

what could be so designated? The position is taken that something that is "perfectly legal and right" would lower the dignity and cause a misapprehension of the motives of the rule or ruin clique who insist on retarding the progress of this Territory. It can be admitted that anything that is "legal and right" would conflict with the genius of the "active politicians" of Utah, but that anything would lower the dignity or tone of their motives is another thing. The whole business is given away in the explanation, which is unwittingly a confession. It says, substantially: "It is all right to rob the 'Mormons,' but we don't wish to be suspected of having a hand in it." As a matter of fact, after having produced the robbing process, those who brought it about are anxious to cover up their tracks because the steal is not popular. Such is the motive, the tone of which should not be lowered or its dignity impaired. If there is a method by which such motives could be placed a notch lower in the scale of tone and dignity it is, like perpetual motion, still undiscovered. It is not often that people are afraid that the dignity of their motives will be detrimentally affected by something "perfectly legal and right," but the average anti-"Mormon" political crusader is a singular being. He has many tender and susceptible spots.

### DECLINES PREFERMENT.

SENATOR ALLISON has definitely and positively declined the position of Secretary of the Treasury in President Harrison's Cabinet; so says a telegram. Those two gentlemen spent the greater part of last Sunday together, and at the conclusion of the protracted interview the word went out to the country that Allison had been tendered and accepted the place. And the country was right well pleased at the announcement, too. Even the Democrats joined, to some extent, in the glad refrain, and were apparently pleased that the Iowa man was to be one of the Executive's advisers under the new order of things. There were several reasons for this; one, but not the chief one, is, that it is rarely that a Cabinet member is chosen from so far west, and it is high time the most promising part of the country was becoming also the most prominent; another is that the Senator is a man of great experience and rare ability; and the

principal one is that his hands are entirely clean and his record as a statesman is clear. There is a demand for uprightness and honesty in political circles just now—perhaps because of the fact that long-continued extremes produce their opposites—and the man from Iowa was looked upon as a fitting representative of the higher order of things, whose choice was a most felicitous stroke of policy upon the part of the new President.

All this goes for naught now. Allison will have none of it, and the Cabinet status falls back to three members; instead of a majority selected, it is a majority to be selected. Of course there is plenty of timber left out of which to construct a serviceable and competent bureau of advisers; it would be a great calamity were it otherwise. Even in Iowa, or further west, it is not to be supposed that the man who was chosen exhausted the list of eligible Republicans—and more than this, in addition to ability and honesty, a man could doubtless easily be found who has the element which Allison lacks—that of willingness to act. All these are minor considerations; the perplexing part of the situation is to find one who not only has the qualifications enumerated, but would give such general satisfaction. This is the hard part of it indeed, and it is made all the harder by the fact that it was successful as it stood.

The next question is as to why the gentleman declined the promotion. The Secretaryship of the Treasury is the second place in the Cabinet in point of grade, and is equal to the first in point of importance and responsibility. To refuse to take it, and that, too, at a time when distinction and honors are to be gained by a satisfactory settlement of the vexed silver question, is a mystery to all but the initiated. It is not because he prefers the animation and intellectual vigor of the senatorial forum to the quiet and continuous routine of the business desk, though this to some would be sufficient, notwithstanding the higher calling and \$3,000 per annum difference in salary in favor of the Treasuryship; no, it has no relation to that. It is because the Senator has powerful, influential and long-headed friends in considerable number, men who are also greatly in love with Iowa and want to see the next President come from that State. In Mr. Allison they find the very man for their ambitions to rest upon. He is conspicuous, hav-

ing received a large vote for the nomination in the last convention; he is able, as is abundantly shown; he is one of the few against whom nothing can be said except that he is a Republican; he is neither too old nor too young; and he is quite willing. To place him in the Cabinet would be to take him out of the field of activity which he at present occupies and will occupy as long as he desires, and virtually place him on the shelf. He is daily heard from in the Senate, when his voice in all the debates is never silent nor does it ever have an uncertain sound, whereas, in the secretaryship, he would be politically deaf and dumb. His friends know this, and they announced weeks before Allison went to Indianapolis that the Cabinet was not to be thought of, not even if he could have the Premiership. There was no resisting such a pressure, especially when the object aimed at was personally not distasteful; and so the Senator retains his toga, preferring to remain in the hands of his friends and thus in the line of the Presidential succession, to the drudgery of the ministry with perhaps obscurity following it.

### AN IMPORTANT POINT.

A CLEAR and apparently invulnerable point has been elucidated in the motion before the Territorial Supreme Court for a rehearing of the Ogden election case. The court practically adopted as well as affirmed the decision of Judge Henderson in the court below. It was to the effect, as we understand it, that the new law in relation to incorporated cities, etc., did not give authority to city councils to provide for elections from wards, "and therefore the city council had no power to provide for registration and voting in wards." It appears that the court was right so far as related to the new law, which does not confer the authority to elect from wards. It seemed to be overlooked, however, that the conferring of authority to register and vote in wards would have been superfluous, as it was already in possession of the Ogden city council. The election law of 1878, which was practically adopted by Federal legislation, gives the municipal councils this power. For instance, the statute last named gives authority for the council to provide for registration proceedings in Salt Lake City, in which registration and voting are conducted in ward divisions. To carry the comparison