

MORE POLITICAL JUGGLERY.

A *Herald* special, which appears in this issue, gives information to the effect that the Secretary of Arizona, a Mr. Murphy, is in Washington urging upon the House committee on Territories the advisability of insisting upon Arizona being admitted to the Union only on condition that a clause disfranchising the "Mormons" be embodied in her constitution. This impudent and atrocious demand is made in the face of several facts which indicate beyond question that such an un-republican proceeding is opposed to the will of the people of Arizona.

Here are the points (1) Mr. Smith, the Delegate to Congress from Arizona, representing his constituency most emphatically opposes any such disfranchisement clause in the constitution. (2.) The Arizona Legislature passed an anti-"Mormon" religious test oath law, which was in the direction of disfranchisement. Subsequently, the statute being invidious, proscriptive and unjust, was repealed. The people thus showed, through their legislative representatives, their repugnance to anything in the line of disfranchisement on religious grounds. (3.) Mr. Murphy admitted, in answer to Mr. Mansur, that if a proposal to adopt a disfranchisement clause in the constitution of the proposed State were submitted to the people it would be voted down. Consequently those who favor it request that Congress shall deprive the people of the right to adopt their own constitution. The effrontery of the demand when combined with the admission is almost sublime in its unscrupulous disregard of the fundamental principle of popular government—based on the will of the governed.

About all these political wire-pulling jobs, there is a distinct peculiarity. It is this: Nearly all of the leading operators are either Federal officials or ex-officials of the same class. Take, for instance, this same Mr. Murphy with the Hibernian potato flavor to his name—he is a Federal secretary. Then there is our double-dealing Governor Thomas who is operating the disfranchisement business in the capacity of agent for the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, which pays him \$500 for his work; also the dashing ex-Southern rebel guerilla officer, ex-Governor, and agent of the Chamber of Commerce, Caleb W. West. Then there is Robert N. Baskin, an ex-Federal official, some

of whose professed friends are anxious to see retire to his old home in Ohio to end his days, chewing the cud of disappointment.

It seems to be the case with many men that when they once take a draught of the sweets of office they are never satisfied except when they are operating the dipping process. Those who are out of office wish to get in. Those who are in expect to get out in the event of Federal tits being annihilated by the official fields being clothed with the mantle of statehood. Their only hope in that event is to lay a foundation for future reward by a present recourse to the disreputable process of political jugglery.

THE ALTERNATIVE BEFORE CONGRESS.

SQUARELY stated, the alternative presented before Congress in connection with the Struble bill is this: Shall the "Mormons" be permitted to remain a part of the body politic of this nation, or shall an irreparable breach be made in the Constitution, in order that they may be excluded from the rights of citizens? One of these two things Congress must do. There is no possible third choice. If the disfranchisement measure shall be rejected, the religious sect referred to will remain upon an equal footing politically with all other worshipping societies in the Republic. If it shall become law, then an opening is made in the bulwarks of American liberty beyond the power of man to close before a deluge of religious and partisan strife shall submerge the country, and undermine and sweep away the foundations of our national fabric.

When the members of a religious body in this country are disfranchised by Congressional enactment because of such membership, a worse disruption will be made in the national organization than that which followed the bombardment of Fort Sumpter, and caused the loss of a million lives and mountains of treasure. The great rebellion divided the country into only two opposing portions, each of which was confined to definite geographical limits. With two or three exceptions, the inhabitants of each State were practically united as to which side of the great controversy the State should espouse. Except in limited districts and a few instances, the residents of given neighborhoods did not make war upon each other. Each side felt its foe to be a foreign rather than a fraternal one. This is at

least true of the masses of the soldiery.

But when political conspirators begin to win success in this great Republic by securing the disfranchisement of their opponents on grounds of church membership, and by means of anti-religious or expurgatory test oaths, the country will be split, not only into two, but into many divisions. The number of warring factions will correspond with the number of religious sects which are assailing, or being assailed by, opponents in a deadly strife over the question of disfranchisement for opinion's sake.

Under a governmental structure such as ours, consequences the most sweeping and appalling must attend the establishment of a precedent justifying disfranchisement on account of religious belief. If any man has studied either law, history or state craft, and cannot see that this is and must be true, his studies have profited him but little.

Familiarity with current developments in the country confirms the teachings of political science in this regard. Since the disfranchisement of the "Mormons" in Idaho, a strong anti-Catholic organization in Boston has flooded the country with printed matter, showing that the same reasons and arguments on which was based the action that took from the "Mormons" the rights of citizenship, applied with even greater force to Roman Catholics, whom the Boston organization desired to have reduced to the situation of aliens. Let Congress follow the example of the legislature of Idaho, by placing upon the national statute book a law based upon the proposition that a belief in certain religious doctrines is a sufficient ground for the denial of the franchise to citizens holding such belief, and no power on earth can prevent the inauguration, throughout the United States, of a strife between Protestants and Catholics, such as has so often filled with distress older countries of the civilized world, and such as the fathers of this nation, above all earthly things, desired to forever prevent in this fair land.

Let it be granted that the false and shameful charge of disloyalty, reiterated against the "Mormons," is true, its truth will in no way modify the disastrous effects upon the Constitution which the Struble bill will have if made a law; for disfranchisement without judicial procedure of any sort is not and cannot be made. A constitutional method of punishing disloyalty. Let Congress in its wisdom and patriotism, or in its lack of these qualities, as the event may be, decide upon its course.