

"One can respect a people's devotion to an idea without approving the idea. There is a good deal of humbug about this pother over Eliot's speech. It comes with an ill grace from a people forever prating about free speech. It smacks of the days when Phillips and Garrison were mobbed in Boston in the cause of slavery."

The Boston Commonwealth thus briefly dismisses the controversy:

"Reports of a recent address by President Eliot in the Mormon Tabernacle at Salt Lake City have just reached Boston, and the sensational press is engaged in an attempt to make it appear that Mr. Eliot's praise of religious toleration was intended to imply approval of polygamy. It is not a very dull season for news, but the suggestion that the president of Harvard College has embraced Mormonism is perhaps the liveliest absurdity yet brought forth."

A MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

We learn from the *Anglo-American*, published in the city of Mexico, that the "fourth period" of the Fifteenth Congress of the Mexican Republic opened on the afternoon of April 1st. President Porfirio Diaz delivered, at that time, his semi annual message to that body. The following are given as the most important points embodied in the document:

"Since my last message of the month of September last nothing has occurred to interrupt the tranquility and order which happily reigns in this country, neither has anything occurred to alter the cordial relations which exist between this Republic and friendly nations.

"On the 18th of February, 1889, a convention was formed for the purpose of restoring and re-establishing the boundary posts which mark the line of frontier between this Republic and the United States. Both governments appointed their respective engineers, who met on the 17th of November and formed an international commission which have commenced their important duties.

"Another important concession has been appointed by ourselves and the United States, namely, a commission to decide the permanent boundary lines between the two countries which have been altered by the change of the course of the rivers Rio Grande and Colorado. The work has been delayed because of the fact that the American Congress has failed to make an appropriation for the expenses of their commissioners. I confidently expect that this question will be speedily settled.

"The United States government has adopted one of the resolutions of the Conference of American republics in 1890 to establish a bureau for the purpose of collecting data and statistics which may be advantageous to the republics participating.

"The question of exchange of articles shipped by parcel post between Mexico and France is still under consideration.

"It is very gratifying to observe the entire harmony that exists between the Federal government and the governments of the individual States of the Republic.

"It is also gratifying to me to state to the Chambers that the reports from the various municipalities are to the effect that the spirit of progress is

continually working to improve the condition of the people.

"The condition of the police department is also improving. The work of constructing the District Penitentiary is progressing rapidly. The Monte de Piedad is also improving its financial condition, and is expected soon to attain its former prestige.

"At the beginning of the present year the law of obligatory instruction went into effect. On account of the short time given for notice it was decided to extend the time, which was done. The Executive has been ably assisted by the officials of the republic in enforcing this law. The effects of this law are very gratifying.

"A course of studies has been adopted for the national school of arts and trades for women.

"Notices from States of the Union inform me that since last September 1043 mines have been denounced. In the same time twenty-four new contracts have been made for the development of mining zones, making in all 347 contracts, of which eighty-seven have been declared forfeited.

"The Executive has been also occupied in the introduction of the silkworm into this country from China and Japan. The exportation of our fruits has reached important proportions."

The foregoing makes refreshing reading. For directness, simplicity and perspicuity the message, as a whole, is evidently a model of its class. It leading statesmen in every part of the world—our own country not excepted—would follow an example so salutary, it would be a boon to the masses, who are averse to the heterogeneous concatenations of extraneous phraseology contained in state documents. They superinduce a condition of mental obfuscation in the ordinary reader.

MORMON VOTERS IN WYOMING AND IDAHO.

A GREAT effort is being made, both in Idaho and Wyoming, to turn the tide of political supremacy and win those States for the Democracy. Much interest is excited and many queries are made over the probable course of the "Mormon" voters as to party support. In each State our friends form an important element, and both parties naturally feel a little uneasy as to their movements. The Idaho papers have had considerable to say on the subject, and the Wyoming papers are beginning to discuss the question. The *Lander Mountaineer* states that its editor has been asked by a Democrat, prominent in the national councils of the party, what is the number of "Mormon" votes in Wyoming, and what ticket they are likely to support at the next election. That paper replies in this way:

"In reply to the first question we believe we are as accurate as it is possible to be, in saying that there are about 1800 Mormon voters in the State. Enough in fact to elect either State ticket if the vote is thrown solidly one way or the other, but not geographically distributed so as to affect the legislative ticket in more than three counties.

"As to the second question, we confess ourselves unable to answer. The indications are that they will vote with the

Democrats unless they are advised to the contrary by the Salt Lake Church authorities.

"The Republican leaders at the present time are courting the Mormon vote of Wyoming and Idaho very assiduously, but whether or not there is an understanding between them it is impossible to learn. Last election the Saints in Wyoming voted with the Republicans in consideration of services rendered and to be rendered by Senator J. M. Carey. Mr. Carey is not a factor in the coming campaign and the Mormons with whom the writer has had occasion to talk think that, having paid Mr. Carey, they would be free to vote with the party with whom they had formerly affiliated or divide between the two parties as they saw fit. This is about the situation at the present time.

From what we know of the "Mormon" people in Wyoming we are inclined to the belief that they will *not* "vote solidly one way or the other." There are "Mormon" Republicans and "Mormon" Democrats in that State, and they will no doubt vote with their respective parties. We think too, judging from the returns of the last election, that there were some Democrats in Wyoming who voted their party ticket in all respects but those that favored Mr. Carey, for whom they entertained feelings of respect and gratitude. To what extent this was done we are unable to say. But we believe the returns of the next election will prove the truth of what we assert; that is, there will be no solid vote of any "Mormon" party, but our friends here will vote according to their party proclivities.

Another thing we can state without doubt or hesitation: Democrats will not be "advised by the Salt Lake Church authorities" to vote the Republican ticket, nor will Republicans be advised by them to vote the Democratic ticket. It will be found that "Mormon" voters are as firm and zealous in their party views as other folks are, and a great deal more so than some people. Indeed the only trouble in the way in this particular is, that being a people of very strong convictions, when they become converted to a party they are likely to be a little too earnest and positive and need to be cautioned as to moderation.

Church dictation in party politics is one of the myths that the country will not put away from their minds for some time, perhaps, but after a while the truth will dawn upon their minds, and the press will take a different position on this subject, adding in the dissipation of the great amount of misconception that has prevailed in regard to the matter. Both in Wyoming and in Idaho coming events will, in our opinion, establish beyond doubt the fact that the "Mormon" people will offer no opportunity to either political party to make deals, or count on a solid vote, or predicate victory on the number of "Mormon" voters in the State, or a county, or a municipality. They will divide according to their individual predilections, and they will be true and staunch to the party of their choice.

Paris, April 17.—It has been decided not to make a labor demonstration in Paris on May Day, in order to avoid giving the police an excuse for a conflict with the workmen.