

was a proper and a constitutional requirement. I have no doubt of it; no one doubts it.

But how do we know that the legislature of Idaho will prescribe a test oath in this case and so give an opportunity of purgation? You say that they probably will. I say that they ought to. But is there no doubt that they will do so? There is none that it should be done; but where is the authority that compels it? Where is the warrant; the surety? Where is the assurance that they will not leave this entire matter to the kind of men whom I will not undertake to characterize here; the men who may compose election boards; the low politicians; the hucksters of public life; the seekers for the little offices; the hangers-on of great men; the mean implements of base ambitions; the general doers of dirty work throughout the nation?

How do we know, I ask, that it will not be left entirely to these men? In vain is it to say it will not probably be left to them. It may be; and where there is an opportunity for corruption, where in the mad delirium and loose morals of politics there is an opportunity for oppression, you may be as sure that they will appear promptly at that time, when they can do the most good or the most harm that can be done, as that the sun will rise or set.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not an apologist for Mormonism; but it is very cheap, it is very easy to stand here and rail at it. There is, sir, a demagoguery of virtue just as there is a hypocrisy of religion. The virtue which is performed vicariously is the sweetest in the world to a great many people. I know gentlemen whose sole virtue consists in condemning polygamy, and who are sober only by trying to enact laws to keep the poor soldier from getting his beer. [Laughter and applause.]

The world is full of this kind of saints; and to stand here where we have no real potency over the subject, where we are not called upon to act—to stand here and hurl epithets at Mormonism seems to me to be a very mean piece of business. There is no risk, there is no bravery in this kind of talk; there are no votes to be lost by it, and so it is cheap and easy. I condemn Mormonism root and branch. I agree entirely with the framers of this constitution that persons guilty of bigamy and polygamy and of the practices set forth in section 3 of article 6 of the Idaho constitution ought to be disfranchised. But they are human beings, they are American citizens, and I contend for them and in their behalf that they should have the rights of all other citizens. No one of them ought to lose his right to vote unless he is duly convicted.

I contend for them, and not for them alone, but for all citizens, Protestant or Catholic, Jew or Gentile, for the black and the white, for every form of religion, for every form of political belief, that their rights should be judicially ascertained. I know that in the State of Illinois statutes have been passed for the first time in the history of

this country making penal certain expressions of opinion. That law may be the outgrowth of a great necessity and be so well guarded that no harm can be done to free speech and legitimate political action, but I tell you, gentlemen, here today that it is a dangerous road to enter upon. It is the road followed by this constitution, and is doubly dangerous, because it is an organic law.

I know the answer will be that by this route you seek to attain certain good. But after all you set a precedent; and all the evil I have ever read of in history comes from evil precedents bent to good uses. It is the exigency of occasions which causes reason to be blind and desperate courses to be pursued. It is from high and holy purposes, often indeed for the preservation of the state itself, that an evil example is set and a rule established which ultimately baptizes the liberties of the people in blood or drowns them in despotism.

Strike Mormonism, if you please, strike it hard; but give it a fair trial; let the courts condemn it; not irresponsible election officers. Let them condemn the man whose vote you seek to take from him, upon some charge of crime proved by lawful evidence. Let them solemnly, by judgment and record, determine that he falls within the law and has committed an offense which takes from him, and ought to take from him, the right of the elective franchise. We cannot afford, for the suppression of Mormonism, to introduce into this country a precedent so dangerous. We cannot afford to do this clear off in Idaho, even, for that is not so far away but that it may ripen in mischief and be cited in courts and in Senates against the liberties of the people. I contend simply for the protection of the law through the judgment of the courts on the conduct of all men. Discrimination made in the very teeth of denials that the accused are subject to them cannot fail to be most hurtful and most dangerous. I would blot out Mormonism if I could, but I would not, even to blot out Mormonism, take one step which might impair the freedom of the American people. [Applause on the democratic side.]

ITEMS FROM THE NORTH.

I made the trip from Salt Lake to Cache County's capital by rail. I have performed the journey behind a pair of cayuse ponies. This is all right when you want to camp on the roadside at night, or saunter along at an uncertain gait in the daytime, but for my part I prefer the iron horse.

On the train when we left Utah's chief city were about 70 passengers. Quite a number were young people returning from school to spend the Sabbath at their homes out of town; others were called to travel for various objects, and each presented a subject for the physiognomist.

In one car the individual that attracted the most attention was an Irishman. The Irish attract attention everywhere from numerous causes. This one was dark complex-

ioned, had a low forehead, small eyes set far back, a nose the end of which looked like a large carbuncle, and prominent jaws. With him were his wife—everybody knew that by the commanding way in which he addressed her—a sweet looking little creature with blonde hair and large blue eyes, and three children ranging from one to five years of age. The ruler of this little flock seemed out of sorts from some cause, and only awaited opportunity to give vent to his feelings. The chance occurred when the conductor came along. Paddy demanded that a seat be unlocked and turned to face the other direction. The conductor looked at him, said he had no key, and remarked that the seat was facing in the right direction—toward the front of the train. Then Paddy started; his language was not very choice, but the stream of adverse criticism that poured forth upon railway men in general, and Union Pacific employees in particular, set the whole lot of passengers to laughing. In the midst of it all there was a vein of sympathy for the little woman who, in an undertone, did her utmost to pacify her lord and master and persuade him to be quiet, her face suffused in blushes the while, as she felt keenly the ridiculous spectacle he was making of himself; the silent pleading of the children uniting with the mother as they looked intently upon the father's face. The family were en route for Park City; this I concluded from the fact that when we reached Ogden, and the brakeman called out, "This car goes through to Park City," they retained their places in it.

Among the other passengers was a tall, slender man. I think I saw him in Evanston once. His face was long and thin, and his beard was much longer, and was streaked with gray. He looked as though he might have been the editor of a Wyoming weekly paper once, and had failed in collecting the subscriptions.

Numbered among the occupants of the chair car was Hon. A. Maitland Stenhouse, of Alberta, Canada, who has been down visiting the principal city of the Saints.

We had other notables, too, three of them being members of the board of trustees of the Agricultural College. They were Wm. S. McCornick, the banker, and M. B. Sowles, ex-city councillor, of Salt Lake, and John E. Hills, U. S. commissioner, of Provo. They were going to Logan to hold a meeting and determine what buildings should be erected, and what work should be done at the college this summer.

Along the route the first object of interest was at the Hot Springs, the waters from which are an antidote for almost every form of rheumatism, as well as many other diseases. There were the remains of the Rio Grande Western wreck of April 17. The track had been repaired, but showed the marks of its recent displacement. The locomotive tender stood upright, at right angles with the track, where it had run when the wheels left the rails, and near by, lying lengthwise alongside of the track, were two cars,