

beautiful shore and have time to cast a glance over into that dark abyss, that you will bear witness that I did not vote to rob any one of his human rights, nor to punish the innocent equally with the guilty, as you did today.

MAKING THE MATTER WORSE.

AN APOLOGIST for Mr. Dickson informs the public that in his interview, reported in the *San Francisco Examiner*, he did not mean what he is said to have predicted as the consequence of a "Liberal" victory at the polls, namely, "the downfall of the Mormon Church in five years." We do believe both that he said it and that he meant it, because he has made similar prognostications before. But be that as it may, his apologist says:

"Mr. Dickson referred to that feature of the Mormon system which claims the right and up to this time has exercised the power of holding the civil, temporal government of a great Territory in the hands of the priesthood."

Well, if that is what he meant, he referred to something that does not exist, except in the "Liberal" mind for the purpose of "Liberal" misrepresentation. The "Mormon system" makes no such "claim," nor has it exercised the power so described. That system makes a well defined distinction between the civil government and that of any ecclesiastical organization, offers no claim of the right to hold the temporal government in the hands of its priesthood, nor does it "hold the government of a great Territory" at all.

All the charges of this kind that have been repeated and published throughout the country are wilful perversions of the truth, and not a single fact has ever been cited by way of proof that there is any excuse for them. In a general way some pretended occurrences have been mentioned, but in no instance have they been true or relevant.

The government of this Territory is almost entirely "in the hands" of Federal appointees. The local offices which are filled by persons elected by popular ballot, are not so chosen as "the priesthood." The officers recently elected in this county are none of them "high in the priesthood," as "Liberal" paragraphers and telegraphers please to express it. They, and the twenty-eight members of the Legislature out of thirty-six were elected precisely in the same way that the eight "Liberal" members were, that is, under the laws of Congress and of the Territory.

If they or any of them happen to be men holding some office in the Church, their election did not and would not have been in consequence of that position. There is no significance to their election whatever, other than that they were the choice of the people, nominated by the people's delegates in convention, elected by the people in "absolute secret ballot" at the polls. Anything outside of that exists only in "Liberal" imagination or "Liberal" invention which is as false as it is fertile.

The "Liberal" position seems to be this: No man occupying a position of influence in the "Mormon" Church must be elected to any civil office or open his mouth on political questions. The "Mormon" view is that the people here have the right to elect any man they choose to a public office, irrespective of his ecclesiastical position; also that in being chosen to any place in the Church he does not lose a single right or privilege of citizenship. But they do not hold that he can occupy any civil office whatever simply by virtue of his calling in the Church.

There are no "clergy" in the "Mormon" system separate and apart from and above the people. "The Priesthood" comprehends most of the male members of the Church, and "the hierarchy" so much talked of is the whole body of the Church, comprehending all its members, male and female, old and young, or it has no existence.

"Liberal" exponents of "the Mormon system" will not accord us the poor right to state our own belief and position, but claim the prerogative of stating it for us, and in doing so invariably proclaim as our position something that we do not assume, and in explaining what we believe usually set forth its antipodes.

In either case, Mr. Dickson has not fairly represented "the Mormon system" nor figured as a prophet with any probability of success. And his apologist has only made the matter worse, by coming to his aid with an explanation of "Mormon claims" that no intelligent "Mormon" will endorse.

THOSE ELECTION FRAUDS.

IN RESPONSE to remarks of the *DESERET NEWS* on the admitted frauds at the Ogden municipal election, we are invited by applauders of the wrong to "go before the grand jury and have those frauds investi-

gated." And in regard to contemplated crimes of a similar character here, it is intimated that "the same body is a pretty good one to initiate means to prevent them."

The "Liberal" frauds at the Ogden election are not disputed by scores of prominent "Liberals" in that city nor even by those who now mockingly talk of an investigation. The grand jury which should have investigated them and indicted the criminals, sat in the First District. Cases of illegal voting on which the proofs were ready were offered the Grand Jury, so we are informed by reliable Ogden gentlemen, and they were utterly ignored. It was a "Liberal" grand jury. The proofs were not wanted; there was no desire to prosecute the guilty parties.

As to contemplated frauds in this city, we do not know any means by which a grand jury can act in the premises. The business of such a body is to indict for crime, not to frame measures against its contemplation. And "the same body" would not only be the poorest kind of one to appeal to on such a matter, but could not act in this district, anyhow.

When the proper time comes, opportunity will, no doubt, be offered to the grand jury of this district to proceed against persons known to be guilty of election frauds of various kinds. But it is hardly likely that any one will complain to that body of contemplated offenses. It will be time enough to proceed when overt acts are committed or attempted.

We repeat that we know frauds were committed at the Ogden municipal election in the "Liberal" interest; that there is good evidence that they were repeated at the late general election, though on a smaller scale; and that we know similar frauds are contemplated here, and all of these in the interest of the "Liberal" party. There are transients in this city who have been approached on the subject and who intend on their return to assist in the "Liberal" fraud, and proper steps will be taken, certainly, for their punishment when they swear falsely as to their residence, or attempt to vote on names improperly placed on the registry list.

The substance of the matter is this: The frauds committed by "Liberals" in Ogden will not be perpetrated with the same facility here, nor will the matter be permitted to pass by without at least a thorough exposure of the criminals.