

**A CLIMAX OF ABSURDITY.**

**HOW THE MORMONS HOLD THEIR ELECTIONS.**

The testimony in the case of the contested election between Mr. McGrorty, the candidate of the Gentiles, and Mr. Hooper, the candidate of the Mormons of Utah, is being printed, and it is expected that the matter will come before the Committee on Elections at an early day. Mr. McGrorty, it is said, presents a strong argument against the right of Mr. Hooper to represent the Territory in Congress, and it seems as though Congress will be obliged to grapple with the serious question of polygamy in deciding between the contestants. Mr. McGrorty will show the unlawful manner in which elections are conducted in the land of the saints. It is disclosed in the testimony that on the day appointed for an election the judges of election, who are also bishops and elders of the Mormon Church, take their seats at the polls. Before them is laid a quantity of printed tickets. The voters come up in succession and state how they wish to vote, whereupon the judge selects the tickets and deposits them in the ballot-box, at the same time informing the voters that their ballots are in. A clerk near at hand records the name of the voter and the number of the ballot. It frequently happens that one person presents a list of voters' names, all of whom are absent from the polls, and thus a great number of ballots are taken by proxy. The testimony also shows that eight-tenths of the voters are foreigners, who have never been naturalized. That Hooper ran as a candidate for Representative of the State of Deseret, as well as that of Delegate for Utah, and that, if he is admitted, it should be as the representative of a foreign government, and that located within the territory of the United States. It will be shown that the Mormon district is regarded by them as a separate and independent government, that Brigham Young issues messages as Governor of the State of Deseret, and that no law enacted by the Territorial Legislature of Utah will be recognized by the saints until it has been passed by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret. It is also proved that Mr. Hooper, when he was endowed by the Church, was required to take an oath of hostility to the United States, and is, therefore, not a proper person to be admitted to the Congress of the United States.

The above is a dispatch from the Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, to that paper, and appears in its columns. This McGrorty election case is so utterly absurd and contemptible, that we should never have thought of noticing it, only that we see statements respecting it going the rounds of the papers. Were we to let these paragraphs pass by unnoticed and without comment or explanation, our silence might be construed into a tacit admission that the statements they contain are correct. Our citizens know the particulars of the case too well to need any enlightenment upon it; neither is there the slightest necessity for us to allude to it for the purpose of strengthening our Delegate—Hon. Wm. H. Hooper—at Washington. The House Committee on elections is familiar, doubtless, with all the dodges usually resorted to by men of this McGrorty stamp, and will dispose of the case in the proper manner.

The idea of Congress having to grapple with the "serious question of polygamy" in the disposal of this case, is all bosh. What, in the name of all that is sensible, has polygamy to do with it? That "serious question of polygamy" is a harp of a thousand strings, on which every rascal in the country who has some point to gain against us plays the tune that he thinks will suit his purpose best.

Our manner of conducting elections here McGrorty finds fault with; but would we hear of any such objections had the majority of votes been cast in his favor? He obtained, we believe, one

hundred and nine votes, principally from the little town of Stockton. But, without saying anything about the wonderful accession to the numbers of the voters of Stockton on that occasion by a process well known to unprincipled and disreputable politicians, we can say that if the manner in which elections were held throughout the Territory is to be urged to invalidate Captain Hooper's election, then it can, with equal force, be applied against McGrorty. If the judges of election at Stockton complied with the forms of law, the election there was conducted as it was in this city and throughout the Territory.

We have yet to learn that there is anything in the least unconstitutional or improper in a bishop or an elder sitting as a judge of an election. We confess that if such a man should act in that position, we would feel as safe in depositing our vote, as if some drunken, scoundrelly politician of the McGrorty stripe acted as judge. As to the statement that "it frequently happens that one person presents a list of voters' names, all of whom are absent from the polls," and votes for them by proxy, it is a barefaced falsehood; so also the statement "that eight-tenths of the voters are foreigners, who have never been naturalized."

