

was based upon the further presumption that those chosen for jury service would represent about equally each class of the population. The law was not of itself exactly fair, on the ground that a small minority was given in this respect an equal representation with an overwhelming majority. The object was, however, to make a numerically equal representation so far as the list was concerned. And thus it has been, in the matter of selection, pretty much since the law was put in force.

Subsequent legislation—notably the Edmunds-Tucker law—took the power of electing Probate Judges out of the hands of the people, and made it a matter of appointment at the hands of the President of the Republic. That means, as a matter of course, the selection of those belonging to the minority, with whom the selection of jurors is thus solely placed.

A glance over the latest annual jury list shows the result. We are somewhat familiar with the people of this section of the country and of their status. There may be half a dozen, or perhaps a few more, belonging to the majority part of the population on that list, but that is about all. Thus it will be seen that the intent of the law is defeated. This is a matter perhaps that practically amounts to but little either way, as the courts have, during the last few years, hastened the depletion of the lists by the allowance of wholesale challenges against persons selected for jurors presumed to hold unorthodox opinions. Thus the way was opened for the use of open venires, a process that admits of any amount of stuffing. Perhaps the selection of practically but one class of citizens to do jury service is as broad as long, one way amounting in the end to about as much as the other. Justice is justice, however, and what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. It is always the proper thing to do to "keep within the law," both as regards its spirit as well as its letter. Judge Marshall is a very fair sort of man on general principles, but there has been a little stepping beyond the line in this instance. An officer can always afford to be as fair as the law admits, and, it might be properly said, almost directly.

THE TRUTH DEFENDED.

THE following letter, written to Mr. Evan Reese, of Merthyr Tydfil,

Wales, by a Mr. Reese of this city, appears in the *Merthyr Express*:

"Dear parents, sisters and relations.—I am aware that Jarinan is causing a great deal of excitement in Wales at present. I have seen it printed in the papers here, exactly as the old country papers give it, but it is a most wilful lie for him to say anything of the kind. And he also says that the Mormons killed his son; his son is working here at present. There is a most horrible lot of lies told about this people. He also says that from 15,000 to 20,000 people have been decoyed from Wales here for illegal purposes, or in short to make prostitutes of them. Now, Salt Lake City is one of the most moral places I have met on my travels yet. They (the Mormons) preach altogether against immorality, and any men found visiting places of bad character are cut off from the Church without mercy. This is a free country; you can do anything here you can in Wales, but of course you must not break the law. I have worked with Mormons and Gentiles, but of the two I give me a Mormon to work with, and if he should prove treacherous, it is not the fault of their religion; for if they kept the doctrines of their religion, they would be the best people on the face of God's earth. I am not a Mormon at all, but I hate to hear such a thundering lot of lies told upon Christian people. So I must conclude; give my kind love to all old friends, and accept the same yourselves from your affectionate son and brother."

THE DEBT OF FRANCE.

A FRENCH writer has endeavored to give an idea of the debt of France. He says it amounts to thirty milliards of francs. This sum written in figures would look thus: 3,000,000,000. In order to raise up a pile of silver coins representing this sum, you would have to build a pyramid with a base of 1000 square meters and 300 meters high—a pyramid double the height of the greatest pyramid of Egypt, or about the height of the great Eiffel Tower now in course of erection for the Exposition in Paris. The indebtedness of Russia and England would make pyramids of only 180 meters. The pyramids of Germany, Austria, the United States and Italy would only reach a height of 100-120 meters. This fine mathematician further remarks: "Now comes the sad fact that, unlike the Egyptian structure, which rests on solid

ground, the above-mentioned pyramid rests on the shoulders of eight or ten millions of taxpaying Frenchmen, and each of these has about 3,000 francs of it. When a man is accustomed from his childhood to bear a heavy burden, he will not of course, feel like one who has a hunch upon his back; and yet were this burden removed, every individual would be certain to feel a great relief."

POPULAR LIBERTY.

NEWS came some days ago that the Skuptschina, the national legislature of Bulgaria, had approved the new constitution by a vote of 494 to 73. Emperor Frederick spent the last days of his life—days of physical agony which would have prostrated any man not fired by a high resolve like his, and supported by the fortitude which he displayed—in perfecting the constitution of his empire. Perturbed France, in the midst of her many and grave perplexities, is struggling to perfect her organic law. If signs may be relied upon, not long hence the mighty people now ruled by the Czar will rise with a power not to be resisted, and demand a national charter.

Thus the spirit of constitutional liberty is spreading over the European continent. In the perception of the principles of truth and justice involved in civil government the civilized nations are taking rapid strides; but it is sinning against light and knowledge which have been acquired, that brings disaster; and a popular form of government, unsupported by what the late J. S. Black denominated "constitutional morality," is the most useless and ineffective, if not the most dangerous, of all forms of civil rule.

The committee of the Skuptschina having charge of the framing of the new constitution was a large one, consisting of fifty-four members. It was hopelessly divided in its labors, on account of the radical nature of some of the changes in the national organic law which some persistently urged. It is not stated what those changes were, but King Milan demanded the passage of the constitution as revised, and threatened that unless this were done he would dissolve the Skuptschina and exercise independent rule.

It is to be presumed that the changes made in the constitution were in a progressive direction; and if such is the case, the peremptory course taken by King Milan to se-