

that would disgrace the denizens of the "slums" have been flung at him and his household in season and out of season with a ferocity that is paralleled only in the case of Mr. Blaine. It is time to hunt down the two bands of political assassins, and I hope that as soon as you have brought the Blaine ones to justice you will ferret out the anti-Cleveland thugs whose infamy rivals Guiteau."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL QUESTION.

SPEAKING on the subject of education in the United States the *Catholic Review* says:

"Catholic educators and others interested in the peaceful settlement of the present difficulties of popular education will find matter for useful discussion in the fact that five Catholic high schools in the State of New York are now integral parts of the State University."

To this the *American Sentinel* replies as follows:

"And we may reasonably conclude that the end is not yet. The State and the Church are already in partnership in a good many ways in the State of New York. Every year millions of dollars are paid to various religious institutions, and for years the brimstones have been a bone of contention between Catholics and Protestants. The strife has, however, not been for principle, but for State cash. The contest has been sharp, but the only question has been, Who should have the lion's share of the spoil?"

PLAIN TALK FOR THE UTAH COMMISSION.

THE Edmunds act, which created the Utah Commission and defined its duties, requires that elections in Utah should be conducted under the laws of the United States and of this Territory. The Commission is to appoint the registration and election officers, and they are to perform the same duties under the same regulations as the officers who were formerly elected by the people were required to perform.

The law provides for a correction of the registration lists at stated periods. This correction is to be done in a house to house visitation by the proper officers, and consists of striking from the lists the names of all persons who, have died, or have removed from the precinct, or are otherwise disqualified as voters therein, and adding to the lists the names of all qualified voters whose names are not thereon.

Under the Utah statute this duty devolved upon the assessors of the various counties, or cities as the case might be, and their deputies. Under the Edmunds act it is to be performed by "proper persons" appointed by the Utah Commission. The Assessor of the County is a responsible officer, under bonds for the faithful performance of his duties. Under the appointments of the Utah Commission the registration officers have not, usually, been "proper persons," but per-

sons chosen chiefly for their pronounced hostility to the majority of the voters, and their fidelity to a faction seeking to gain control of public affairs. And they have been irresponsible persons, not placed under bonds, who have done pretty much as they pleased, and in some instances have defied the power that appointed them, ignored the rulings of courts, and openly worked for the special interest of the faction from which they were intentionally chosen.

These are facts that the Utah Commission cannot truthfully deny although some of its members may object to our blunt way of putting them.

What has been the consequence? This: That the work required by law has not been done, but the appointees have been paid for it, nevertheless, out of the treasury of the United States. The proof of this has been furnished many times, but the Commission apparently has taken no notice of it. Now, however, it comes from a source which should arrest its attention, because it is furnished by the party which the majority of the Commission seem to have chiefly labored to support. The *Salt Lake Tribune*, whose influence is continually felt in the office of the Commission which reposes under its shadow, has published a list of hundreds of names of voters claimed as "Liberals," who could not be found in the precincts where they were registered. There are many hundreds more which were not given in that list, but the *Tribune* selections answer every purpose just now.

No matter what may have been the intent of leaving these names of persons on the lists who have died or removed from the precinct, the fact remains that the registration officers have not done the work which they were paid to do. And if they have sworn to vouchers in order to get their pay, they have committed perjury.

This neglect, to call it by no worse name—though we think the evidence is clear that it deserves a harsher word, more significant of criminal act and intent—has been continued ever since the Utah Commission has exercised the appointing authority in place of the electing power of the people. The blame reflects upon that body, while the evil results that have followed are felt by the community. The wrong can be rectified and the power to correct it is with the Utah Commission.

How can it be done? Simply by a compliance on the part of that body with the letter and spirit of the laws under which they are required to act. Let "proper persons" be appointed, and let each county and city registrar

be put under bonds and thus become responsible for his own acts and those of his deputies. A man without character or standing and who could not get bondsmen for a fair amount, is not a "proper person." The fact that he is a "Liberal" and will do dirty work for his party does not make him a "proper person" in the eyes of the law or of fair men, even if the majority of the Commission have viewed the matter in that light.

We are to have an important election in this city next February. The registration lists will have to be revised. There are several hundred unregistered citizens who are claimed as "Liberals." There are many hundreds more who have given their names as Democrats or Republicans and anti-"Liberals." Many of these have been passed by purposely, by the "Liberal" registration officers, who did not want such names on the lists. In addition to the neglect in striking improper names off, it can be proved that there has been further and worse negligence in not putting proper names on.

Is this shameful state of things to be perpetuated? Will the Commission cease to be so grossly partizan, and appoint capable and proper persons who can be sued on their bonds for wilful neglect or other illegal conduct? Or will they continue to play into the hands of a faction that has resorted to all the vile tricks known to degraded American party politics and stopped at nothing which gave hope of success?

The proofs of shameful neglect are indisputable. They are before the Commission. What are they going to do about it? Will they continue to ignore the requests of the majority of the citizens? Or will they work the reform which is within their lawful power and which is their official duty to effect?

Let substantial, responsible, impartial persons be appointed to revise the registration lists as the law requires. Let them be required to place the residence of each voter on the registration list. Let a complete copy of these lists be filed and posted for the use of all parties, not the exclusive inspection of a faction. Let their vouchers be rejected if they have not done their work. Let them be removed and others be appointed in their places if they fail to act as the laws and legal regulations require.

And let us have registration lists that will answer the purpose the laws have in view, that only registered voters can cast a ballot, and that the taint of fraud which has been on all the elections in this city and county since the Utah Commission has existed, may be effectually and entirely removed. This can be done, is there any earthly reason why it should not be done?