

The franchise in Chile is very limited. There are educational and property tests, which when rigidly enforced reduce the number of voters to about two per cent. of the adult male population. Balmaceda favored universal franchise and public education. He deprived the church of many of its privileges, and closed a number of convents and monasteries. Being a Chilean he probably went too far, owing to the intensity and impetuosity of his character. However, when the true history of the Chilean struggle comes to be written, it will probably be found that Balmaceda was not as black as he was painted.

INSOLENCE IN OFFICE.

MAYOR WASHBURN, of Chicago, has issued an order that the employees of that city shall be courteous in their official capacity to citizens who have business with them. This is a rare order to go forth from the mayor of Chicago. Some of the reports from the election that made Mr. Washburne mayor carried a decided impression abroad that Chicago was one of that class of cities, growing more and more common in this country, that are run pretty much for the benefit of boodle politicians. For the mayor yet so young in office to send out this direct acknowledgment that the citizen as such has rights to be respected by the office holder has the effect of contradicting the charge.

As a rule one of the surest evidences of a thief in office is insolence to the public. That class of men appear—and we think with much consistency—to act upon the theory that inasmuch as their advancement to public trust is due to the especial "boss," or committee of "bosses," which they serve, with their "boss" begins and ends their accountability. So, of course, the public's place in the affair is essentially that of a common nuisance, which not being defined in the statutes as a thing to be legally abated, must therefore be endured.

Irreverent persons have insinuated that Salt Lake was wearing some of the badges or insignia of the genuine boodle town. As to this we will say, if she is, the people need not be deceived about it. Look out for insolence in office. It is a sign that can be absolutely relied upon.

A LURID LIFE ROMANCE.

IN sensationalism of the melodramatic order a Chicago girl now stands preeminent. Her name is Miss Gertrude W. Potter, daughter of Mr. O. W. Potter, the many millionaire president of the Illinois Steel Company. The story of this young woman's life reads like an impossible romance.

A few years ago she fell in love with the news-boy who delivered the morning papers at her father's residence. The old man, Mr. Potter, became cognizant of the fact. He sought the aid of the Chicago detectives, and the result was that the young fellow was sent to Joliet, for thievery and burglary. The Chicago *Journal* by some means obtained the details of the news-boy's incarceration. One of the New York papers also took it up, and quite a sensation was made of the matter. Mr.

Potter threatened all manner of punishment for the "libellers" and took the case to the courts, but little came of it. Possibly it is in the courts still.

On the 1st of January, 1890, Miss Gertrude W. Potter, in the name of Gertrude Whiting, married Julius Clark Daniels, under the name of Julius Clark. The parties did not go to live together as man and wife, but remained at their respective homes. Miss Potter, however, found another lover named Le Rust, whom she liked better than Daniels. She consulted lawyers about her marriage to Daniels. The lawyers told her it was invalid.

Miss Potter and Mr. Le Rust then went to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and were there married on June 6, 1891. This marriage was also kept a secret from Miss Potter's parents. A few days ago, by accident, they discovered what had taken place. Miss Potter, on being questioned by her father, admitted all the facts in the case. Steps were taken to annul the Wisconsin marriage, and Judge Horton, of Chicago so annulled it a few days ago.

The next act brings Miss Potter and Mr. Daniels together again. They were married by a clergyman at the home of Miss Potter's parents in Chicago on the 19th inst. On the same evening they left for New York on their wedding tour.

The Wisconsin lawyers claim that Judge Horton's divorce is void in the case of Rust. Rust is a citizen of Wisconsin, and nonstipulation could give the Illinois courts jurisdiction. So the interesting question now arises, who is the young lady's husband, and where is the newsboy?

A SENSIBLE VIEW.

AMONG other papers that are discussing the subject of the alleged polygamous preaching of "Mormon" Elders in England, the *Detroit Free Press* has something to say about it. Falling into the common error, which is quite natural considering the press dispatches, the *Free Press* treats the untruth about polygamic proselyting as a fact. But notwithstanding this, it takes the ground that believing and teaching polygamy does not matter so long as the practice is discontinued. And it argues the matter in this way:

"What most concerns the people of the United States is not what the Mormons say they do abroad, but what they really do at home.

"Utah will soon ask admission to the Union. With polygamy prohibited and punished by the Constitution and polygamists barred from voting, there would be no great danger that the new commonwealth would be a polygamous community. The government has nothing to do with the 'domination of the Mormon hierarchy in the affairs of Utah,' about which so much is said in the eastern press. If the hierarchy can dominate, that is its business. It would have a right, under our system, to dominate wherever it had strength to do so, provided there was no infringement of the Constitution of the United States or that constitution, 'republican in form,' which Congress would approve for the new State.

"Under a constitution prescribing distinct penalties for polygamy and kindred crimes and disfranchising those who practice polygamy Utah would be safe.

There should be no repetition of the outrage of the Idaho constitution, which distinctly disfranchises men, not for practicing polygamy, but for believing in it. This is an infraction of the Constitution of the United States, which grants to all people the right to the "free exercise" of their religious faiths. A man can believe what he pleases in these United States. But there are some practices that the government will not permit."

Of course this is true American doctrine. However it will not suit the bigots, the impracticables, the fanatical anti-"Mormons." Nothing but a formal renunciation of any lingering belief in their souls that polygamy under any possible conditions might be morally right, will satisfy their demands, and even that would scarcely fill the bill drawn up by certain "Liberal" "Mormon"-haters.

The Church domination idea, which is the successor of "the polygamy bugbear," is little more than a myth. It serves the purpose of its inventors but has no practical existence. And the *Free Press* takes the correct view of the matter. The people of a State have the right to their own views of the extent to which religious influences shall affect them. And while the Constitution of the United States is paramount within the individual State, the religious indications and tendencies of its people should be left free. A more truly liberal view of the Utah situation is sure to be the result of enlightenment as to the facts and a determination to be governed by correct Republican principles.

AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENCE.

THAT political federation of all the English speaking races, so enthusiastically advocated by Carlyle and others, is likely to remain for some time, at least, within the realms of visionary ideality. Australia, which a few months ago gave promise of entering into a federative commonwealth, in solid reunion with the mother country, is now looking rather to complete independence.

An English journalist named Christie Murray, who has been studying his antipodal brethren for the past two years, returned recently to London. In an article by him in the *Contemporary Review* it is stated that in Australia a dislike, growing daily in intensity, prevails towards England. The reason of this dislike is twofold. First, the Australian press begins to show a home spirit. The aping and worship of things European is sneered at. Mr. Murray speaks of the *Sydney Bulletin* as a type of the patriotic newspaper from the antipodal standard. He characterizes it as "probably the wrongest-headed and most mischievous journal in the world." Young Australia looks upon the *Bulletin* as all that is good and noble in newspaperdom.

There is a second factor which is contributing largely to dislike of the mother country. It is the organization of a society known as the Australian Natives' Association, with ramifications in all the colonies. One of the objects of the society is to exclude immigration by wholesale. And it is said that the primary idea of its establishment was begotten by the various schemes of free or assisted emi-