

the editor by the bay, he must have shouted "Eureka!" in very glee. He thereupon proceeded to state his case as against admission, it being that "Mormons" are Democrats or Republicans as circumstances may require, urging, inferentially, that, holding the balance of political power, they would control the State after the same fashion, and make it an element of uncertainty in the great combination of sovereignty.

Such little facts as the Arizona "Mormons" not being sufficiently numerous to hold the balance of power—either of the parties having the ability to win without the assistance of our people and both having done so within the past decade—and that the "Mormons" there, so far as they have been permitted to engage in political affairs at all are by no means all Democratic, do not seem to weigh heavily with the scribe. We say "seem" advisedly enough, for of course the people complained of are with him the vicarious means by which an objection is lodged against the admission of a Democratic State, there being no other reason apparent for opposition.

The *Chronicle's* antagonism to a creed which it does not like and a party which gives it no support, comes about as near placing it in the category in which it so delights to place the adherents of the classes antagonized as anything could possibly do. It does not apply present logic or resort to a living issue. It is enough with it to know that one class of men are "Mormons" and another class Democrats—if the former, they are obstructionists, if the latter, they are Bourbons. The situation is best expressed in the old couplet—

"I do not like you, Dr. Fell,
The reason why I cannot tell.
But this I know and know it well—
I do not like you, Dr. Fell."

There is room for the belief that Dr. Fell didn't care very much for the likes or dislikes of his irrational opponent.

MR. BLAINE'S RETIREMENT.

MR. BLAINE'S letter stating that he was not in the race for the presidency is causing exhaustive comment among eastern papers. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* is of opinion that the publication of this letter was premature, in so far as it endangers President Harrison's chance of a renomination rather than assists it. With Mr. Blaine in the field as a possible nominee party factions would not arise, nor would a number of candidates put themselves forward who will now do so. Had he withheld his letter until a short time before the meeting of the convention, then Mr. Harrison would be looked on

as the most available person, and his nomination effected with a whoop. At this early stage of the campaign, ample time is given for "favorite sons" to push their interests. Cullom of Illinois, Sherman of Ohio, Alger of Michigan, Allison of Iowa, and several others will start their little booms, and though the *Press* thinks that Harrison will ultimately triumph, yet a sore and bitter contest will meanwhile arise.

The *New York Mail and Express* is delighted with Mr. Blaine's timely action. It says the campaign is now simplified, and that President Harrison's renomination is an assured certainty.

The *Springfield Republican* thinks that Mr. Blaine does not possess sufficient physical strength to enter the pending contest. His withdrawal will be beneficial to the party. It says:

"After Mr. Blaine, what? Benjamin Harrison, now president of the United States, will have to be nominated for a second term. However little some of the prominent men of the Republican party may fancy this situation, it cannot be escaped. Gen. Harrison was put forward in 1888 as the first choice of his party after Mr. Blaine, and if he was desirable then, he is doubly so now, with the experience of four years in office, and a record of unflinching loyalty to the extreme doctrines set forth in the declaration of faith adopted by the national convention which nominated him. It must be remembered that he and the party are one in their views about the tariff, for the McKinley bill is the direct flower from the platform of 1888. To the radical position taken by both—which led to overwhelming defeat in the elections of 1890—Mr. Blaine added a new and saving amendment in his scheme for reciprocity, and he alone did this. It made a considerable step toward such an enlargement of our trade as the advocates of tariff reform having been calling for, and it brought the Republican party much nearer its old and more reasonable attitude on the tariff question. It not only added to Mr. Blaine's reputation for statesmanship, but made it seem good politics for the party to place him at the front as representing its broader purposes for the future. In this light Mr. Blaine's candidacy was generally desired."

The *Republican* concludes a long article on this subject by opining that it would be better for the country if both parties placed in nomination candidates who are known for what they are and who represent the views at issue before the people.

In Great Britain Mr. Blaine's withdrawal is regarded rather in the light of a blessing to that country. The *London Globe* fairly echoes the opinion of the English press when it says:

"To pretend that there is any regret felt in England because of Blaine's failure would be absurd. He is the enemy of our friends and the friend of our enemies. He has never disguised his wish to annoy England, and he has had recourse more than once to most petty and undignified means to effect his object."

If by this is meant an allusion to Mr. Blaine's protective policy, it is difficult

to see where the philosophy of it comes in. He was no more ardent a protectionist than is Major McKinley, President Harrison, Gen. Alger, or dozens of others of his party. Perhaps reference is had to his reciprocity scheme, which is hitting English interests a heavy blow in the South American republics, and which is likely to meet her in other quarters of the globe.

There is no use disguising the fact that Mr. Blaine's retirement gives great comfort to the Democrats on the one hand and to President Harrison on the other. It clears the way for the latter to the Republican nomination and takes away from the path of the former the strongest and most stalwart enemy they expected to meet in the next campaign.

THE CITY OFFICERS.

MAYOR SCOTT has retired and Mayor Baskin takes the chair as municipal executive. We take pleasure in saying for Mr. Scott—a political opponent, that he has filled the place he now vacates with considerable ability. He has been a gentleman in his official course, and while not exhibiting marked force or great aggressive energy, he has been conciliatory and conservative, and has stood with his party on every important public issue. Perhaps his mild and courteous administration has been as well for the city as a more vigorous policy would have proven. At any rate he has gained many friends and upheld the dignity of his office and leaves it with the respect of those who have watched closely his career.

The outgoing Councilors, with but few exceptions, deserve the thanks of the public. The members who were kept out of their seats through the illegal course of the opposing party have done their duty, and we with a host of the citizens would have been pleased to see them continued in office. According to their opportunities they have made an excellent record.

On assuming the duties of the Mayorship, Mr. Baskin takes good ground. He announces himself and associates as no longer mere party candidates but the officers of the people. It is in this light that he and they should now be viewed. In all measures for the public good they should receive cordial support. Criticism should not be conducted on party lines. The antagonism of election times should cease. We all desire the welfare of the city and should sustain the new Mayor and City Council and officers in every effort to this end. We hope they will succeed in advancing the public interest and in maintaining public order.