

If there were any necessity to enter a specific denial of this statement, we would be ready to make it at any time. But it is so absurd and silly on its face that a little reflection would demonstrate its falsity. The idea that railroads would honor "passes" made out by the editor of this or any other paper in this city, is one that only a "Liberal" mind would conceive or entertain. As to the low-lived remarks that accompany the libel, we leave them, with many others of a similar kind, to that silence which is most expressive of the utter contempt in which we hold them and their unmanly authors.

The "Liberal" organ announces, with its accustomed assurance when uttering a deliberate falsehood, that F. S. Richards, Esq., of this city, has gone to Washington, charged with a secret mission to the President of the United States, relating to amnesty for the polygamists of Utah on condition of certain promises. We state here most positively that this is one more whole cloth lie—no other word fits the situation—added to the long list of the "Liberal" organ's criminalities. Mr. Richards has gone to Washington solely for the purpose of arguing the Idaho test oath case, which is pending before the Supreme Court of the United States, and on which a ruling is looked for that will determine whether this nation will sustain one of the most infamous and most palpable violations of the letter and spirit of the national Constitution ever attempted since the founding of this republic. The "Liberal" organ will doubtless repeat the lie and sing the usual changes upon it, but in these two instances, at least, it will not be able to presume upon our accustomed silence as to most of its misrepresentations.

The fear and trepidation of the "Liberals" lest their plans to steal the city next February will fail, are manifest in their doings and the sayings of their organ. They are working, through both official and unofficial mediums, to prevent lawful citizens from registering and qualified aliens from naturalization. Their policy is one of falsehood, of obstruction and of political robbery. They are trying, with a desperation that foreshadows their defeat, to rake up something with which to cast odium upon the People's Party officials, and do not

stop even at the filching of public papers. The mockery of their pretensions to morality is becoming every day more and more obvious, and their nefarious methods are matters of almost universal comment and denunciation. They are making voters for the party of order, decorum, honesty and steady progress, and thus good is coming out of the evil they intend. So may it ever be!

EXCELLENT AND USEFUL.

WE have been requested to express an opinion of "Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography," published in 1888. It consists of six volumes, of over 750 pages each. Mechanically the work leaves scarcely anything to be desired, being in clear type, and systematically arranged. The matter is necessarily compendious, the facts being stated tersely and perspicuously. The number of sketches embraced is as large as could be embodied in a work of its size without undue cramping. It is splendidly and perfectly illustrated, the full-page engravings being highly meritorious specimens of art, while the smaller ones have all the appearance of being consistent representatives of the subjects. The data is neither too full nor too meagre, being sufficiently elaborate to relieve it from the imputation of being dry. The life-narratives are nicely graded in dimensions, according to the importance or eminence of the subject treated. Being the latest work of the kind issued, it leads all others of its class for reference purposes. We obtained the volumes successively as soon as they left Appleton & Co.'s bindery, and can therefore speak understandingly of their utility. Our opinion of the work is, in brief, that it is excellent in every particular—a valuable component of every library where it has a place.

DIVERSE DIVORCE LAWS.

A PROBLEM which more and more urgently, year by year, demands solution by the lawmakers of the United States, is, how to avoid the evils that arise from the diverse laws of the different States and Territories relating to divorce. Among the worst of these evils are the injustice and fraud of which innocent parties are made victims; as when a husband leaves his own State, goes into another, and there procures a divorce by a procedure which makes it impossible for the

wife to secure justice in her own behalf; indeed she may know nothing of the suit for divorce until the decree is entered. Children are rendered illegitimate, uncertainty in regard to inheritance is created, and in some instances persons have been imprisoned for bigamy for marrying after having procured in one State a divorce not valid in another.

A superficial person might imagine that it ought to be easy for a uniform system of divorce to be established throughout the whole Union, through the action of Congress; but conservative thinkers, who are jealous of the rights of the people, show a strong opposition to any attempt on the part of Congress to pass any law upon the subject of divorce in the States. None except the strongest advocates of centralization are willing to concede that Congress has any right, under the Constitution, to legislate upon social questions in the States. The view that Congress has not this right has so far prevailed; and the States' rights school would probably hold that all the evils of divorce combined would not be so harmful to the country as would a concession made to Congress of the right to legislate on the domestic concerns of the States.

Another method of securing uniformity in the divorce legislation of the States, that has been suggested, is through the agency of a convention consisting of representatives from each. Such a convention might accomplish some good, but there is no way by which the legislatures of the several States could be compelled to enact a divorce code framed by it, and the danger that its labors might fail entirely to produce the result desired, is probably the principal reason why it has not been held.

In the meantime the evils of divorce increase rapidly in number and magnitude, and Cardinal Gibbons, in the *North American Review* for November, expresses the opinion that the reform and death of the present divorce system must be simultaneous. He significantly says:

"Divorce as we know it began when marriage was removed from the domain of the church; divorce shall cease when the old order shall be restored. Will this ever come to pass? Perhaps so—after many days."

A PROPER JUDICIAL ACT.

The court incident in relation to the arraignment of the young woman Christina Christensen, whose