The assertion that because Captain Hooper ran as a Representative of the State of Deseret, as well as that of Delegate for Utah, he is not entitled to his seat, is farcical in the extreme. McGrorty must have a dreadfully low opinion of the men's judgments to whom he addresses such an argument, if he expects it to have weight with them. Congress knows that for years Utah has been asking for admission into the Union as a State, under the title of Deseret. Every member of that body knows that a State Constitution has been formed and adopted, and that a Bill has been introduced into the House by the Hon. W. H. Hooper asking for the admission of Deseret, which Bill has been referred to the appropriate Committee. To say that the State of Deseret is a foreign government, because the laws enacted by the Territorial Legislature of Utah are passed by its General Assembly, shows what miserable subterfuges and lies this despicable creature resorts to in his anxiety to make a case. From the sitting of the first session of the Legislature of Utah until the present, the laws passed by that body have had full force and effect throughout the Territory. They have been the laws of the land, to which our citizens have yielded hearty and unconditional obedience. They did this, too, for many years before the General Assembly of Deseret was organized.

But it may be asked: does not the General Assembly of Deseret take any action upon the laws passed by the Legislature of the Territory of Utah? Yes; but not for the purpose of making them mere acceptable to or binding upon the people of this Territory. McGrorty would like to make it appear that this is the object. He would torture a very innocent and constitutional proceeding into treasonable action, and by playing upon popular prejudices, try to gain his point. But, the facts are, that for four years past, or since the formation of the constitution of the State of Deseret by a convention of the people, the General Assembly of the embryotic State has annually adopted the laws passed by the Territorial Legislature of Utah, and this has been with a view to the admission of the Territory as a State of the Union.

A more ridiculous proceeding than this of McGrorty's we never heard of. He was looked upon as but little, if any, better than an insane man. He was so regarded almost universally. His present action confirms that idea. Who but an insane man would base a claim to be the representative of the people of this

Territory upon 109 votes? Or, what sane man would assert that eight-tenths of the votes out the 15,179 cast for Captain Hooper were unnaturalized citizens?

According to the United States' Statute a contestant has to file his protest within thirty days after the election. This, McGrorty failed to do, because, (wonderful to relate) he was afraid that the people of this city would learn, through the telegraph from Washington, that he had done so, and his life would be in danger! There were upwards of twenty-two hundred votes polled in this county at the election for Delegate to Congress. Out of that number 36 voted for him. We would not wonder if he should yet say that they had all been slaughtered and eaten by the people of this city; or that the voters at Stockton, of whom there are probably not half-a-dozen at the present time, had been gobbled up in the same way!

We would be astonished at any person listening to him, or paying the least attention to his statements, had not our experience taught us that there is a certain class who will believe and patronize any fool, if he will only tell lies enough about the "Mormons." We repeat again that this must be our apology for alluding to him.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

**By Telegraph.**

**TALLAHASSEE NEGROES WANT TO HANG OR BURN OPPOSING CONVENTIONISTS!**

**NAPOLEON'S POLICY TOWARDS ROME CHANGED!**

**HE SMELLS BOURBON INTRIGUES AND WILL NOT LET THE SPANISH PAPAL LEGION SERVE!**

**THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION FIND WATER!**

**GREAT FIRE AT HONG-KONG!**

**FENIAN FIGHT IN CORK!**

**THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET IN A SNARL!**

Tallahassee, 8.—The minority of the convention held three sessions to-day in secret. Five more have signed the constitution, many signing reluctantly, believing it to have been a proceeding regardless of law. The convention has nominated a full ticket of state officers, part colored. A large meeting of negroes, to the number of fifteen hundred, was held to-day to favor the minority of the convention. A colored delegate made a speech demanding the hanging of the majority of the delegates. Some in the crowd cried burn them. The portion claiming to be the majority will probably assemble on Monday.

Galveston.—Another revolution has broken out in Mexico under Valdes. A detachment of government troops has been routed by the revolutionists. The revolution is spreading rapidly, and is already very powerful.

The Herald's cable news says that Napoleon has altered his policy towards the Pope and Italy in a sudden and remarkable manner. He evinces a disposition to abandon the position of champion of the Holy See, assured, it is said, of the existence of Bourbon intrigues radiating from Rome. The Imperial diplomacy with Rome has become colder, while the friendly relations hitherto existing with Victor Emanuel will be renewed. Queen Isabella has been forced to dissolve the papal legion, recruited under her warrant in Madrid, as Napoleon flatly objects to their service in the cause of the Holy See.

Admiral Farragut remains at Florence a much honored visitor.

