

the cases of many election precincts in the Territory, in finding "Liberal" voters to act as registration officers and election judges, and in some precincts all such officers have been members of the People's Party because "Liberals" did not exist there, or members of that party qualified to perform official functions could not be found.

Take the beautiful and prosperous city of Logan, for example. It is the fourth city in wealth and population in the Territory. It has important commercial and manufacturing interests, and is the metropolis of a valley which contains a population of from 25,000 to 30,000, and from fifteen to twenty flourishing settlements and towns, including six incorporated cities. In Logan there are less than half a hundred "Liberal" voters, only a few more than enough to fill all the offices, elective and appointive, connected with the city government. Every "Liberal" in the town, able to read and write the English language, and at all or in any degree capable of performing the duties of a public office, would of necessity become an office-holder. The rulers of that city would be wholly irresponsible. There would be no voters of their own party to call them in question, and their reelection would be a foregone necessity, regardless of any incompetency, dereliction or corruption of which they might be guilty.

They would have it in their power to organize and execute corrupt schemes *ad libitum*, and so long as they divided the spoils among themselves in such a manner as to prevent any disaffection arising among their number, they could have things all their own way, and the inhabitants of the city would be at their mercy, and practically without redress or protection. When it is remembered that the "Liberal" voters in such places as Logan are, in a great many instances, men who have been excommunicated from the Church of which they were formerly members, on account of dishonesty, immorality, or unchristianlike conduct of some sort, the objections against vesting in a handful of them such control as they would have in the town named, become greatly intensified.

Nearly every town in Cache County, of which Logan is the seat and metropolis, would be in as bad a condition as Logan, and some of them would be in a worse state. In a number of them it would be impossible to fill the municipal offices at all were only "Liberals" eligible,

as not enough of these exist in them to occupy the official positions, provided for in their charters and ordinances.

Logan and Cache County are here mentioned only by way of illustration. In other counties in the Territory there are flourishing towns in which could not be found a sufficient number of men, entitled to exercise the franchise under the Struble bill, were it a law, to serve the public in official capacities, if illiterates, ignoramuses, and men utterly and totally incapable of performing official functions, were not forced into office. This would be the case were every voter, exclusive of the incompetents referred to, made an office-holder. This statement is no exaggeration, and its literal truthfulness is capable of being amply demonstrated by means of the official records and reports of the Utah Commission, as well as the testimony of thousands of people having personal knowledge of the facts.

Omitting all constitutional and political considerations, and contemplating only what is necessary to preserve good order, carry on the functions of government and maintain a semblance, not merely of republican, but of civilized forms and rule, the condition of many towns and a number of counties in the Territory will be deplorable if Congress shall pass the disfranchisement measure now pending. Think of placing such a State as Iowa, for example, under the operations of a law that would disfranchise from ninety to ninety-nine per cent of the present voters in her flourishing agricultural towns. Think of being compelled to canvass a town in that State of 2000 or 3000 inhabitants, and of meeting with difficulty in finding a sufficient number of human bipeds of the masculine gender to fill the municipal offices, even though illicit liquor dealers, and men regarded by the whole community as incompetent and corrupt, be included. Think of being compelled to put men in official positions who are destitute of education, of property, of reputation, of intelligence and ability, for no other reason than that there exists a law under which none but such as they could vote or hold office.

Imagine a law operating in such a State as the one named, which disfranchises the bankers, merchants, manufacturers, farmers, professional men, honest and industrious mechanics, and almost all the sober, intelligent and solid men of a

city, and gives all the offices to an insignificant minority class, having barely enough members to fill them, in which would be included the loafers, objectionable characters and non-religionists of the community. The imagination which would suggest such a condition in any State in this Union would be unanimously regarded by its inhabitants as wildly insane, portraying that which no legislative body on earth would ever consent to, and which would be worse than anarchy. Yet all this and much more in the way of wrong, injustice, absurdity, tyranny and disaster will inevitably happen in Utah under the Struble bill if it should become a law.

LEGISLATION AGAINST BELIEF.

THE following refreshing article appeared a short time since in the *Sacramento Record-Union*:

"It is said that a bill is before a Congressional committee for the disfranchisement of Mormons, and that it is likely to be reported favorably. This is an error. No committee will ever report such a bill, since no committee wishes to wear the cap and bells. Any such measure would be held to be unconstitutional, and should be. Clearly it would be as competent to pass a law disfranchising all Methodists, all Catholics, all Presbyterians. The guarantee of the right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, within the necessary regulations of law for the peace and safety of the people, is inviolable. The revivalist may shout, the Mormon preach and the Salvationist recruit with fire and drum, but no law will be tolerated that by title will disfranchise any man because of his entertainment of any particular religious belief. It is a totally different thing, however, when a specific crime is named in the law, and its commission forbidden. Thus, the practice of polygamy is prohibited, and those who offend under the law may be excluded from the exercise of the elective franchise as a punishment, and as a warning to others, and such people may be designated for description's sake by the religious title in part. But it is absurd to think that Congress will attempt to pass a law punishing any one for entertaining a religious belief. When that is done the liberties of the people will be effectually undermined."

It is probable that our esteemed California cotemporary is now awake to the unconstitutional drift of the anti-"Mormon" current. Since its article appeared the committee has reported, by a strict party vote, in favor of the passage of the un-American measure. It will have observed also that the bill finds no small number of journalistic advocates, whose patriotism and consistency are invisible quantities.

In connection with the discussion on this unconstitutional bill before the Committee on Territories, an incident occurred which is treated