

punished. And we may be challenged to name one. But that does not affect the fact nor the argument. Before the law properly administered every person is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty by evidence. But in these Territories the assumption seems to be the contrary. A man accused of infraction of the Edmunds law has in reality to prove his innocence. If unable to do that, and in some cases where he has proved it, conviction has followed just the same. As to the actual fact we may not be in a position to prove anything. That should not enter into the question. What we claim is, that no man, whatever he may be or is believed to be, should be convicted of crime without evidence to establish his guilt, and if there is a reasonable doubt through lack of proof, he should have the benefit of the doubt as in other cases. The rule here is the reverse of this, the doubt usually goes against him.

In Idaho, as the U. S. Marshal has declared, the evidence is usually so meagre that no fair juror would convict. Therefore a jury is picked for the purpose of convicting without due evidence. And, as apostate "Mormons" are very bitter against their former co-religionists, they are picked out to act as jurors in cases against "Mormons." Was there ever a clearer instance of packing juries than this? We do not believe that in the whole history of criminal jurisprudence there can be found a more flagrant violation of the essential principles of trial by jury.

The present Delegate in Congress from Idaho, who figures as a representative of Idaho republicanism was formerly the U. S. Marshal of that Territory. On one occasion, when a large number of "Mormons" were gathered in and the evidence against some of them was extremely thin, and the attention of the Marshal was called to the fact, he exclaimed: "Oh! I have got a jury here that would convict Jesus Christ if he was placed on trial." This is authentic, and, we understand, has been admitted by the Delegate himself.

The prejudice prevailing against the "Mormons" is widespread and deep. It has been fostered for political ends and sectarian purposes. The conviction of a "Mormon" is matter for congratulation among people of certain classes. How the conviction was secured is not considered. Yet it would seem that

when the very fundamental principles of civilized jurisprudence are trampled upon in eager haste to fine and imprison a "Mormon," even the most puritanical religionist and violent political foe would call a halt and cry shame on such proceedings.

But who ever heard a professed minister of Christ, in any of the denominations which have been established in Utah or Idaho, utter a word of protest against the manifest injustice exhibited in the trial of "Mormons"? Or who ever knew of a professional politician claiming veneration for the Constitution of our country and admiration of republican institutions, to use his influence and eloquence against this prostitution of justice and violation of the supreme law?

Let it be known throughout the land that "trial by jury," in its constitutional and commonly understood sense, is denied to the "Mormons" both in Utah and in Idaho. And that in the course pursued with references to this proscribed class of American citizens, the seeds are being sown which will produce a harvest of shame and sorrow and distress to others. The prostitution of the jury power in these cases cannot be confined to them alone. Its effects will be seen on matters apart from "Mormon" prosecutions, and trial by jury will be regarded as very much of a farce in these regions and may lead to scenes that will be more in the light of a tragedy.

DISPASSIONATE REFLECTIONS UPON LOCAL CONDITIONS.

WE are on the eve of the anniversary of the birthday of the Great Republic. It is fitting that an occasion so important not only to the nation, but the world, should be suitably commemorated. The proper celebration of the natal day of our popular government serves to perpetuate the importance of that primal event in the minds of the young, upon whose shoulders will necessarily rest the responsibility of laboring for the continuation of the institutions of the country, which were founded at an immense sacrifice by the fathers who were the instruments in the hands of Providence of establishing the most equitable and just system of human rule known to history.

In order to create this impression upon the minds of the youth the celebration of the birthday of the nation should bear unmistakable evidences of being formed and con-

ducted on the basis of sentiments of pure patriotism; otherwise the effect upon the rising generation will be the reverse of salutary. Instead of being infused with the patriotic genius they will be inoculated with the spirit of sordidity, which is creeping over the country like a hideous nightmare. We are afraid that this section has not escaped its influence.

Care should be taken to eliminate mercenary elements from celebrations of the glorious Fourth. If the "booming" of localities be the leading incentive in the manipulation of such occasions, the fires of genuine patriotism are extinguished by the money-making flood, which seems to submerge every other consideration. When the present or prospective lining of the pockets of particular classes is made the paramount object in view, the fruits resultant will be according to the kind of seed sown. This tendency enhances the manufacture of self-seekers—of whom there is already a too plentiful crop—and renders the harvest of patriots comparatively meagre. These considerations have a much greater weight in shaping the future of a community or nation than is generally supposed.

When properly conducted, infused with the spirit of true Americanism, with everything in the shape of hollow sham and unadulterated sordidness placed at the far end of the procession, celebrations of the day when the greatest of human governments was born have an excellent effect. The Declaration of Independence and the National Constitution are striking embodiments of wisdom, in their assertion of human rights and provisory conditions for their protection and preservation. Judged from the standpoints of these basic documents alone the superiority of pure Republicanism—under which the people are sovereign—over monarchical forms of rule, can be clearly shown. As a consequence, these inimitable instruments are necessarily leading and central themes of the orations delivered on the anniversary of the nation's natal day. Monarchical or centralized systems are the antipodes of that which characterizes this Republic. There should be no inducement, in any form to cause a tendency toward absolutism, which is the bane of true Democracy. A wave of "flunkyeism" is gaining ground in the country. A hankering after aristocratic titles and a tendency to wealth-