

litical prophets would now more than ever consult their interests in the matter of maintaining a reputation by simply announcing that of one thing they are assured—that neither General Weaver nor General Bidwell will be elected President; it will be the present or the previous incumbent to a reasonable certainty. They may add their belief to this and say that the chances favor the one they favor, but just now it is difficult to see how they can go further and be on the safe side.

IT'S FEEBLE, BUT STILL KICKS.

Though not for a moment believing its own words, the organ of the Liberal party continues to utter loud fears concerning the impending menace of statehood for Utah, and to plead in piteous tones the all-overshadowing necessity of solidly supporting the Liberal ticket. The labor of both the political parties, it avers, is to insure Utah's admission, which it interprets as not only the doubling of taxation, but a great many other things as well. Among these "other things," we suppose the organ includes the following: "The men who are working for statehood here are working, first, for office, second, they are working to establish a polygamous state; they are working to restore the Priesthood of the Mormon Church to all the power that it had in the old days. Yes, and a good deal more power than it had in the old days, for with that power the veto of the Governor would be taken away; Fort Douglas would be a garrison to come to the support of the governor of the state whenever any impertinent Gentiles interfered with the rule here."

As before stated, the man who writes that sort of stuff does not believe it himself; he is endowed with at least ordinary intelligence, and no one save a natural-born or an accidental imbecile could possess a brain so puny as to yield to such impressions. To credit it with sincerity in this instance is, therefore, to accuse the Liberal organ of mental weakness. We shall not offer it so gross an insult; it is sometimes more charitable to accept a plea that the vision for the time being is morally oblique, than to push the case to a conclusion under the other alternative, *de lunatico inquirendo*.

The utter absurdity of the condition the Liberal organ foretells is seen in the purposes attributed to those whom it charges with working for statehood. These purposes are,—inverting the order in which that authority presents them,—first, to restore the Priesthood of the Mormon Church to more power than it ever had, by taking away the veto power of the Governor though still leaving him with power to call the garrison at Fort Douglas to support him against the interference of any impertinent Gentiles; second, to establish a polygamous state; and third, the offices. The News has before this pointed out that the Mormon Church, Priesthood or people, are not working for statehood, and has given the most positive assurances that they would not do so, until those referred to by the Liberal organ as Gentiles are ready to join in the request. When to this declaration is added the self-evident fact that the Mormon Church is not

running the two political parties, the case of our cotemporary falls with a thud. It might with just as much reason be charged that the two parties in the nation by their national platforms are pledged to the programme here announced for the local organizations of those parties, and are being manipulated in the interest of the Church. The Liberal organ will surely see that its assumption is preposterous.

Day by day the desperation of the Liberal managers becomes more pitiful, and the senselessness of their statehood scare more apparent. Driven to that last resort for their *raison d'être*, they give abundant evidence in their varied exhibitions of ground and lofty tumbling that they know their political jig is about up. Having found that they cannot provoke from the audience thunders of applause to accompany their exit, their whole energy is now devoted to the business of seeing that they do not drop out without something of a fanfare from themselves.

THE COMMISSION TO THE FRONT.

The Utah Commission is to be commended for the stand it has taken regarding the coming election. This Territory has not always been favored with strict impartiality in the matter of choosing those whom we would have to serve us, and the result in some cases has been that we got instead those whom we had to serve, which latter is not right no matter whether brought about by fair means or foul, but is infinitely worse when connived at or permitted than in other cases.

The appeal of the Commission is made to the registration officers and judges of election as well as to the voters, and starts out by saying in substance that it is desirous of having and is even determined to have a "fair and square" contest at the polls on Tuesday next; everything like fraud must be put down, and every voter legally qualified must have the privilege of depositing his ballot without restraint, while those who have no such right must just as rigidly be excluded. The most patriotic citizen, the most independent man in the country, could and will ask for no more than this, while the most zealous partisan has no right to anything beyond or this side of it. It is just right and we hope to see it carried out to the letter. There is nothing to be regretful about or to feel sore over when those who are in charge of the election machinery act in accordance with those plain statements by the Commission, no matter whether victory or defeat shall result to those who assist it in its laudable purpose, and in this class will of course be found all upright citizens.

The pronouncement, if such we may call it, then goes on to say that all challenges at the polls should be determined fairly and impartially, with the view to rejecting none that are qualified and keeping out all others, remembering, in the meantime, that one whose vote is challenged occupies a similar position to a man on a criminal charge—all reasonable presumptions are on his side. Formerly it was the case that the burden of proof was placed on the accuser, but the

unreasonableness of such a stand, we are glad to see, has been recognized; in view of the fact that a person who claims the right to vote in any precinct can easily establish that right and the one who challenges him may not have proofs ready to show to the contrary, it is commendable that the rule ceases where it does and the fraudulently inclined can be detected negatively.

Attention is called to riotous or disorderly conduct at the polls, in which we had an object lesson here last February. The example given then was not such as to be very discouraging to intending violators, so the paragraph on this subject cannot be considered as surplusage by any means. Some general expressions regarding the purity of the ballot box are then made, and the document closes thus: "The manhood of Utah cannot afford to prostitute itself by fraud in elections." We concur most heartily.

GOING TO THE REAR.

Politics is a fickle jade; those whom it fawned upon a short time ago are either in obscurity or at the rear, and *vice versa*, while some, through its rasical treatment or indefensible behavior, are in a different and conflicting place from where they have hitherto been. Half a dozen men who have held cabinet positions under Republican Presidents are now active campaigners under the Cleveland banner, while George Ticknor Curtis and many other life-long Democrats are out for Harrison; and thus it goes. The most conspicuous case of complete occultation, however, is that of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, once the idol of the Republican party and a man whose flashy rhetoric and explosive vehemence were relied upon more than any other similar agency to rally the wavering and bring the doubtful into line. His speech nominating James G. Blaine, at the National Republican Convention at Cincinnati in 1876, was one of those diamond-pointed, sarcastic and sententious outbursts which captivate not for the moment only, but endure and are handed on and down. After this he was on the stump continually till the campaign closed, stirring up the enthusiasm and eliciting the encomiums and applause of admiring throngs. He was a most conspicuous figure then, more so, probably, than the candidate he represented; his name was on everybody's lips and his glowing words were quoted by great and small, by the thinking and the unthinking. What a difference! He is still mentioned occasionally, always by the local press of the place where he lectures, or more widely when in some noted lawsuit, but no longer in words that glow or in a connection itself suggestive of greatness. It is now "Bob Ingersoll," "Pope Bob," or, when the patronizing style is not used, it becomes plain "Colonel Ingersoll." This is a falling off for which there is a cause plainly apparent, and it is not entirely if at all political.

Colonel Ingersoll has not contented himself with being merely an unbeliever, but on all occasions where it could reasonably be done, has taken pains to exhibit this weakness in his