

Apostles are doing in the field of politics. We understand that those gentlemen are advocating party claims as their individual sentiments and not in any sense as ecclesiastical officers. They have a right to their views and the advocacy thereof. And so has every other citizen, whether he be "Mormon" or "Gentile," and the value to be placed upon those views is simply that which belongs to them by virtue of their correctness, independent of the position that may be occupied by the man.

A PICTURE OF OUR TIMES.

THE little court drama now on in London is developing some highly interesting figures for future stage artists and workers in royal portraits of high color. While a due respect to the powers to be would necessarily grant to His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Wales and heir apparent to the British dominions, first place in the performance, there is question about awarding second position to the alleged chief villain, Sir William Gordon Cumming, who would seem to hold such a claim. We rather think the popular verdict will place at the right hand of the Prince Mr. Arthur Stanley Wilson, chief witness for the defense, whose position during this royal game seems to have been near, if not nearest, to his Royal Highness, as a testimonial anchor to starboard, so to speak, in case of popular storm.

This Mr. Wilson, taken on his merits, is the most picturesque personality of the group, and among them all the most worthy to defend the menaced reputation of his royal master. According to his testimony he was a gentleman of "no occupation"—an excellent beginning for the make up of a gentleman after the modern idea. "He had been at Cambridge for a year;" this would indeed make his case a little doubtful, but for the saving clause in his testimony, "my father thought it only a waste of time my staying there."

In the meantime the observant critic of this conspicuous young gentleman should not lose sight of his personal interpolation to the effect that, though he watched Sir William Gordon Cumming, when he cheated at cards, he was not under contract to do so. The future history student would be greatly grieved to have so splendid a gentleman's character marred with such a dishonor.

Someone says: "Woman studies man with regret; man studies woman with amazement." The woman in this case is evidently married and the man is not.

LORD BALFOUR IS SATISFIED.

THE people of Ireland, and we are inclined to think, the world over, will be glad to learn that Balfour, Ireland's lord lieutenant, is "satisfied" with the operation and effect of the crimes act, and is disposed therefore to recommend its suspension. The world's gratitude will be, if possible, intensified by the evidence of his good purpose afforded in the further information that the government is shortly to issue a proclamation in harmony with Balfour's present good humor.

This beautiful affair which Balfour now tosses to one side with a word of faint praise for its comeliness, to Ireland has been worse than the worst visitation of plague or famine of all her melancholy existence. The expense of her wars and the privations of her blasted crops do not compare with it. It has cost the Irish citizens of this country alone millions, and considered in all its horrifying details it has been to civilization at large the most distressing piece of political oppression that the century has produced.

This is not because the world is unacquainted with such wrongs. This so-called "crimes act" does not compare with acts of crime attributed to some of the mighty men of old. But the cruelty of a barbarian to the men of his race does to react upon the imaginations, so to speak, like the performances of an enlightened political tyrant, pursuing the same barbarous theories of human discipline.

We repeat, that if Lord Balfour is indeed satisfied that his "crimes act" has done its perfect work in the subordinating of his fellow countrymen to his idea of governmental discipline, the world will be greatly delighted, for this Irish nightmare has been very trying upon the nerves of civilization.

THE SCHOOL BONDS.

AT THE meeting of the School Board on Thursday, June 4th, it was announced that preparations had been completed for holding the election for school bonds. This will take place on Friday, June 12th, at Independence Hall, which is on Third South street a little west of Main street.

The question to be voted upon is whether the School Board of this city shall be authorized to issue bonds for the sum of \$600,000 for purchasing school sites, for building or purchasing one or more school houses and supplying the same with furniture, and necessary apparatus, for improving the grounds, and for liquidating any indebtedness

already incurred for such purposes. The polls will be open one hour after sunrise and continue until sunset.

We have called attention to this matter before, and promised to say something further in relation to it. We now redeem the promise.

When the request was made by the School Board that this large sum of money should be placed at its disposal, tax-payers were startled. And in view of the disposition of the City Council to bend the city proper to the full limit permitted by congressional law, it became a question whether the people could afford to assume this indebtedness for school purposes. But it was claimed that the bonds desired for those purposes would be included in the limit placed upon the general indebtedness of the city. That satisfied the majority, and no opposition was developed against the proposition.

When the City Attorney presented his opinion that the school bonds were not within that limit, and that the City Council could contract debt to the full extent of four per cent. of the taxable property within the corporate bounds, considerable alarm was expressed at the prospect of a big bonded debt, amounting in the aggregate to \$2,400,000, as a burden for the bodies of city taxpayers.

But, as we have explained heretofore, it is still an open question whether the city can incur any further indebtedness than about \$1,800,000, including the amount required for school bonds. Several experienced lawyers dissent from the views of the City Attorney on the matter. They take the ground that the meaning of the law is that no indebtedness for any public purpose shall be incurred within the municipal corporation beyond the limits set by the statute. If that is the law we think there will be but little objection to the proposed school bonds.

This being a matter of doubt, what is the best course to pursue? To determine this, existing circumstances and necessities must be considered. It is an undeniable fact that in consequence of the rapid, almost sudden, increase of population, there is only accommodation for about one-third of the children of school age in this city, and for only one-half of those enrolled on the school lists.

This is a serious situation. The Board has been under the necessity of hiring buildings for school purposes and, with all the efforts made, children are crowded into buildings inadequate in size and adaptability for the purposes required. Many of the old buildings, erected when the districts were very