Advices from Abyssinia state that a strong force of British troops advanced from Senafe towards the interior on the 26th of January. Water had been bored for, according to the American plan, and found in abundance near the English line of march.

The coast shore has been lighted by the English for naval purposes.

Selwyn will succeed Sir Wm. Earl as Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. It is understood that Minister Adams will leave England in April. The Fenian Captain, Mackey, arrested on Friday, is charged with leading the assault on the Martello tower at Duncannon.

Paris.—The amendment to the proposed press bill, allowing trial by jury in all offences of the press, was lost after a heated debate.

Florence.—Farragut's fleet, during his stay in Italy, will be stationed along the coast between Genoa and Civitavecchia.

San Francisco, 8.—Johnson Price died to-day. He was Secretary of State during Governor Weller's administration. The city of Portland has guaranteed the payment of seven per cent interest on a quarter of a million of the bonds of the Oregon Central Railroad Company for twenty years.

The bark Zephyr has arrived from Hong Kong with advices to December 10th. There was a fire in Hong Kong on November 27th, which destroyed all Jervois street and part of Bonham Strand, and numerous buildings were blown up to prevent the spreading of the conflagration; and the united efforts of the police, sailors and soldiers, extinguished the flames before they extended further than two or three hundred yards on Queen's road. Several soldiers were injured and a number of Chinese were killed.

The British Consulate at Swatow was attacked by a party of armed Chinese on the night of Dec. 1st. Two of the assailants were shot and supposed to be killed. It is thought the object was to murder Cooper. No attempts at plunder were made.

The subject of the approaching revision of treaties with China is actively discussed in commercial circles.

The war in the north, between the Imperial and rebel forces is vigorously waged. There are full particulars of a great battle at the Shantung promontory, in which the Imperialists were defeated. The rebel army is estimated to be eighty thousand. The Imperialists have been defeated in several engagements subsequently, with heavy loss.

Berlin, 8.—Bismarck obtained leave of absence from the post of Prime Minister in the North German Confederation, will devote several months traveling through Europe. His state of health compels him to seek relaxation.

London.—Dispatches from Athens state that a new cabinet has been formed, with Bulgariu President.

The notorious Fenian, Captain Mackay, was captured in Cork last evening, and while being taken to jail, his friends rallied in great force and a desperate fight ensued. The mob was fairly beaten and the prisoner lodged in jail.

Paris.—Young Iturbide recently enlisted in the Papal Zouaves at Rome.

Chicago.—Washington specials say that Grant has been summoned before the sub-committee of reconstruction, investigating whether Johnson has made himself liable to impeachment by his course toward Stanton. Members of the Cabinet, and newspaper correspondents will also be summoned. The committee are determined to thoroughly probe the matter.

It is understood the President will not publish his letter in reply to Grant. Some express the opinion that the letter is withheld on account of the action of the reconstruction committee looking to impeachment.

There is another difficulty. It is stated that certain members of the Cabinet refuse to indorse the President's statements, alleging that Johnson has made them too strong. Seward and McCulloch are mentioned as declining to sign the paper. It is said Johnson insists that they shall sign or vacate their places.

A dispatch from Alabama says the Constitution is carried by a large majority.

Berlin, 9.—At an interview lately, Bismarck told Carl Schurz that it was the most earnest desire of the King of Prussia to cultivate the good will of the people of the U.S. This favorable disposition is regarded by the Americans as most important, in view of the possibility of the necessity for the selection of some foreign power as umpire between the United States and England in their pending differences.

London.—The feeling of uneasiness, created by the threatening appearance in Northern Turkey, has greatly subsided, the reports of troubles on the Danube were greatly exaggerated.

New York, 10.—The Tribune's special at Atlanta says the result of the Alabama election is uncertain, as the system of proscription and terrorism has greatly reduced the white vote. The newspapers promise to print the black list, and the names and places of business of all whites voting for the constitution. Success depends upon the vote of the northern portion of the State. In some counties no elections have been held, loyal voters being frightened off by threats. General Meade will probably order a special election in those counties.

Havana.—A special says, the powder, supposed to be for Mexico, has been stopped. A subsidy to the Spanish mail steamer, plying between Havana and Vera Cruz, of \$12,000 a month has