

man probability, would never have been in a position to enter a legitimate complaint of the nature of the one which has so visibly disturbed his equanimity. The second is, that while the city officials of his own party were engaged in grading the adjacent street about eight feet below the level of his lot, he was at work at the capital of the nation doing his best to cut down the grade of human rights fully 300 miles below the level of the national Constitution.

It will be remembered that an attempt was made, shortly after the February election, the shelve Mr. Baskin by way heading off any aspirations he might entertain toward the "Liberal" candidacy for Delegate to Congress. It was done softly, pathetically, showing that he would regard such an office, if he could grasp it, as "dead sea fruit" which turns to dust with the handling. Salt water was shed—as it were—over the alleged prospect of his returning to his "old home in Ohio." [there to end his days, etc. There was much poetry in the enunciation, but probably not so much of a more substantial element as the enunciator wished. The whole career of Mr. Baskin clear to date shows that if a certain official consideration were within his reach he would stretch out his hand and risk the dust theory. If he gets shelved there is no evidence going to show that he would coincide with the operation.

THE MORMONS OF ARIZONA.

THE Tucson, Arizona, *Star* contains the following remarks and clipping:

"The attempt to pass a law disfranchising the Mormons of Arizona with a view of following this law of disfranchisement with an enabling act, admitting Arizona to Statehood, is not meeting with that cordial reception from the Republican press which its promulgators anticipated. The *Flourance Enterprise* handles the proposition with a most commendable spirit of justice and equity. It says:

"The proposition to admit Arizona to Statehood conditional upon the disfranchisement of the Mormons is repugnant to the sense of justice of its people, and the most ardent advocates of Statehood prefer to suffer under the present political system for years to come rather than to participate in the benefits and privileges of Statehood through such dishonorable means. The United States Constitution guarantees to every person the right of religious freedom in its broadest sense, and the scheme to disfranchise a large proportion of the voters of this Territory can be only regarded in the light of a persecution. But the motive of this movement is so apparent that no one can be deceived. The Mormons of Arizona are nearly all Democrats and their disfranchisement means Republican senators and representatives in Congress.

"Why not enact a law disfranchising all Democrats at once and openly, and not dodge behind a flimsy cloak of religion.

The proposition is not aimed at the practice of polygamy, for the Mormons of Arizona rarely practice that vice; besides, existing laws are ample to cope with that crime. The Mormons of this Territory are as a rule its most industrious citizens and their practical virtues are exemplary examples for emulation. As a class they stand head and shoulders above many others whose right to the elective franchise is unquestioned, and so long as they continue to walk upright under the law they are entitled by constitutional right to all the privileges of citizenship. If their disfranchisement is to be the price of our admission to Statehood, in the name of common justice let us always remain a Territory."

AGAINST DISFRANCHISEMENT.

THE following is an extract from an able article, headed "An Unnecessary Measure," which appeared in the *Omaha Bee*, of May 28th:

"Existing law being, therefore, ample for crushing out polygamy, any further legislation relating to the Mormon church must necessarily take on the character of persecution, and be repugnant to the provision of the Constitution which says that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' Of this nature is the bill now in Congress, which, in effect, provides that no member of the Mormon Church shall 'either vote, serve as a juror, or be elected to or hold any civil office in the Territory of Utah.' A man may be the most radical of non-polygamists, but if he believes in the other doctrines of the Church and remains united with it he must by the terms of this proposed law suffer disfranchisement and the loss of all his civil rights. The injustice of this must be obvious to all fair-minded people, and we do not think it at all doubtful that such a law would be at variance with the constitutional provision we have quoted. Its practical effect would be to condemn the Mormon faith as a whole and to prohibit its establishment as a religion, and this Congress has no right to do. There is a vital principle involved in this matter which ought to be apparent to all who are not blinded by an undue prejudice. No further danger to the moral welfare of society, in Utah or elsewhere in this country, is to be feared from polygamy. Even though the doctrine should survive with a few as an article of faith, its practice is a thing of the past and only the practice is criminal. The proposed legislation is unnecessary and its adoption would work great injustice to thousands who desire to be good and law-abiding citizens."

"REFORM BY CONFISCATION."

THE Galveston, Texas, *News* of the 26th ult. has an editorial on "Reform by Confiscation," in which the following pertinent remarks appear:

"The Mormons are a bad lot, or believed to be so, and the usual way is to make laws and construe constitutions so as to do what is strongly desired by the law-makers and those who will and can effectively support them. Still there may be reason to regard the decision as portending insecurity for any kind of church property in real estate or savings. The principle of the decision will appear to the popular mind to be that the government is the guardian of the people from the influence and financial

power of any corporation or sect which the dominant majority or party deems aggressive through capital and organization or pernicious in doctrine. Some other ox may be yoked another year. Having prescribed test oaths for voters and punished men for belief in polygamy as well as the practice of it, it was perhaps natural enough that the Mormon Church lands should be confiscated, but such proceedings should not leave any one blind to the characteristics which the federal government is capable of displaying, and should opinion incline strongly to confiscation in other directions, the precedent now established will be regretted by a number of citizens who have thought no more of crushing the Mormon Church than they would of hanging a talking anarchist."

THE BEST OF PROOF.

"MORE than that, we have the best of proof that when the news of Abraham Lincoln's death reached Salt Lake Brigham Young danced for joy and said, 'Another enemy of our people is gone, and the Lord God still reigneth in Israel.' A truthful woman told the writer of this that she heard the words and saw the act."

There is little need to say that the foregoing choice morsel is from the most unprincipled sheet ever published in America—the *Salt Lake Tribune*. It will be recognized both from its rash and unmitigated falsehood and the kind of evidence which it calls "the best of proof." It is on just such premises that it draws most of its anti-"Mormon" conclusions. Somebody said so, *q. e. d.* Invincible logic! When nobody says so, it draws upon its own imagination which is evil continually.

For several years it has repeated, every two or three weeks, an alleged utterance of some old woman, whose identity has never been established or indicated, as proof that the "Mormons," as a rule, are perjurers. "I did not lie to the Mormon God but only to the Gentile God," are the words put into the mouth of this phantasmal female, and from them the theory is woven that when "Mormons" take an oath in court they shelter themselves under this miserable sophism.

We do not believe any old woman, professedly "Mormon" or otherwise, ever made use of such a subterfuge. If she did it was not a "Mormon" sentiment. It smells like a *Tribune* fabrication. It sounds like the brazen tones of the "Liberal" organ. Wherever it originated, it is directly hostile to "Mormon" principle.

For a number of years the same paper told again and again a somewhat similar story about Brigham Young to this now credited to "a truthful woman." On the strength of it a United States official here