

ionist without first resorting to ecclesiastical tribunals. It is safe to say that not a single newspaper in America, of any intelligence or influence, will deny the right of the Evangelical Church to do what it did, on any ground of interference with the civil authorities. Yet should a "Mormon" ecclesiastical tribunal go so far as to merely temporarily disfellowship so prominent a member for precisely the same breach of church discipline, the incident would be seized upon and magnified into conclusive proof that the "Mormon hierarchy" was an *imperium in imperio*, independent of and defiant towards the civil tribunals, given to treasonable practices and designs, etc.

No reason is given why the "Mormon" Church should not be permitted to exercise the same power and discretion in enforcing church discipline, or in excommunicating members who rebel against the same, that other churches have. No such reason exists, having any foundation in intelligence or justice, and yet the fact that its discipline requires disputes between members to be settled by church tribunals is constantly cited as proof of its law-defying and treasonable character. The injustice of such treatment towards the "Mormons" is too apparent to require comment or illustration.

THE LATE CONTEST.

Public Opinion for February 22nd contains a large number of selections from comments made by newspapers and writers upon the late municipal election in this city. In nearly all of them is displayed a feeling of satisfaction at the result, and a disposition to ignore the crimes by which it was reached. The authors of these comments evidently labor under the impression that "Mormonism" has been struck a staggering blow, and they rejoice accordingly. Many of them, in distinct language, describe the defeat of the People's Party as the doom of the "Mormon" Church, and express congratulations accordingly. When at length it shall dawn upon these scribes that the "Mormon" Church, as a religious body, was in no way injured by the result of the contest, how disappointed they will be. Yet this is precisely the fate that awaits their present exuberant anticipations. The "Mormon" Church can no more be affected by the vicissitudes of local politics than can the Cath-

olic, Methodist, or any other denomination; probably not as much.

The worst feature, because the most ominous to the welfare of the country, which is observable in these press comments upon the election here, is the disposition to condone or overlook the crimes against the franchise by which was attained the result which gives so much satisfaction. The Macon, Georgia, *Telegraph* is one of the papers which cannot understand how the "City of the Saints" was so suddenly transformed into a community a majority of which were Gentiles, and makes the following remarks:

"What is the best possible explanation of the Mormon defeat? The Mormons themselves say they were beaten by fraud—that they were cheated out of their rights—and will for years be in the power of their relentless enemies because the judges will refuse them justice in the courts just as the election officers refused them fair dealing at the polls. They assume that the courts will be unjust, of course, but they descend to particular facts in dealing with the frauds, and really seem to make out a pretty good case. Now, nobody sympathizes with the Mormon Church in this part of the country. Everybody outside of Utah rejoices that the Mormon power has sustained what looks like a crushing blow. But why is it that we hear no angry outcries from the republican press over the exclusion of the majority from power in Salt Lake City, nor against the patent fraud and injustice involved in the supremacy of a small minority of the population over the majority? There never occurred in the Southern States an election the result of which was so difficult to explain satisfactorily. The Mormons are not negroes nor ex-slaves. They are not peculiar because of their timidity and lack of organizing ability. On the contrary, they are as white as their opponents, have the energy and ability that were needed to create an empire in the wilderness, and knew they were fighting for existence. We do not call on Congress to investigate this election, for we are perfectly satisfied with the result, and are not in the habit of calling for Congressional investigations any way; but it seems to us that the Republican press is bound to do so if it has any sense of the beauty of consistency. A majority of white Mormons has as much right to control in Utah as has a majority of black Republicans in Mississippi. In fact, if they have intelligence and a lively interest in public affairs, they have more."

The remark that "There never occurred in the Southern States an election, the result of which was so difficult to explain satisfactorily," expresses a volume. In that region so often described by the Republican press as the home of bulldozing and intimidation, of ballot-box stuffing and election frauds, the counterpart of the "Liberal" tactics which carried the day here was never known.

The monotony with which the prediction is reiterated that the elec-

tion will surely prove a death blow to "Mormonism," is slightly varied by the following from the *Boston Herald*:

"Mormonism has received so many 'death blows' and survived them that the effect of this election cannot certainly be said to be immediately fatal, but it will be the beginning of the end."

It is amazing that the editors of America should be so dull in comprehending that it is impossible for the fate of a church to be decided by a municipal election, under the laws and institutions of this country. An April shower upon a duck's back has quite as much to do with the longevity of the fowl as the result of the late election in this city can possibly have upon the permanency, perpetuity and growth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A TREACHEROUS WRETCH.

THE alleged expose of the Masonic secret formula, at New Haven, Conn., is exceedingly disgusting. Trowbridge, like all traitors, must be a worthless wretch, only fit to be shunned by the honest and upright. Through his operations, what he claims to be the oaths of a Mason and Master Mason are given to the public, and appeared in our last issue. They impose terrible obligations. They should have been treated as sacred by the renegade Trowbridge.

This exposure reminds us of the proceedings that were recently had before Judge Anderson, ostensibly to ascertain whether or not a "Mormon" alien could be admitted to citizenship. Several Trowbridges were examined and pretended to expose the secret rites of the "Mormon" religion, the judge aiding them greatly, permitting and asking questions in that line of the members of the Church. Many Masons of this city regarded the proceedings with unqualified disgust. This was to the credit of that class of the fraternity.

Would it not be a prudent thing to do to send Judge Anderson to New Haven to straighten things out, with a view to preventing the naturalization of Masons who are aliens? Should the famous Fiske disappear, it might be advisable also to send along the "candid, truthful and straightforward" Wardell, that he might make a stuffed witness on Masonic blood atonement.

If a witness on the Masonic side of the case should appear with "streaming hair and glittering grey eyes," believe him not, for, according to the chief anti-"Mormon" organ,