

but were never at any time sent by him or with his knowledge to any Bishop or anybody else save in response to direct personal inquiry from correspondents, and even then to less than half a dozen in number; (4) at the time the alleged letter was first published and put into circulation he was absent from the city, and knew nothing whatever about its being used in any such way.

Yet for this, and this alone so far as the particular incident is concerned, he has been upbraided and criticized and charged with using "Church influence," while the head and front of his offending was merely the courtesy of answering a correspondent's letter. The News knows these facts, and now that the alleged letter has been made public, we take occasion to tell the whole truth about it, letting the blame fall where it belongs. We do this for the reason that an honorable man deserves exoneration from a charge of which he is in no way guilty, and as a warning to scheming politicians and excitable men against using such names in an unwarranted and compromising way, and against believing everything they see and hear which campaigners may choose to produce to work upon their feelings. As to the question of disclaimers and denials, the leading authorities of the Church, like busy men everywhere, have too much to do to be everlastingly writing cards, explanations and statements concerning each disagreeable rumor they hear or every dishonest and scrupulous word or act that may be directed against them. Particularly do they feel warranted in maintaining silence on such matters during the heat of a political campaign, where any attempt on their part to discuss a political trick would not fail to subject them to the charge of "Church interference" by one party or the other.

We have rebuked the dragging of their names and their official positions into politics at all. They are entitled to something better at the hands of the people of Utah. They do not desire to interfere with anybody's civil or political rights—this they have said again and again, and all the people know it. On the other hand they have the right to expect fair and decent treatment from the politicians of all parties. That which in the exercise of their prerogatives they feel called upon to do, they will perform in an honorable, courageous and righteous manner. There need be no misunderstanding about that, and no one need be disturbed, misled or deceived by anything purporting to come from them which is not distinguished by these attributes.

VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION.

The chief of several important matters to receive attention from the voters of Utah on November 5th is the balloting on the adoption of the State Constitution. The Utah Commission has issued the necessary instructions, directing that for ballots cast under the laws controlling the Territory the usual buff-colored envelopes shall be used, and with the ballot enclosed shall be

dropped into the box provided for that purpose. The envelope for the State election is to be blue, and with the ballot it contains will go in a separate box from the other. The Commission also recommends the use of white paper for Territorial (or municipal) tickets and of blue-tinted paper for the State election tickets. This matter, however, is in the discretion of the parties making the tickets, to suit their convenience, and whether the recommendation will be adopted, or whether white paper with blue ink for the State and black or the other, or white paper and black ink for both, shall be used, is something those who order the printing must decide for themselves. The special item for the voter's consideration is the last line on the State ticket. It contains the words YES and NO. Above it is the line *For Constitution*. On each ticket, near the head, is the instruction:

All persons desiring to vote for the Constitution must erase the word "No."

All persons desiring to vote against the Constitution must erase the word "Yes."

This instruction is one which each voter must observe if he would have his ballot counted on the Constitution. If he should deposit the ticket without erasing or marking out with a heavy pen or pencil the either of the words, then his vote could not be counted in the Constitutional canvass, and would have the same effect as if it were a blank. Every voter, therefore, who wishes to have his ballot registered in favor of the Constitution should be very careful to see to it that the word "No" is scratched or erased, and vice versa. It would be commendable in citizens of all parties to take particular care to have this matter thoroughly understood, that the vote on the Constitution may be an intelligent and accurate expression of the people's will. On other occasions the negative and affirmative ballots have been separately printed, but the enabling act requires that in this instance the Yes and No should be on the same ticket. A little attention to their existence there will obviate any difficulty that may appear.

CUBA'S GRIEVANCES.

Owing to the sympathy manifested in this country in many quarters for the Cubans, in their present struggle for independence, a statement of the prevailing conditions in that island is of interest, as giving an idea of the real cause why the people desire to sever their connection with the old country. One of the friends of the insurgents, Emilio Menez Coronel, tells the story in a recent issue of the New York World.

He says the island is governed by a nation four thousand miles away, and by men unacquainted with the true needs of the people. Until 1878 there was a purely military government, but after a civil war extending over ten years, slavery was abolished, and the absolutism was somewhat mitigated, but still there are in Cuba two great castes—the Spaniards who enjoy all privileges, and the Cubans who are made to bear all the burdens. The tax-payer is treated by every petty

government employe as a vassal and has to pay enormous salaries to these officials.

An idea of the amount yearly drawn from Cuba in the form of salaries alone may be obtained from these figures:

Governor general, \$50,000 per annum and perquisites; director general of finances, \$18,500; archbishop of Cuba, \$18,000; bishop of Havana, \$18,000; commander general of the navy yard, \$18,932; president of the supreme court, \$15,000; lieutenant general or deputy captain general, \$15,000; governor of Havana, \$8,000; first secretary of the government, \$8,000; general of a division in Cuba, of which there are several, \$7,500; brigadiers, \$4,500; colonels, \$3,450; lieutenant colonels, \$2,700; naval captains, \$6,300; commander, \$4,550; lieutenant, \$3,370; chief of administration of the first class, \$3,000; chief of administration of the second class, \$4,000; chief of administration of the third class, \$3,000; collector of customs, \$4,000; administrator of lotteries, \$4,000.

The very administration of justice is made a source of revenue to the state, amounting to \$500,000 annually, for every sheet of paper used before the courts of justice is stamped by the government and no application or petition of any kind is received by court officials unless written on this paper, which costs all the way from 25 cents to \$25 a sheet, according to the nature of the business to be transacted.

After the last civil war representation in Parliament was granted to Cuba, but the franchise is such that one million Cubans have eight representatives, while 140,000 Spanish residents have six each. This is brought about by giving the right to vote to every Spaniard, but denying it to every Cuban who has not a certain income.

How Spanish rule in Cuba affects the trade with the United States, the writer sets forth as follows:

Cuba consumes a million bags of flour a year. During the existence of the reciprocity treaty with the United States all this flour came from the United States. Very little now goes directly from the United States to Cuba. The majority of it goes to Cuba by way of Spain, from which country it is introduced as Spanish flour, thus benefiting the revenues of the mother country, as each bag has to pay in the custom-houses of Spain \$.70, or an extra cost of \$.40 on each bag of flour. If it were imported directly from the United States, the cost of each bag would be \$.50.

According to the tariff now prevailing in Cuba, all machinery from the United States has to pay at the rate of \$66 per ton in wrought-iron construction; cast iron constructions pay \$26 per ton. This is practically a prohibitory duty, as it amounts to much more than the machinery is worth. The result is that machinery is imported into Cuba from England, Belgium and other European countries through the Spanish custom-house in Europe, thus again giving the mother country the benefit. There are many other American products that could be imported into Cuba, but which are now barred out by the tariff, as it is cheaper to import them from Europe through Spain.

That the system of taxation is almost unendurable is a natural consequence of the enormous debt of the island and the dominant condition of its natural resources. Every opening in the houses of the native, such as windows, doors, etc., is taxed. If he wants