

THE LATE "LIBERAL" CONFERENCE.

THE alleged conference of the "Liberal" party which concluded its session last night was not what it purported to be. That is to say, it was not a conference. The propositions it was ostensibly called to consider and decide upon were virtually, we might say practically, disposed of before the meeting was called for. The Tuscarora band fixed that long since. Mr. Powers announced before leaving here for Chicago with his party that even if defeated at the National Democratic Convention, the delegation would return with colors flying and continue the old fight. The Tuscaroras were defeated and the alleged conference was called simply to endorse what had been already decided for the gathering in advance.

If anything more than the initiatory announcement of the determination as to future Tuscarora action were needed it was given at the alleged conference itself. Those who expressed any idea contrary to the affirmative side of the propositions were, as a rule, hooted down, their utterances being drowned in yells, shouts and other uncouth and semi-savage demonstrations. The tactics of the chair had a similar bent. The presiding genius occasionally showed the most intense anxiety to keep certain speakers to the propositions. This solicitude was only displayed in instances where the speeches exhibited premonitory symptoms of taking a negative trend, in their relation to the propositions. In other cases of departure from the slightest reference to the four points of consideration, the chairman's magnanimity and liberality seemed unbounded. This generosity invariably cropped out when the rabid fire-eaters would deliver a vicious anti-"Mormon" tirade that had not the remotest reference to the questions at issue. The harangues of soured and embittered ex-"Mormons" of twenty-five years standing were specially noted for pointlessness, and for the absence of any check being placed on the rancorous utterances. Had the meeting been actually called for conference purposes, and had thoughtful men who have "Liberal" affinities but are convinced that the time for national division has arrived, felt assured that they could have expressed their views honestly without being subjected to insult, they would doubtless have participated in the proceedings.

A great effort was made to attract a large number to the meeting. For this purpose the ticket system was resorted to. Its object was, of course, to give the matter an air of exclusiveness that did not belong to it. The true purpose of it was evinced by a last hour announcement to the effect that all could have tickets who wished them. The first meeting was large, probably three thousand persons being present. The second was wonderfully thin, getting down to the vicinity of three hundred. The closing session was larger than that of the second, there being about one thousand people in the hall. A "Liberal" informed a reporter of the News that he counted 884, and afterward probably enough stragglers entered the room to run the number up to about 200 more.

The leading and more intelligent

"Liberals" predicted the early defeat and dissolution of the party. We include those who favored the affirmative side of the four propositions. They announced that early statehood was inevitable. This being evidently the conviction in the minds of these gentlemen, the reason for the anxiety to have an affirmative endorsement of the four propositions submitted to the alleged conference at once leaps into view. It is estimated that there is not a shadow of possibility of a "Liberal" candidate for representative to Congress being elected, yet it is decided to put one in the field. The purpose of determining to name one for the position is simply and solely to avoid the party disintegration that would follow the omission to do this. The result would be disastrous to any prospect that might exist for the expiring party to capture, in future, any of the offices of Salt Lake county. This is their only chance, however remote it may be, to capture any remunerative offices, and so long as there exists a shadow of opportunity in that line, it will be hedged, guarded and nourished. Hence the object is not general, anything in that line being hopeless, but territorially local, involving a last party effort to obtain official position and place.

We have necessarily noted the proceedings of this gathering, principally because the chief stock-in-trade of the leading agitators has been the old senseless, extravagant and absurd anti-"Mormon" song, of which all good, thoughtful and consistent people are becoming heartily sick. Playing upon this broken string is fast becoming resultless in a political way. The general impression is fast becoming universal that the "Mormon" people are entitled to their religious views as much as any others. They are becoming more widely known and information is removing prejudice. And when such resolutions as those introduced into the "Liberal" gathering by a person named Newton are given publicity, they fill fair-minded people with disgust. The position taken in them is, in a nutshell, that Utah ought to remain in a Territorial condition because the greater number of votes can be cast by people who are members of the "Mormon" Church. This man and his supporters are evidently not open to the accusation of being possessed of information regarding the institutions of this country and the genius of American liberty.

We contend for the enjoyment of religious freedom for all people, so long as their practices do not infringe upon the liberties of others.

WILL THE CHINESE BILL BE EFFECTIVE?

IT is expected that the present session of Congress will come to a close at the end of the current week or early in the next. A great deal in the way of legislation has not been accomplished. The Pacific coast people are satisfied with the new Chinese exclusion bill, but they claim that the appropriation for its proper enforcement is insufficient. The bill was certainly a radical measure. If the insufficiency of the appropriation should render the bill ineffective of course the blame

will be laid on the House of Representatives.

The Pacific coast people are now urging a political economy argument against the Chinese. It is claimed that there are in California 71,000 Celestials, earning \$20,000,000 annually, \$15,000,000 of which goes regularly to China. Taking this draining process for thirty years, it means the removal of \$450,000,000 in gold coin from that State. This is asserted as one of the probable reasons for the stagnation in trade and industry now prevailing on the Coast.

If this deportation of coin has a depressing effect on the business of the Pacific side, how much more reason to complain has the Atlantic seaboard line? American tourists alone who visit Europe this year, it is estimated, will spend over \$50,000,000 without any corresponding return. Yet this would never be used as an argument to justify the keeping at home of wealthy tourists by legal enactment.

It is reported that the appropriations made by this Congress during the session now about to close will aggregate \$500,000,000. If so, this makes \$40,000,000 more than the appropriations made by the first session of the Billion dollar Congress.

HOMESTEAD WAR AND PINKERTON

HUGH O'DONNELL, the leader of the Homestead strikers, testified before the Congressional committee that he was receiving in wages \$144 a month, and that the new scale proposed by the Carnegie company did not in any way affect his wages. O'Donnell was chairman of the advisory committee which counselled the strike. He was the head and the foot of the movement. He claimed that though the new scale affected but comparatively few, yet it would prove the entering wedge for disrupting organized labor in Homestead. He said he knew this was Frick's system of procedure.

O'Donnell and his colleagues were favored by a little jealousy in the ranks of the Pinkertons. It appears that Pinkerton, especially the man known as "Billy," has had trouble with ex-employees very frequently. He had trouble with one in particular—a man named Norris, who did a great deal of work in Pennsylvania for the coal and iron companies. Norris started an agency of his own after leaving Pinkerton and this caused ill-feeling. "Billy" had him arrested several times, but nothing came out of the arrests. Norris learned all about the Homestead strike and the part the Pinkertons intended playing in it. He even hired a friend to enter the Pinkerton service. This friend kept him (Norris) advised of all movements, and he in turn kept O'Donnell advised. So that the strikers were fully prepared.

When the count of the Pinkerton men was made after the surrender, one was missing. It was supposed that he dropped into the river. But it is now stated that this was the friend of Norris, and that he slipped away from his comrades at Pittsburg, or some point before reaching the scene of conflict.

The correspondence between Frick and the Pinkertons was given to the