

THE HOME RULE REPORT.

THE report of the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives, as prepared by the Chairman, a synopsis of which appeared in our issue of April 9th, presents Utah in a very favorable light before Congress and the country. An occasional slight inaccuracy occurs in the report as telegraphed to the *Herald*, but these may be the result of haste of the correspondent rather than the fault of the committee. On the whole the document is to be commended for its liberal sentiment and its fair and candid treatment of the Utah situation.

The anomalous condition of a Territory is well described, and the peculiar hardship of the bondage in which this Territory is placed is made particularly clear. The committee show, as we have maintained many times, that "a territorial government is an anomaly in our political establishment, a thing which the founders of the republic never contemplated as a permanency, if they contemplated it at all." And when to this anomaly is added the anomalous power conferred upon the Utah Executive, as plainly exposed in the report, the condition of this Territory appears doubly unpleasant and more truly unreplicable.

The educational status of Utah, its submission to the demands of the country, its affiliation with the respective national parties, its resources, progress and prospects, and the evident sincerity of the "Mormon" people in their recent movements, are all set forth in a vigorous and comprehensive manner. And the injustice of keeping Utah in her present vassalage is made conspicuous by this report. The irrationality of continuing the existence of the "Liberal" faction is made apparent in this conclusion:

"The ground upon which this organization was and is maintained is a doubt as to the good faith of the people relative to polygamy and the dissolution of the People's Party, both of which matters seem to be too well settled to justify any doubt whatsoever."

The Home Rule bill is urged as a measure that meets the requirements of the present, in view of the doubt as to whether entire political liberty for Utah would gain the needed sanction. It is explained, as we have claimed all along, that though this bill abolishes the Utah Commission, takes away the absolute veto power of the Governor, and permits the people to elect their local officers, it secures the execution of the Federal laws in relation to polygamy, and retains the power of Congress over the acts of the Legislature, while it relieves the nation of the expense now entailed upon the public treasury and leaves it for the Territory to bear.

The most important and significant paragraphs in the report to us are those which recognize Utah's entire fitness for statehood, and explain the reasons for the proposed halfway measure of liberty; they are these:

"Your committee is thoroughly satisfied of Utah's entire qualifications for admission to the Union with all the powers of full Statehood, but in deference to a doubt which may still rise in some quarters we report this measure, which leaves to Congress its full jurisdiction over the Territory while establishing for Utah a

government which in so far as that jurisdiction will permit is essentially like the governments of the various States. The satisfaction which your committee has expressed is, we think, fully justified by the facts and statistics which are exhibited in this report, and certainly by the hearings which took place in the committee room, which hearings have been printed in full.

"These people are capable of maintaining a government of their own, and there is no argument known to our institutions which would deprive them of this common right of the American people, as there is none which is adequate to prove the propriety of throwing upon the people of the whole country, through the general government, the burden of maintaining a system which is, at once unnecessary and un-American."

As we understand the situation, this report has yet formally to be adopted by the committee, and to be presented to the House. There will probably be a minority report also. When these appear in full we may have something further to say in relation to this movement, one of the most important that has occurred in the history of Utah.

THE MINORITY ON "HOME RULE."

THE minority report of the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives will be found in our issue of April 9th. It is signed by four members out of a total of fourteen. The four are all Republicans. It should be read in contrast to the majority report, which has been adopted and is ready to present to the House.

The objections urged against the bill appear to be, its anomalous character, the present unfitness of Utah to be left free of Federal authority, the opposition to the bill by the "Liberal" faction, and the fact that if Utah is prepared to receive this measure of liberty it is fit to receive statehood; this fitness, however, is not admitted.

The anomalous character of the Home Rule bill must be conceded. That is, it is something different to anything previously proposed. The answer of its friends to this, the conditions are anomalous, therefore the plan devised to meet them is anomalous. If the country was prepared to give statehood to Utah, the "Home Rule" bill would not be advocated. The minority of the committee intimate that they are not willing to free Utah fully, and therefore they are opposed to freeing her partly.

The present unfitness of Utah for political liberty is set forth in this way: "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints established is the Kingdom of God, acting under divine authority as revealed through its priesthood, *cuing no allegiance to law otherwise proclaimed.*" That while "It may be conceded that the practice of polygamy will not be re-established in Utah by revelation or otherwise," yet "this abandonment of plural marriage has only been made under the pressure of government and society, and nowhere has the Presidency of the Church admitted the wrong, or confessed conversion from the authority under which the practice through so many years was encouraged under *peril to the soul.*" That "Utah has been a stumbling block

in the way of western progress." That Utah must "wait" until it shall be "accepted knowledge" that the Church has "taken its proper place or that temporal power has been taken from it."

We have italicized some of these sentiments of the minority to call special attention to them. The assertion that the Church "owes no allegiance to law otherwise proclaimed" than by itself, is such a gross untruth that we cannot let it pass without denial. The Church in its official declarations from the beginning, and in the revelations promulgated as divine, requires of its members obedience to the laws of the land, submission to governments and magistrates and all "the powers that be." The minority of four are either very ignorant of the facts or they desire to mislead.

Equally untrue is it that Utah has been a stumbling block in the way of western progress. The west is indebted to the Utah founders as the pioneers of progress in all this region. They laid the foundation and their sons and daughters and associates have built upon it. There is not a progressive movement in the west that is not largely due to the "Mormons" of Utah. They have never placed a barrier in the way of the progress of others, but made their efforts possible and aided to make them successful.

The attempt to drag in religious prejudices and to provoke religious controversy in this political discussion, does not give strength to the position of the minority. If the Presidency and people of the Church have put away the practice of polygamy, which the minority assert most positively, and have done so in submission to law, and "under the pressure of government," what have the minority, or the Congress or the nation to do with their belief, and what right have the four Congressmen to lay down the dogma about "peril to the soul?" And if it is true that while not confessing that their faith was wrong, the Church and its people have rendered "allegiance to the law," does not this prove the statement that they owe no such allegiance, to be entirely incorrect?

The plea that the "Liberal" faction here is opposed to the bill is the poorest pretense in the report. That it is a small minority of the population is shown by the figures given in the document. That it is opposed to anything that is for the benefit of the large majority, also appears. The assertion that "it is composed of the elements that have built the cities in the wilderness and opened up farms on the desert," is perfectly ludicrous. It is the "Mormons" who have done this, and the faction now opposing all movements looking to republican liberty, are they who have taken advantage of the opportunity to make money afforded by the toils of those who opened up the farms and built the cities in this once desert wilderness. Perhaps it is fitting that the minority of four to fourteen should support the obstructive policy of the minority of 7,000 to over 20,000, and thus seek to perpetuate minority rule.

Utah must "wait." Well, how long? Until it is "accepted knowledge" that "the Church has taken its proper