

authority of the presiding officer was required to restore silence.

The spectators were but expressing a due appreciation of what struck them as a most jolly burlesque. They had lived near enough to that august body to discern between the solemn airs of the average senator and the tragic attitudes of the stage player, a similitude so striking that for a moment they forgot and doubtless thought they were at a play house of another sort until reminded by the president that Mr. Frye was not a performer but a lawmaker of a great nation, and that the Senate house was not a burlesque comedy, but a place where grave and reverend statesmen were assembled to discuss the interests of sixty-five millions of people. The audience nevertheless thought it was a merry joke, all the same, and surely it was. Whether the people of these United States who are so far away as necessarily to miss the intoxicating influence of this grave burlesque, will be as well pleased with the joke as was the Washington audience, is a question for debate.

The Congress some months ago was called in special session to decide upon some means by which the country could be relieved from its present distress. The nature of that distress demanded above all things immediate action. The House of Representatives went vigorously to work on the problem at issue, and after giving every feature of the case a full, candid inspection, hastened to get the judgment of a majority of the members upon a final decision. Whether we out West, or the country at large, may agree with that decision or not, the House as a body did its full duty. If the people are dissatisfied, the proper remedy is in the ballot box. If the present personnel of the House does not truly represent the sentiments of the majority of the country, voters should see to it that men are hereafter sent there who do think as the people do.

But what a contrast have we in this august "upper house!" Under an exalted notion of its dignity, that body has declared that its members are above restraint in matters of debate; that the privilege to talk on the floor of the Senate shall be inviolable and unlimited. The effect is that in a negation there is no minority. A single member can block the wheels of the Senate, and thereby the entire legislative branch of government, eternally, if his powers of speech were physically sufficient for such a task. And, if one member is not able to prevent, by endless and pointless harangue, the passage of a measure which he objects to, thirty or more members, though they are a hopeless minority, can do it. That is precisely what the minority of the Senate has been doing for the past several weeks, and with no concealment of its motives or its intention to go on indefinitely, if necessary, in the same line of business.

Without in any way agreeing with the will of the majority of the Senate in this case, we do not hesitate to condemn without qualification the position of the minority and likewise the idiotic rule which makes such a position possible. The Senate was designed for a working assembly and

by the terms of the Constitution and the unqualified will of the people, a majority, when it comes to a final judgment, is the Senate, and the minority which places itself in the way of an ultimate assertion of the will of that majority, is nothing better than a body of nullifiers. Such a method of procedure is un-American, unstatesmanlike and revolutionary, and if carried to its ultimate audacity, instead of a capable people's government we should have anarchy pure and simple.

The issue is not whether the country shall or does endorse the personal conduct of the majority of the Senate. Many of the leaders who are now most clamorous for a closure of debate on the anti-silver measure and who are likewise leading the war against free coinage, a little over a year ago were vociferating in behalf of silver and noisily proclaiming the cause of unlimited and unconditional "free speech" on the floor of the Senate. Many of the people believe that these men have sold them out for a private consideration—not necessarily a money bribe but what is still more useful to a politician, the control of patronage. If that is so, the people brought the calamity upon themselves by entrusting such men with their business, and the way to remedy the evil, is, as we said before, at the ballot box. Perhaps with all these exhibitions of legislative incapacity before them the voters when the next occasion presents itself will take better heed to the honesty of the men whom they choose for such exalted duties. We are not sure that anything short of the pangs of hunger would be sufficient to induce a proper discernment between skill, stump oratory and capable representation.

GOING TO PIECES.

The Liberals of Ogden have just decided, through a duly constituted committee, to make no nominations. This means that the party has definitely and conclusively dissolved, the elements returning to their normal conditions; for, as political revolutions at least are not wont to go backward, it will not only be difficult but practically impossible to draw the forces from their present alignment and again marshal them in fighting array. It is the tendency of the times to support one or another of the national organizations wherever political issues arise, so our Ogden friends have only done what was natural and inevitable.

As to which of the old parties will be the gainer by the Liberal disintegration, we have no idea and no particular concern. Probably there will be found not a very great difference numerically between them, and this view would seem to be upheld by the modesty of the claims made on either side and estimates based upon careful consideration. However, as to that we shall soon know; in the meantime it is a cause of sincere congratulation to all the good people of that ambitious and thriving city as well as to those of the country around them, and the same is hereby extended.

The Liberals of this city seem bent

upon one more contest, but that it will be disastrous to them seems about as well assured as any thing yet to come can be. The party is by no means an idea without a corporeal basis in the community; on the contrary, even with the advantage against them, the Liberals are still quite numerous and it will require untiring vigilance with the use of every legitimate resource to make the conquest of them complete. We wish they were as far advanced in the political scale as their Ogden brethren and willing to abandon a contest against conditions which live only in the past. There are many good citizens, upright men, heavy taxpayers and educated minds in the organization; but surely they can see that standing out against their respective national affiliations when even if they should win now it would be for the last time, does but further estrange and cause them to be looked upon more and more as dissentients if not renegades. What has to be done in that regard might as well be done this year as next; the conditions and opportunities will not likely be more favorable then than now, and it is much better to quit with naught but victories to their credit than to go down at last in defeat. Surely the acquisition of a few paltry offices, even if such result were assured, is not a sufficient justification for prolonging the life of an anti-national organization which has been repudiated by the supreme court of both parties and whose membership has received rebuff and humiliations in consequence thereof when they might have held honored places.

UNDER THE heading of "People's Party [Populist] News" the Boston Traveller has the following paragraph from Utah:

Judge M. M. Kellogg of Provo, formerly a prominent Democrat, together with many of his old associates, are engaged in organizing a new political party upon lines similar to the People's party. Their platform demands free coinage of both silver and gold. It also demands that "the United States shall buy or build and own and operate steamships for the transportation of goods and merchandise between the United States and various ports of the world, under control of the navy department."

THE RECORD for rapidity of naturalization has just been made by a New York judge—thirty aliens cracked through as full-fledged American citizens in seven minutes. This almost equals the pace set by the Chicago divorce courts.

THE EXPERIENCE of an Indiana countryman who during a visit to the World's Fair paid six dollars for having his hair cut, suggests that it is not only painful but sometimes also costly to get one's wisdom teeth cut.

IT WILL be interesting to see how, in his present mood of justifiable exasperation, President Cleveland will frame his thanksgiving proclamation.

AN ARIZONA man is reported to be in the novel business of digging up fossil cats. It's to be hoped he's sure the things are quite dead.