

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatch from Chicago, dated Sept. 4th, states that in the Cronin case now on trial, Judge McConnel excused from the jury for cause, talesman W. P. Turner. The cause is stated in this way:

"Turner stated that he was a member of the American League, or Independent Order of Deputies, whose object is to prevent a member of the Roman Catholic Church from holding or controlling political office in this country. The talesman, however, thought this would not influence his action and he could give the defendants a fair trial, even if it were shown they were members of the Clan-na-Gael. The defense challenged him for cause and the court sustained the challenge."

This occasions some reflection and comparison. In Chicago, a man who belongs to a society having for its object the prevention of a Roman Catholic from voting and holding office, is deemed unfit for a juror when a Roman Catholic is on trial or Catholic interests are at stake. In Utah, when a member of the "Mormon" Church is on trial, or the interests of that Church are in question, persons who are members of a league, or party, or association or organization having for its object the prevention of "Mormons" from voting and holding office, are considered specially, even exclusively qualified for jury service.

It makes quite a difference, then, as to which class of religionists is unfairly and improperly attacked. It is wrong to combine to prevent a Catholic from exercising political rights and privileges, but quite right, even praiseworthy, to combine in the same way against a "Mormon". Perhaps the locality may have something to do with the matter, and what is wrong in Chicago is right in Utah.

The so-called "Liberal" party of Utah has for its chief object the utter disfranchisement of every member of the "Mormon" Church. Yet the juries here are made up of members of that party, particularly on the trial of a "Mormon." In Idaho the schemes of the "Liberals" have succeeded, and citizens are actually deprived of any right to vote or hold office, solely on the ground of their membership in a certain Church. This is applauded by Utah "Liberals" who helped to bring the outrage to pass.

On the ruling of Judge McConnel of Chicago, none of these plotters against the rights and liberties

of American citizens should be permitted to sit on a jury, when a "Mormon" is to be tried or the "Mormon" Church is in any way in question. But then this is Utah and not Chicago, and what is law for the Catholics is not law for the "Mormons."

As to right, justice and consistency, they can never be changed in their essence, and violations thereof are outrages wherever committed. And those who perpetrate them, whether in the shape of legislation or otherwise, will sooner or later reap the fruits of their own sowing and receive the penalties that will overtake the wrong-doer, as sure as there is an Eternal Judge who will render a righteous retribution.

DEMAGOGIC LEGISLATION.

ONE of the greatest dangers to this republic, is the readiness of most of its national legislators to hold in view their own popularity rather than the general public welfare. This is a government of the people and therefore the will of the people must be the dominant influence. But it very often happens that what figures as the will of the people, is the noise made by agitators and their unreflecting and boisterous followers. Popularity requires the plaction or support of these low-grade elements, and therefore the clamors of the mob often prevail over the sober reflections of the more intellectual but less demonstrative solid citizens.

How will this affect my re-election? Is the query that arises too often in the Congressman's mind. Is this right, just, wise and for the nation's good? should be the momentous question, when any important measure comes up for deliberation and legislative action. But those who are familiar with national politics, are well aware that these considerations weigh far less with the average Member of Congress than those that affect or are likely to affect his personal, political future.

The legislation against the "Mormons" affords a striking illustration of this. Numbers of bright, strong and experienced Senators and Representatives have admitted, since the passage of the Acts of 1882 and 1887, that they foresaw the wrongs which would be perpetrated under cover of those enactments, and that personally they were opposed to their passage. But the preachers and the active and noisy portion of their constituency, clamored for

those extreme measures and they, desiring continued political preferment, yielded to these demands and stifled the whisperings of wisdom and justice.

So with the legislation against the Chinese. The rabble cry of "The Chinese must go," prevailed over the pledges of this nation, the treaties that had been entered into, and the suggestions of prudence, philanthropy and international comity. The exclusion act was a sop to the noisy multitude and an act of injustice to the most populous nation on the globe.

It is now stated that the injured people are beginning to retaliate, and thus commercial America will reap the fruits of its own planting. Trade has seriously fallen off with the Chinese Empire, and prospects are being formed for the expulsion and exclusion of Americans from China. Why not? The almond-eyed denizens of the Flowery Kingdom have as much right to discriminate against this branch of the Caucasian family, as the United States had to single out them for banishment and ostracism. The heathen cannot be expected to follow the golden rule enunciated by Confucius, any better than the "Christians" comply with the similar commandment from their acknowledged great Preceptor, Christ. "A Roland for an Oliver" is a more prevalent practice than the good for evil theory, both among nations and individuals.

It is a difficult matter sometimes to determine what ought to be done, when a great public question is at stake. Legislators are representatives of others, and do not stand entirely as independent thinkers and actors. They must be, to a large extent, influenced by the wishes of their constituents. But at the same time the eternal principles of right and equity ought never to be subverted, and the ebullitions of the thoughtless populace are not the expressed will of the stable citizens who are the real strength of the nation.

To do right should be the aim of the statesman and, he ought to be a beacon light, a guide, and a shaper of public sentiment in the form of that which is righteous, rather than the creature of a shouting rabble, a time-server and a demagogue. Retaliation is wrong, but it is the weapon of the world, and retribution is an eternal principle that will work its way no matter how much time it may require.