

AN APPEAL PROVIDED FOR.

THE legislation enacted by Congress from time to time, intended to operate for the suppression of the religion of the Latter-day Saints, has so far been characterized by a feature which may be regarded as remarkable. The way has been left open for an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. It has thus happened that appeals have been carried from the Utah courts to that exalted tribunal involving questions that could not have been appealed beyond the jurisdiction of State courts had the cases originated in a State. The Cullom disfranchisement bill now pending in Congress, will, if it shall pass, as now constituted, be no exception to this rule. Any person convicted of perjury in taking the registration oath prescribed in it, may appeal to the United States Supreme Court on questions of law or fact.

The Supreme Ruler, under whose providence religious liberty was provided for in the organic law of this Republic, seems to have designed that, in the assaults made upon this provision of the Constitution, there shall be a concert of action between the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the government, and that all three shall stand or fall together, in their contact with this principle.

So far the three branches of power have shown a satisfactory degree of unity in co-operating for the attainment of the end sought. All of them have seemed to be actuated by the idea that the safety of the national fabric depended upon the expedition with which a handful of religionists in this mountain region could be converted from their theological views and compelled to abandon certain religious observances.

No doubt it is best that there should be harmony between the departments of government in respect to religious liberty. The consequences of attacks upon it will be made apparent all the sooner, and the way will be the more quickly and thoroughly prepared for a radical change of policy relating to this subject, when the time shall come to make that change. Disfranchising political opponents under a religious test is a game which will certainly lead to a crisis before it is played very long.

It is better to suffer an injury than to commit one.

DESTRUCTIVE STORMS.

THE hailstorm which swept over a portion of Maryland, April 27th, doing extensive damage to property and inflicting injury upon men and animals, was phenomenal in its fury and in the size of the icy chunks. Many of the people were stricken with terror. Some of them crouched trembling on the floors of street cars on which they were traveling. Others who were riding in ordinary conveyances leaped from them and dashed into contiguous buildings for shelter.

Every close observer must be struck with the frequency with which sudden spells of unseasonable weather have of late years been precipitated over vast tracts of our globe. Among these peculiarities and transitions of the state of the atmosphere is the production of hailstorms by a rapid change of temperature, in the advanced summer, from heat to cold.

All the phenomenal freaks of the elements which are now becoming common, were predicted by Joseph Smith the Prophet, whose claims to Divine calling and inspiration have been repudiated by the world. He foresaw, by the power of inspiration, the commotions that would agitate the world both, in a popular and elemental sense, and which would continue and produce partial depopulation of the earth, until the Son of Man should come and establish the fulness of His government among men.

One of the predicted events of the future is in the form of a hailstorm which will be so extensive that it will cover almost if not quite the entire habitable globe. This will necessarily be its scope on account of the immediate effect of which it will be productive. "There shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth." Nothing short of a storm of the magnitude stated could create so broad a devastating result.

When that great natural phenomenon shall burst upon the dwellers on earth, the consternation of the people will be awful. The fear will not only be immediate but also prospective; the inhabitants of the globe will be confronted with a famine so complete and appalling that no adequate present conception could be formed regarding it. This disturbing and destructive storm will, owing to the effect it will have, necessarily be precipitated at a time when not expected—when the crops are more or less matured.

It is not expected that any considerable number of people will give heed to or believe the prophetic declarations, on this as well as many other points, of the great modern prophet. If it were otherwise the saying of the Savior—"As it was in the days Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man"—would not be verified.

Skepticism may even arise on the mere ground of the dimensions of the predicted storm. It is certainly not greater in relation to the prospective area covered, however, than was the flood for which Noah prepared, at the expense of being derided as a fanatic.

TERRIFIC HAILSTORM.

The following is a dispatch from Washington, dated April 27:

The signal office furnishes the following report from the signal service observer at Baltimore: The heaviest hailstorm on record at this station passed over Baltimore, from the northwest to the southeast, between 3:45 and 4 p. m. Many thousands of windows in the city were broken, the damage being confined mainly to the western exposure. Many runaways are reported. Some horses and carriages were abandoned in the streets, their owners leaving them to seek shelter. It is probable that a number of people were injured, as the hailstones were very large, some of them measuring more than two inches in diameter and weighing more than four ounces each. The extent of the damage is not yet ascertained, but it must have been very great. A very heavy rain fell with the hail, eight-tenths of an inch falling between 3:45 and 4 p. m.

Many of the car tracks at the foot of the hills are covered to a depth of six inches with soil washed down upon them. The wind at 3:55 attained a velocity of 40 miles per hour, rapidly decreasing after the passage of the storm.

The hail went through thick panes of glass as though they were tissue paper, and the amount of the damage will run up into the thousands. Some of the hailstones were ragged and sharp on the edges as a steel blade. Hen's eggs were nothing to them in size. Many of them were as large as a man's fist. The storm came from the west, was local in its character and swept to the east with a rattle like heavy musketry, frightening the people out of their wits, hitting those who were on the streets many hard knocks and driving them into places of shelter.

There was a perfect Niagara of water with the hail stones, or, rather, chunks of ice. Almost instantly the street pavements were flooded from two to three inches deep, and the man who remained on the streets was almost in danger of losing his life.

The hail drove the horses wild. Those that drew the street cars became uncontrollable, and the drivers