

aster. What would he have us do? The day is past, fortunately, when persecution is considered proper and effective. Besides, a general onrassade against any church would be as much contrary to the Constitution of this country as are the alleged plots of the Roman hierarchy.

It is safe to say that the free institutions of this country will stand firm as the rock just as long as the people are resolved to keep them in perfect harmony with the Constitution framed by the fathers. If they are ever torn from the hands of the nation and given to a faction it is because the nation, forgetful of the sacred trust, has rendered itself unworthy of being its guardian.

### 10 INDEPENDENT VOTERS.

The election campaign this fall offers an easier opportunity than has been had in many years for voters to place patriotism above partisanship in the making up of their ballots. Locally speaking, the people are made absolutely free from political bossism. The disintegration of parties is in progress, and new combinations of elements are being effected which a few months ago would have been deemed quite impossible. No one now is questioned or criticized in any official or serious manner for breaking loose from past affiliations and working for the victory of what would formerly have been deemed his political opposition. Strange alliances have been and will be formed for the contest that is impending, and units usually antagonistic will be found marching shoulder to shoulder to the November fray. The situation altogether is novel if not extraordinary; and if it shall continue to its legitimate end, there will be many a profound surprise when the votes come to be counted.

The NEWS is therefore happy in being able to advise a policy which it has always believed in, but which for some time it has refrained from emphasizing by reason of the misconstruction of motive that would have been incurred. We refer to the policy of scratching the names of unworthy candidates off the ticket, and of substituting the names of better men from the opposition ballot. It is a sincere pleasure to be able to declare that no voter will be blamed for or taunted with insincerity this year, for selecting as his choice the very best candidates who are up for office, regardless of the ticket upon which or the party by which those candidates have been named. In the whirl and the shaking up that are certain to ensue, we shall be much disappointed in the discernment and independence of the people of the State if they do not elect to their local offices a much superior set of incumbents than are commonly chosen when party lines are closely drawn and it is deemed treachery to overstep them.

Everybody knows there is room for improvement in the personnel of the office-holding fraternity. The incompetency is not confined to any one party nor to any one town or county. We cannot be accused of partiality, therefore, in

dwelling upon and declaiming against it. Generally speaking, we believe the men who were successful in obtaining position are well-meaning and honest; and these are high qualifications. But in places of great responsibility, where vast interests are involved, something more than good intentions is necessary. Bishop Edward Hunter, of sainted memory, once expressed the idea when, answering a petition in behalf of a suppliant who was vouched for as deserving of special consideration by virtue of being "a good man," he exclaimed: "Good, yea, good! But what is he good for?" Capacity for the performance of the duties involved is what the community has a right to demand of those whom it is asked to elect to position—and this, too, without regard to the emblem or name of the party at the head of the ticket on which the candidates' names appear. An aspirant who has had no experience or who has shown none of the capability referred to ought to be rebuked at the polls for his presumption in taking the nomination; on general principles we are almost ready to say that the man who works hardest to get a nomination ought to be the most quickly and completely defeated.

Speaking of matters near at home, we would most earnestly urge the importance of choosing strong and efficient county officials. Salt Lake City and county are in a position where they cannot afford to experiment with untried or unsuitable guides. The ripest judgment, the most exalted sense of public responsibility, the highest qualities of honesty, economy, and executive skill, will be necessary to rescue this part of the State from the burdens under which it groans. If the county conventions realize the situation as they should, good tickets will be presented for the people's acceptance; but if on either side there is a failure in this respect in even the smallest degree, we shall hope to see the blunder corrected at the ballot box by the repudiation of the objectionable part. There ought to be independence and patriotism enough in the county to reject the whole Republican ticket if it is inferior in strength and caliber to the other one; and we hope and trust there is not a Democratic stronghold so hidebound as to elect a free-grabber, a weakling or a scoundrel against a high-minded, efficient, experienced man of affairs on the Republican ticket.

### THE CASE OF CUBA.

There have been many denunciations of the Spaniards in Cuba for the horrible brutalities practiced without official knowledge if not by express direction. The butcheries thus perpetrated have been made the basis of a demand for the retirement of the Spaniards from the island; and properly so, for a government that cannot maintain its authority except by nameless atrocities upon men, women and children should not be countenanced in this age of enlightenment.

The accounts now given of the course of the Cuban insurgents shows that their methods are not one whit better than the Spanish; in fact they are a pair. "Butcher" Weyler is no

more properly applied to the Spanish governor-general than is "Butcher" Gomez or "Butcher" Maceo to the insurgent leaders. In the dispatches on Saturday came accounts of how Gomez directed the most atrocious murdering of persons who would not take up arms on either side of the quarrel, and the pleadings and wallings of women and children were unheeded by the Cuban commander. The account given by Arthur McPherson, who has just returned to this country, shows that Maceo is doing the same thing. McPherson says he was taken prisoner by the insurgents, and with others was given his choice between serving in the army and being shot. Of course he chose the former, and took the first opportunity to escape, which came eighteen months later. With regard to the Spanish cruelties, he says they are actual facts; he also says he witnessed similar deeds of cruelty on the part of the insurgents. He has seen them frequently turn over the women, and particularly the young girls, found in the houses that were raided, to the negro soldiers in the army, who were allowed to do with them as they pleased. He also says the whole island is wrecked and ruined. There are no plantations and no ranches; everything has been destroyed. He believes the Cubans will win because Spain cannot stand the expense of the war as the insurgents carry it on.

The knowledge of these practices among the insurgents will not increase the sympathy in this country for the Cubans, although it will not lessen the detestation for Spanish methods. The fact of the matter is that a murderous warfare is going on in the island which is no less discreditable to both parties than are the Armenian massacres to the sultan of Turkey. It is about time in the interest of humanity that the whole thing was put a stop to, not by giving either side the victory, but by bringing both into subjection. If the United States government should put forth its power, either through diplomacy or more violent procedure, take hold of Cuba, and give the island a decent civilized government where the people would have some shadow of protection from the most barbarous treatment, it would be a stride in the interest of humanity which has not had a parallel in history since freedom was given to the negro.

### "ONE BY ONE."

On Sunday, at South Cottonwood, Salt Lake county, occurred the funeral services over the remains of Elder John J. Tanner, who has lived in that ward since October, 1848. He was one of the pioneers of Utah—not in the first company, but he came shortly afterward. He was a quiet, unassuming man, a sturdy settler, who did his share in subduing the wilderness here and making the desert to "blossom as the rose." Brother Tanner represents more than merely a pioneer to this State. He was a member of Zion's Camp—that pioneer body of Mormons who made their way west from Kirtland when Ohio was almost the western limit of civilization, and whose experience in Missouri was of