

review to deal with the many and pleasing personalities who came to the front in the deliberations of the third National Irrigation congress. But there is a special reason why mention should be made of the delegation from Utah, "the cradle of American irrigation." It was headed by the Hon. George Q. Cannon, who was unanimously chosen temporary chairman, and who was received with hearty and long continued applause on being presented as "a great representative of the most illustrious race of irrigators on this continent." In view of the place which Utah occupies in the history of irrigation, the convention delighted to honor the representative of the coming state. There is another reason why Utah should be given prominence, and this is, the fact that her industrial system is generally recognized as offering the best basis for the development of homes for the millions. This system was described very fully in Mr. Cannon's opening speech, when he told the story of the small farm, of land division and of the common ownership of water. The ideas which his people have practically illustrated are the ideas which are to prevail hereafter, and with their growth in popular favor, the virtues of the Mormon people are certain to shine with deserved luster, while many unpleasant recollections will be softened or forgotten.

We are permitted to make one more quotation as showing the interest the address above referred to has aroused, and the value that is attached to it; and we are sure the compliment herein conveyed will be appreciated by the entire community. Under date of Topeka, October 16th, and from the headquarters of the Kansas Irrigation association, Hon. J. E. Frost, chairman of the executive committee, and Mr. H. V. Huckleby, secretary of the committee on arrangements, write as follows:

Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir:—The first annual convention of this association, held at Wichita, Kansas, in November, 1893, was pronounced by the director of the United States geological survey the most intelligent and substantial irrigation congress that he had ever attended. Many have since been held, but it is proposed that the approaching second annual convention shall eclipse all previous records. We believe that we voice the sentiments of the entire Denver congress when we say that your remarks detailing the pioneer experience of the Mormons comprised the most effective and instructive address at that congress. Nothing, probably, will so encourage the remaining pioneers of western Kansas, who have become discouraged over and over, than to be told by you in the same simple and effective manner you told at Denver, how the Mormon colony became independent.

We want to put you on the program for Friday evening, the 23d of November, subject: "The Mormon Progress, Poverty to Independence," or such variation of this as you may see fit, and advise us in your reply.

The letter goes on to say that transportation to and from Topeka, and entertainment while there, will be provided Mr. Cannon and wife; that the Hutchinson Commercial club has voted an appropriation to cover other traveling expenses that may be incurred; that the committee pledge themselves that the visit will be made a pleasant one, with "resulting acquaintances that may be mutually advantageous to our people and yours;" and it concludes with the expression of

high esteem and a request for an early and favorable reply. The probability is that the invitation so cordially extended will be accepted.

#### AN ISSUE TO BE CRUSHED.

Unless the people of Utah desire to raise a demon that will haunt and curse them and their children, they should see to it that no religious issue shall ever more be raised in the politics of the commonwealth. The man who thinks that all classes and all interests, moral and financial, of the people of this Territory have not suffered enough in the past from precisely such an issue, should be pilloried the instant he shows his head above the mass of voters for the purpose of imparting to them his detestable principles, or asking support for his ideas at the polls.

The time when Utah is on the point of assuming the powers, dignities and responsibilities of statehood is highly opportune for a pronounced expression of the sentiments of her voters, which shall indicate their unalterable opposition to all organizations, cabals, cliques and parties, oath-bound or otherwise, which shall seek to persecute, oppress, or place at a disadvantage politically, the membership of any religious body. No man or set of men belonging to such an organization should be placed in office. Let the voters of all political parties, and of all shades of religious opinion, show their abhorrence of principles so un-American and destructive of true liberty, by consigning to oblivion the candidate who advocates them.

Special reference is here intended to the movement which has for its object the exclusion from political office of Catholics, for no other reason than that they are Catholics, without regard to their conduct or worthiness as citizens. The argument is that political power in the hands of members of that church will be a menace to other classes of citizens and to American liberty; but the utterances and solemn disclaimers of the highest authorities of that Church upon this matter, confirmed as they are by history, are entitled to be received according to their tenor until impeached by tangible evidence. Certainly the silly and bigoted fears of their enemies are not of themselves to be regarded as argument in a matter of so much importance and involving so great a breach of American principles. The members of any and every church, have, under the American Constitution, an indefeasible right to the privilege of worshipping as they see fit. To inflict a penalty upon them for so doing by depriving them of political power or privileges, is to attack that Constitution in its most vital part.

Saying nothing of the principle involved in this question, it is the height of folly from the standpoint of sound policy to seek to exclude from office Catholics merely because they are Catholics. Such an attempt naturally throws them on the defensive and will solidify them. If we are to have an anti-Catholic party, we shall also have a Catholic party. The latter will feel forced to separate themselves from all non-Catholic elements and band together, if not for an ag-

gressive warfare, at least for one of defense. Any such solidification, as a political element, of the members of any religious body, can scarcely fail to result in harm, and may produce incalculable disaster to the highest interests of the American people.

The attempt which has been made in this Territory to inaugurate an anti-Catholic crusade, has not met with any considerable degree of success, but it should go no further. We have had a taste of anti-Mormon politics, which in its essence was a movement similar to that now referred to; today it is the Amorine or A. P. A. organization; tomorrow or next year we may have an anti-Jewish or an anti-Baptist political union. The thing has gone already far enough to show that it is an issue to be crushed early and utterly. In expressing this sentiment the NEWS emphatically disclaims any bias as between the national political parties, and insists that either Democrats, Republicans or Populists who refuse their endorsement of it are false to their own platforms and professions.

#### PERSECUTION ALWAYS WRONG.

An item recently circulated in a few eastern and southern papers was to the effect that two "Mormon missionaries," while lodging at the residence of a Mrs. Porter, near Centertown, Ohio county, Kentucky, were visited at midnight by a score of disguised regulators and given a coat of tar and feathers. It is added that the "Salt Lake Saints," whose converts are "mostly women," were then told to leave the neighborhood within three days, which they did.

The NEWS is in a position to state that there are at present no Utah Elders of the names given in the item laboring in the district indicated or in the Southern states at all. The story, if there is any foundation for it whatever, must therefore refer to somebody else. On the face of it the item looks very much like the anecdotes formerly so frequently published about the Mormons for sensational purposes but which gradually are dying out. When it is said, for instance, that the converts consist of "mostly women," it is evident that some slur is intended on the missionary work rather than a statement of a fact. It is well known to all acquainted with Mormon missionary efforts that these are as a rule directed towards the heads of families, those being to a large degree responsible before the Lord for the persons entrusted to their care. The result is that among Mormons the membership is generally more equally divided as to sex than among some other churches. By force of habit, however, some newspaper correspondents, when writing about Mormon converts, add "mostly women," proving themselves utterly ignorant of the real facts.

Should it prove true, however, that there is some foundation for the tar-and-feather story from Kentucky, and that missionaries—no matter what religious body they belong to—have been treated in this cruel way, the NEWS earnestly joins every champion of religious and American liberty in denouncing the proceeding as an outrage.