

If, as the *Union* suggests, "Congress should borrow a principle from the ancient Mosaic legislation," we would not have the slightest objection. In that case, many of the "Mormon"-haters, including, if report speaks truly, some prominent supporters of the *Christian Union*, would be in danger of legal penalties, while the "Mormons," who abhor the crime of adultery, but believe in the inherent rightfulness, under certain conditions, of marrying more wives than one would not be in the least affected by the law. The *Union* ought to look into this matter a little more closely, when it would find that some of the best men whose names are recorded in Holy Writ were the husbands of several wives, and that they "will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God," while "no adulterer shall enter the kingdom of heaven." Thus the "Mormons," if faithful in other things, will be in good company, and many of their accusers and would-be destroyers will have their part without the celestial city with those of their own kind. So let it be.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE SECRET BALLOT.

In the Governor's message to the Legislative Assembly appears the following paragraph:

"The Act for Registration and to regulate the manner of conducting elections failing to make in practical operation a secret ballot, is commended to you for amendment."

This has one merit which distinguishes it from many other parts of the message; it is intelligible. Its meaning can be understood without difficulty. But it has an element in common with some other parts of the document; it contains a gross misstatement of fact. And although the author has never been credited by those who know him with even an ordinary amount of good sense, we do not think he is either so foolish or so ignorant as not to know that when penning it he was uttering a falsehood.

That the registration law does practically secure a secret ballot, so far as it is possible to be effected anywhere, is something that cannot be successfully controverted. Some quotations from the law will establish this:

SEC. 11. The County Court shall furnish the Judges of Elections, in every Precinct, with a sufficient number of plain envelopes for election purposes. Said envelopes shall be uniform in color and size, without any marks, writing, printing, or device upon them, and no other kind shall be used at any given election. Before opening the polls, the ballot box shall be carefully and publicly examined by the Judges of Election, who shall satisfy themselves that nothing is therein. It shall then be locked and the key thereof delivered to the presiding Judge; and said ballot box shall not be opened during the election.

SEC. 13. Every voter shall designate on a single ballot, written or printed, the name of the person or persons voted for, with a pertinent designation of the office to be filled. And when any question is to be decided, in the affirmative or negative, he shall state the proposition at the bottom of the ballot, and write thereunder "Yes" or "No," as he may desire to vote thereon; which ballot shall be neatly folded and placed in one of the envelopes hereinbefore provided for, and delivered to the presiding Judge of Election, who shall, in the presence of the voter, on the name of the proposed voter being found on the Registry List, and on all challenges to such vote being decided in favor of such voter, deposit it [in] the ballot box, without any mark whatever being placed on such envelope; otherwise the ballot shall be rejected.

It should be remembered that one of the Judges of Election in each precinct is required to be "of the political party that was in the minority at the last previous election," also that the ballot boxes must be "made of galvanized iron with Yale or other safe locks," and that the count must be made as soon as the election is over. A voter can place his ballot in the envelope as secretly as he pleases. He can make his own ballot, or use one provided by any person or party, at his option. He can bring it already folded and place it in the envelope, so that it would be impossible for any one to

know what ticket he voted, whose name he scratched or anything whatever concerning it. The ballot in Utah is, in practical operation, a secret ballot. If not, in what particular is it open to scrutiny? The Governor does not state wherein it is not secret. He does not suggest anything specific to be remedied nor offer any remedy. He merely makes a statement which is untrue, and asks for an amendment based upon his untruth.

In the preceding paragraph, he suggests that the Secretary of the Territory furnish certain stationery for the election. Why should this duty be transferred from the County Courts to the Secretary? He gives no reason. Neither does he state why that officer should furnish the people with ballots, thus preventing them from voting their own. If there were any he should have mentioned them, so that they might be recognized. Failing to do so, we presume he had no reasons, but merely desired to convey the false impression, for outside effect, that there is no secret ballot in Utah.

We have cause for this inference. While on one of his former eastern tours—engaged in that Moulton stock floating operation—he stated to newspaper reporters that under the laws of Utah a Chinese girl 13 years of age, if married to a "Mormon," could vote at any election if she had not been in the country six weeks. He knew then, as we think he knew in this instance, that his statement was abominably false, because the law requires every person to swear that he or she is twenty-one years of age, and has resided in the Territory and the precinct the periods prescribed. And if his statements on this point were true, how is it that he has made no reference in his message to that alleged defect in the election laws? He has wandered a long way outside of territorial and secular affairs to meddle with purely Church matters, with which he has nothing to do, and surely if it is a fact that the Utah statutes are so in conflict with the laws of the United States in relation to the voting powers of citizens as he has declared, he could have called the attention of the Legislature to the wrong, as indeed it was his duty to do. The absence of all allusion to it is proof that he had not the hardihood to say to the Assembly that which he told to newspaper reporters with a view to injure the people of Utah. We have had several Executives with small brains and prevaricating lips, but Eli H. Murray is the weakest-headed and most double-tongued of them all.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEADLY POISON.

It is not generally known to what extent arsenic enters into common use. That it is a deadly poison there can be no dispute. One pound will, it is stated by chemists, poison twenty-eight hundred human beings. So powerful a poison must be injurious when entering the system in but minute quantities, whether directly or indirectly. And yet it is used in a great variety of ways in common things. About three million pounds is imported into the United States annually. Vast quantities are consumed in the manufacture of lamp shades, window curtains, wall paper, wrapping paper for confectioneries, paper boxes, eye shades, tickets, artificial flowers and many other articles in daily use. One chemist reports that he found ten grains of arsenic in every square foot of a ladies' dress; another, ten grains in every single artificial flower.

