

cultural College, the Deseret University, the Fair Buildings, etc., besides the regular expenses of the Territory to be considered. As it was, the Legislature appropriated more money for the Insane Asylum than for any other one purpose, and in order to meet the increased demands departed from the usual economic policy of this Territory and provided for a bonded debt of \$150,000.

How, then, can the grand jury or any other body or person anxious to gain the applause of the chronic growlers and defamers, presume to assert that the Utah Legislature "unjustifiably refused to make the needful appropriation for this purpose?" These continual endeavors to place the representatives of the majority here in a false light before the country are despicable to the last degree. In this case there was no excuse for the slander. It is refuted by the facts and figures set forth in public documents. But such statements are copied by the press at a distance, and the refutation is left unnoticed.

It is time that the promoters of progress and material development in Utah, of all classes, combined to frown down these repeated efforts to misrepresent and belittle public men and measures because they are supported by the majority. Any person or paper engaged in such slimy work should be condemned in so pronounced a manner that the practice would become uncommon and eventually expire for lack of congenial atmosphere.

IDAHO AND STATEHOOD.

THE proclamation of Governor Stevenson calling for a Constitutional Convention in Idaho will, of course, be responded to by a portion of the citizens of that Territory. The Convention will be held and the form of an election will be gone through for the ratification of the Constitution that may have been framed. But it will not be a republican proceeding. From beginning to end it will be a sectional and arbitrary affair, contrary to the spirit of American liberty. A large body of law-abiding citizens will be prevented from taking part in the movement.

On general principles we are in favor of a total abolition of the Territorial system. We believe it to be anti-republican and anomalous to the system of government embodied in our national Constitution. Any scheme which denies to the citi-

zens of proper age and status a voice in the selection of the officers of the government and the framers of the laws, is in our opinion, hostile to the spirit and form of American republicanism. A Territory as at present organized is not a free commonwealth, but is little more than a satrapy. The Constitution contemplates only free and united States, and we look for the time when there will be nothing else under the national banner of liberty. But as the laws and customs of the country now prevail, Idaho is not in a condition to enter the Union on a footing with the States which compose this great federation.

In the first place the population is not sufficient. Probably seventy-five or eighty thousand at the most will fully represent the number of its inhabitants. Its voting strength will prove a pointer in this direction. The census of 1890 will doubtless tell the tale. We do not think Idaho will be able to rush in before that counting will be completed and reported. It will show that the population of Idaho is not sufficient to entitle it to one Representative in the lower House of Congress.

Then Idaho has not now, and will not have, under present regulations, "a republican form of government." Setting aside the territorial disabilities for which she is not responsible and which are not included in our objection, she has denied to a large number of American citizens, who are of full age and are not debarred by the commission of any crime, from any voice in local governmental affairs. Their only fault is their faith. They hold views on religious matters that are different to those of the majority. They belong to a church that is considered unorthodox. For these reasons and these alone they are robbed of the elective franchise.

A Constitutional Convention and an election consequent thereupon from which a large proportion of the citizens are arbitrarily excluded, will not be a fair representation of the will of the people. A Constitution framed upon such a basis and perpetuating such a wrong, will not be republican in form, as required by the National Constitution. And therefore Idaho, under present conditions, is unfit to take a place among the free and independent States which have been formed in the spirit and with the institutions of democratic republicanism.

In the formation of a sovereign State of the American Union, all the people who have attained their

majority and are not debarred by the commission of crime, should of right be equal at the polls. Their peculiarities of creed, their associations as members of a religious body, their adherence to or dissent from any peculiar faith, should have no bearing whatever upon the rights of suffrage.

Idaho, in pretending to form a State to be one of the free commonwealths of this Union, while trampling upon the rights and liberties of many hundreds of her citizens and shutting them out of participation in the necessary formalities, will be acting out a living lie and perpetrating a flagrant fraud upon this great nation. The record of the Territory shows that instead of being crowned with the diadem of State sovereignty, it should rather be split in pieces and divided up among the surrounding States and Territories, where laws and liberties prevail that comport with the free institutions of our Constitution and our country.

A GREAT CELEBRATION.

IN THE closing days of April and the first of May an event occurs that is witnessed only once in a lifetime—the centennial celebration of the inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States. The *Metropolitan* says it will be a monster affair, the biggest thing of the kind the nation has ever seen. All the States and Territories, from Maine to California and from Minnesota to Texas are taking a hand in it, and the committees at work throughout the country have nearly completed their plans. The New York committee which started out to collect \$200,000 to defray the expenses of the celebration, obtained it promptly. As the work of preparation is of great magnitude, it has been apportioned among ten organizations, consisting of 200 representative men, conspicuous in all the walks of life. Chief of these is the committee on Plan and Scope, to which are submitted all the suggestions, plans and purposes of the others for approval or disapproval. Of this Mayor Grant is the chairman. Ample arrangements have been made for getting people into and out of the city, and likewise for their accommodation in boarding houses and hotels at the regular prices. A large number of boats have been engaged for the occasion, which after bringing troops and other organizations to the metropolis will be utilized by them as