

is that when the Liberal party is annihilated and local politics are run in accord with national party lines, the 'Mormon' vote would be a factor in the contests that would exist and ensue. In that event it is not to be reasonably anticipated that they would exercise the franchise for the benefit of those who have proved themselves to be their avowed, relentless and hypocritical enemies."

This is the cause of the present agitation for disfranchisement by that special and particular class, who are the head and front of the movement, which is not a crusade inaugurated by either one of the national parties, having originated with local demagogues and by them it is being pushed toward its passage with all the resources of mendacity, cupidity and deceit at their command, in the anticipation of obtaining a reward in the event of certain probable contingencies of the near future.

It will be admitted at once that the third quotation shivers to atoms the hypocritical pretense of compassion and mercy, sentiments which the gopher-like schemers seem to be incapable of possessing.

### THE STRUBLE BILL IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

It is not improbable that the reason why the members of the "Mormon" Church were not all disfranchised long ago, is because there existed no constitutional method of accomplishing that result. At frequent intervals during the last twenty years, bills tending in that direction have been introduced in Congress, giving rise to long and thorough discussions of the questions involved in the Struble bill, but always with the same result: American citizens cannot be disfranchised, nor can their rights as such be abridged, because of opinion or church membership.

In vain have conspirators in Utah and their co-workers in Congress, during the last twenty years, racked their brains in the effort to devise some means of reducing the "Mormons" to the situation of aliens, so far as the franchise is concerned, but every measure invented, and every bill framed for that purpose, have always been clearly shown to be in direct violation of certain inhibitions contained in the nation's organic law. When the Edmunds bill was under debate in the Senate, members of that body who voted for it emphatically stated

that they would not favor any measure which sought to take from a man his rights as an American citizen on account of any opinions he might entertain, and they sustained the disfranchising provision of that bill because it applied only to men who had performed certain acts that had been held by the Supreme Court of the United States to be in violation of peace and good order.

The Struble bill is therefore confessedly unconstitutional. Under the precedents established by the decisions of Congress, when dealing with the "Mormon" question; according to the declarations of the best constitutional lawyers who have ever discussed that question in that body; according to the admissions of the ablest and most thoughtful journalists that have treated upon the subject, it would be a flagrant and dangerous breach of the American Constitution to deny a man the privilege of the ballot because his religious views or associations were objectionable to the majority.

This proposition is elementary, and any denial of its soundness must arise from sheer ignorance of the nature and intent of the provisions of the country's basic law which relate to the matter, or from a reckless disregard of truth and consequences. As this ignorance can hardly be attributed to the members of Congress, it follows that every one of them who may vote for the Struble bill will do so for the reason that he prefers to break the organic law of the land rather than permit the "Mormons" to possess and exercise the privileges of citizenship.

So far as has yet been developed, the disfranchisement bill cannot be characterized as a party measure. Conspirators from Utah have succeeded in winning to its support, certain Republican members of Congress, upon whom they have brought a strong and direct personal influence, and to whom such tales have been told and representations made as only anti-"Mormon" lobbyists can tell and make. But according to the best information in our possession the Republican party in Congress has not yet signified its intention as a party to support the Struble bill.

In all probability the measure would not have made the headway it has, had it not been for the efforts of the insidious hypocrites who, under cover of a legitimate and non-political mission to the capital, have made strenuous efforts to advance

it. The abandonment to all sense of honor and honesty which these agents have shown has few parallels, in even the political history of Utah, which is so replete with examples of "Liberal" treachery and perfidy. The moral turpitude of the men who have been lobbying for the disfranchisement of the "Mormons," while using money contributed to some extent by the latter to pay for the food they were eating, has been fully exposed in connection with recent developments, to which only a reference is here required.

There is still ground to anticipate that Congress will not reverse the record it has so often made upon propositions to disfranchise the majority class in this Territory. It cannot be held that the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Idaho test oath case would justify such a reversal, for that decision does not touch the gist of the controversy to which the Struble bill has given rise. Congress has, therefore, no judicial decision from that court behind which to shield itself from the responsibility of disfranchising American citizens by thousands, for conscience' sake, should it pass the Struble bill.

### AN ANTI-AMERICAN PETITION.

A PETITION asking Congress to pass the Baskin-Thomas-West-Chamber of Commerce-Struble-Cullom disfranchisement bill has been formulated and placed in position for the reception of signatures. It bears certain unmistakable ear-marks, being composed of the broken fragments of old stale, oft repeated anti-"Mormon" editorials that have about them as much of an air of freshness as

"Our old horse he crossed the road,  
Because he crossed the road, sir.  
And the reason why he crossed the road,  
Was because he crossed the road, sir."

It is interesting to note the places where the anti-Republican document has been placed to receive the names of the enemies of religious liberty and equal rights. We name them here:

Clift House.  
Walker House.  
Cullen Hotel.  
Continental Hotel.  
Utah Hotel.  
Greenwald's Cigar Store.  
Hogle's Saloon.  
Silver Dollar Saloon.  
Tribune office.  
Times office.  
W. H. H. Spafford's office