Most of the confections used by the ladies for beautifying (?) the complexion contain arsenic, and sometimes in such quantities as to become an actual poison. Many ladies use it internally for whitening their complexions, generally giving them a corpse-like appearance, and in not a few instances not only the appearance but the condition of a corpse has been thereby secured. Sensible people will guard as far as possible against the use of arsenic in such quantities as to endanger health, and there ought to be legislation to guard the public from its combination with other substances in a manner likely to be injurious. Many of the causes of disease and death which spread sorrow and pain, enter in a disguised form into articles that appear to be harmless and innocent.

AN UNJUSTIFIABLE ASSAULT.

THE *San Francisco Chronicle* keeps up its attacks on ex-Senator Sargent whose name has been mentioned as a probable member of President Arthur's cabinet. If some more reputable papers did not join in the assault it would be a matter of small moment, for the *Chronicle*, though an enterprising and newsy paper, is utterly unprincipled and reckless in the matter of assaults on personal character. But it is rather surprising that journals of standing in the country will repeat the *Chronicle's* slanders as though they were undisputable facts.

It is very clear that Mr. Sargent was not the author or the chief supporter of the Desert Land Act as charged by the *Chronicle*. Also, that he has never been a supporter, directly or indirectly, of "Mormonism," or polygamy. He has always opposed the latter and while not in favor of the incendiary measures advocated by the fanatics, who would ride rough shod over all established rights and settled principles to destroy a people who believe and practice an unpopular religion, he has always firmly set himself against "Mormon" doctrines and doings both as a private citizen and as a Member of Congress.

The ill will of the *Chronicle* is a compliment to the ex-Senator. That paper is thus described by the *Sacramento Record-Union*, which speaks the sentiments in this respect of the better classes of the people of the Pacific Coast:

"Every Californian knows that the journal referred to is utterly non-representative. It speaks for no decent or respectable element of any kind. It is a common prostitute in journalism, at the disposal of whoever chooses to buy it for any vile purpose. When therefore it assaults a public man all who know the sheet are prepared for the most deliberate and reckless falsehoods, but none regard such assaults as in any way derogatory to the character of the intended victim."

We are pleased to count the *Chronicle* among the persistent traducers of the Latter-day Saints. If such papers were to speak in favor of the "Mormons" or their creed, we should think there must be something wrong in both. We do not court their smiles, we would not have their approbation. We would rather put up with their abuse, than be dishonored by their plaudits. And we have no doubt that Mr. Sargent will manage to live and prosper in spite of these unjust attacks now made upon his personal character.

We do not say this because we count him as anything friendly to our faith or our cause, but simply because in the present instance we consider him shamefully abused without reason. Somebody who wants to be Secretary of the Interior, in our opinion, is behind this newspaper assault, and time will show who is the puller of the strings that move these unmanly and vicious paper-pelters.

A BIG STRIDE IN BRITISH POLITICS.

EVERYBODY has heard of the English Chartists, who forty years ago, raised such a rumpus in the British Isles as to arouse the Government to extreme measures for their suppression. Since the agitation subsided, most of the points of the "People's Charter," which then were opposed by force of arms, have become part of the laws of Great Britain, and now one of the most important demands of that document and its advocates has been conceded. We refer to "manhood suffrage."

The "reform bill" championed by Lord John Russell, extended the suffrage to all £10 householders in the boroughs; that is all men who occupied houses in the boroughs on which they paid a clear yearly rental of ten pounds sterling, were endowed with the right to vote. In 1867 this right was extended to all householders who had been rated as occupiers, and had paid the poor rates assessed upon their property so occupied up to the preceding January, and also to lodgers who paid an annual rental of \$10. Two years later another act was passed, which provided that the payment of rates by the owner of the house "shall be deemed a payment of the full rate by the occupier for the pur-

pose of any qualification or franchise which as regards rating depends upon the payment of the poor rate."

An Act had been passed in 1878 by which, without intending any extension of the franchise, the word "dwelling house" in the law of 1867 was defined to be "any part of a house where that part is separately occupied as a dwelling." Disputes arising in regard to the application of this in reference to voting, the matter was brought before the courts, and a decision was rendered that every occupant of a part of a house separately occupied as a dwelling was entitled to the franchise as a householder.

Thus many thousands of lodgers who would not be entitled to vote as such without paying a rental of \$10 per annum, under the rendering of the law which makes them "householders," have the right to vote the same as though they rented a whole house on which the owner paid the rates.

Thus the suffrage, without special Act of Parliament to that effect, is extended to nearly all the men in the country. This includes England, Scotland and Wales, and it is conceded that Ireland will not be long left out in the cold.

The change thus wrought in the voting population of the kingdom may be imagined from the fact, that in one borough alone the names of 9,996 persons heretofore excluded, have been added to the register of votes since the decision of the judges. This increase of the poorer classes of voters must have a powerful effect upon English politics. The liberal party will gain immense strength, and the Conservative party must be correspondingly weakened.

Vote by ballot, the abolition of property qualification for serving in Parliament and manhood suffrage, three points of the Charter once considered "revolutionary," "un-English" "anti-monarchical," are now parts of the law of the land, although the organization which advocated them has long been disbanded. This is another illustration of the change in public sentiment, the yielding of the "upper classes" to the ideas and demands of the lower, and one more proof that the heresies of to-day may become the orthodoxies of to-morrow. When a man or a society, a party or a church, holds opinions contrary to the views of the multitude, providing those ideas are true and right; time, persistence and perseverance will eventually bring for them victory, and those who once assailed them in the blunders of prejudice, passion and haste, will either quietly submit to the inevitable, or being convinced of their error, become the outspoken champions of the principles they once condemned. Popular opinion and popular clamor, the opposition of the governing powers or the denunciation of dignitaries are no certain guides to the value or truth of a principle or a system.

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