

to do so; and in case he failed to attend court as constable he could, as justice, send himself to jail. But the fortunate gentleman will be saved all such trouble. He may select which of the offices suits his fancy, but choosing one he cannot occupy the other, since the law does not permit the consolidation of the offices of justice and constable in the same precinct, and performing the duties of one is a bar to qualification in the other.

MORE SENATORIAL ASPIRANTS.

The crop of candidates for the United States Senate becomes more and more prolific, day by day; and the element of the ludicrous, referred to in this connection by the NEWS some days since loses none of its prominence, as name after name is paraded before the public, as being that of a man suited to the exalted position for which he aspires.

The multiplicity of candidates, the utter absence most of them display of qualifications for the place, and the unseemly scramble that is being made for legislative votes, in advance of the meeting of the Legislature, make it appropriate to again urge the members-elect of that body to avoid committing themselves.

In behalf of one aspirant, it is urged that he is what has recently come to be termed, in American politics, a "logical candidate," whatever that may mean. Of another, it is insisted that he is a staunch and strong Democrat, as if radical partisanship were a great qualification for a high office. Of still another it is alleged that his party owes him a debt of gratitude which only a term in the United States Senate will cancel, and so on ad nauseam. In behalf of one who has long aspired to the office in question, a strong plea is being addressed to "Young Utah," based almost wholly on the alleged "independence" which the "receptive candidate" for the office is said to have shown. What constitutes real independence in the character of a man may be a matter of question; but unless all his competitors are slaves, this one trait would hardly be sufficient to distinguish him above all others as qualified for the senatorship. Furthermore, the NEWS opines that the abandonment of an admitted religious principle, which an individual has been publicly and privately taught, if not himself testified to as such, for half a lifetime, and the disregard of sacred and fraternal ties and obligations, whose disruption have filled many hearts in the community with profound grief, all in pursuance of vaulting ambition, are not the fruits of that sort of independence which is admired or endorsed by the right thinking among "Young Utah," nor by the good, intelligent and conservative men of any class.

It is yet to be shown that the members of the Legislature desire to cast their votes in a manner calculated to wound a vital principle of the discipline of the most numerous religious body in this State. Does the political party which will so absolutely control the next Legislature desire to array itself in pronounced and distinctly defined opposition to that religious body? Is it

the purpose deliberately and flagrantly to insult that entire religious society, by gratifying the aspirations of any man who may have occupied an exalted station in its councils, and for whose present differences with his brethren his "independent political course" is given by the uninformed as the cause? Is it to be expected that a Church thus assailed and antagonized will not try to protect itself, and strive to maintain its organic principles? Is it desirable to precipitate upon the State a conflict, whose end and consequences cannot but be deplorable?

Common sense as well as the commonest idea of good politics can give but one answer to these queries. All that is necessary in these premises is for the legislators to come together free and untrammelled, and under conditions that will admit of calm reflection and deliberation. The exercise of their better judgment will avert all danger of the nature here indicated.

OUR RELATIONS TO SPAIN.

Notwithstanding the assurance of the Spanish minister in Washington that a war between the United States and Spain is among the possibilities of a near future, and notwithstanding the unusual activity at navy yards in this country, it is not believed that the war will go beyond words. There is considerable sympathy in this country for the Cubans struggling for liberty, and there is among the Spaniards a corresponding bad feeling towards the Americans on account of that sympathy; but there is no disposition in this country to sink the Spanish cruisers, and Spain has neither army nor navy large enough to undertake a transatlantic adventure. The spirit of Don Quixote may possibly survive, but this time he would hesitate to start on his expedition relying on the services of Sancho Panza and Rozinante. The settlement of the Cuban question, as far as the United States may be interested, will be a peaceful one, unless something unexpected occurs.

According to all accounts the Spanish government does not deserve the allegiance of the Cubans, for the maintenance of which a supreme effort now is being put forth. Local government on the island is a farce, the Spanish governor general exercising despotic powers similar to those of the Turkish sultan. The censorship of the press is complete and criticism of the authorities always suppressed. Only one religion is tolerated in Cuba and the clergymen are maintained by the revenues, at a cost of \$400,000 annually. The schools under the control of the established church are neglected, the attendance amounting to one out of forty in the school age.

The number of inhabitants is estimated at about 2,000,000 and they have to carry \$175,000,000 of Spain's indebtedness, the annual interest of which is charged against the revenues of the island. Altogether \$40,000,000 are wrung every year from the Cubans—somewhat more than \$20 per capita—for government expenses, besides levies for local and municipal purposes. Is it any wonder if a

people, compelled to pay such enormous sums for the privilege of being governed, rebel against the government? But this is not all. It is claimed that besides the regular expenses, perhaps \$15,000,000 are fraudulently wrung from the people annually by the government officials, and that during the past twenty years defaulting to the aggregate amount of \$100,000,000 have occurred in the public service of Cuba without the conviction of a single one of the malefactors.

In view of the facts, to any unbiased mind the rebellion in Cuba seems but natural and justifiable. There is no ill-feeling in this country toward Spain, but there is a sincere desire for the triumph of justice both in that country and elsewhere.

THE SCHOOL TAX DECISION.

Judge Ritchie's decision in the Merrill vs Spencer case reaches a point of great importance to the taxpayers and the schools of this State. The case was brought to test the question as to whether the Constitution allowed taxes to be assessed on owners of city property to pay the expense of maintaining the county schools, and an order was asked restraining Collector Spencer from collecting such tax. Judge Ritchie holds that the tax is collectible, and refuses to grant the restraining order; so the taxes referred to will be paid.

This question was brought forward during the Constitutional Convention and at the Legislature, upon the same provision in the Constitution. At that time the NEWS took the stand maintained in Judge Ritchie's ruling, therefore the latter is neither unexpected nor unwelcome. There are some who yet take an opposite view, but we believe the judge's position is so clearly in line with the intent as well as the letter of the Constitution that there is no doubt of the Supreme court affirming the decision. The point raised by the other side is that where the Constitution says that schools in cities of the first and second class should be maintained separate and apart from the counties, that that bars the counties from collecting school taxes in cities, and makes a radical change in the procedure heretofore followed. Judge Ritchie decides that it is clear that the phrase in the Constitution was not intended to change the old plan, but to leave any legislation relative thereto with the Legislature; the provision in the Constitution says the city schools referred to shall be maintained separate and apart from the counties, but it does not say that county schools shall be maintained apart from cities, so far as source of revenue is concerned; and here is the distinction between them.

The judge points out that it is an onerous burden to require cities already overweighted with additional taxes above the counties of city and city school districts, besides special assessments, to also pay a tax of equal rate with the holders of county property, for the benefit of the county schools; but that is a matter for the Legislature to deal with, if it can propose a better way. Yet if the rule had been made to work the other