence of a better and more decent writer has let loose in his own way and his accustomed style. A little soothing syrup and a cooling draught should be prescribed by his physician or, if, he will not submit to this simple treatment, his friends should see that a comfortable straight jacket is prepared for him.

STATESMANSHIP AND PATRIOTISM WANTED.

SOME rather fantastic bills have been introduced into the present Legislature. That body has had the good judgment thus far to promptly knock them on the head and kill them on their journey toward final passage. Such proposed enactments remind us that attempts to materialize similar legislative absurdities are made all over the country. Even Congress, which ought to be an aggregation of the centralized wisdom and statesmanship of the whole nation, is by no means free from them.

These legislative eccentricities show the necessity for men who are elected to represent the people in important public capacities making themselves

familiar with the genius and principles of American institutions. Some of the proposed measures show woeful ignorance in that regard. There are a few rules which, if kept in mind by all law-makers, would be useful in gauging the quality of any proposition for a statute. Will the measure, if it becomes law, be beneficial to the people as a whole? If not, it should not be enacted. Does it prefer one class of the people over others? If so it ought to be smashed. Does it place any class of the people under disadvantages that do not apply to all other citizens alike? If so it is safe as a rule to sit on and flatten it. Does it invade an inherent right of any citizen or class? If that is its character it is only fit to be torn up and consigned to the waste basket.

Rights that are inherent are not conferred by law; neither can they be. They are born with every man who comes into the world. They are, principally, the right to life, to liberty, and the peaceable possession of property. Of neither of these can the citizen be deprived by any process that does not apply equally to all other citizens; otherwise there would be no equality before the law.

Mr. Phelps, who, a few years ago, was United States minister to the court of St. James, delivered, by request, a lecture in the city of Edinburgh on the American theory of government. He gave an able and comprehensive exposition of the genius and principles of our institutions. He laid down a broad proposition with regard to constitutionality. It was to the effect that any law which was not of equal application to all alike, or which invaded what he defined as the inherent rights of man, was not constitutional and could not be made so, even if any one department of the Government or all of them combined should so declare it.

In making this declaration he must have meant, of course, that it could not be made constitutional in fact although it might be made so legally and judicially. He ought to have qualified his declaration, however, by explaining that when the government, or its judicial department, declares a measure constitutional it becomes so for all practical purposes. The decree of the power which the constitution itself designates as the authority for deciding what is or what is not good law is the finality on the question of constitutionality.

However, every attempt at law-making ought to be gauged by the theory of equal rights and the principle of even justice, which is the essence of government. Without justice all

governments are tyrannies, no matter as to their form. When that principle is eliminated from a Republic it becomes more despotic than a monarchy. As Ex-Senator Edmunds lately expressed it — "Ten masters are ten times worse than one."

Statesmen and patriots are not over plentiful. Their first consideration is, what will conduce to the public good. Mere politicians are not thus governed. They resort to expediency and are directed in their operations by ulterior motives. Individual and party benefits are their chief considerations.

THE SUGAR FACTORY.

IN this issue we give space to a correspondence in relation to the Utah sugar industry. We emphatically agree with the writer on the point of the enterprise not being a monopoly, and we hardly believe that a gentleman of Mr. Cunningham's intelligence is correctly reported when he is represented as so designating it. There has existed for a number of years a species of sugar monopoly in the United States. Its existence demands the broader establishment of the industry, because the multiplication of sugar factories will prove the downfall of monopoly in that department of industry.

In most localities it is impossible to establish and conduct this branch of manufacture in its initial stages without sinking large amounts of money. The result is that without assistance from the people, capitalists would decline to invest. The benefits at large derived by the entire commonwealth from the existence of such an establishment as the sugar factory is beyond question. It means the keeping of a large amount of money at home—in place of expending it for importation of a staple article of extensive consumption—to be invested in other directions. It not only furnishes immediate but also consequential employment, and contributes largely to the general sum of prosperity in other directions, such as the cheapening of the product.

THE PREST AND PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.

NEW YORK and Minnesota, until recently were the only two States in the Union which excluded press representatives from public executions. This condition will prevail no longer in the Empire State. The capital punishment law has been so amended that in future reporters will be present at electrocutions. The bill has received the assent of the Governor.

Minnesota now remains alone in this rather peculiar situation with regard to