

to the position of political serfdom, with no privilege left except that of paying taxes and being the victims of hungry political cormorants.

Surely if the *Commercial* were conversant with the situation as it is, its position would be different to the one assumed by it. The way in which the Latter-day Saints are being maligned, misrepresented and maltreated is enough to make freedom shriek and justice fall prone in the dust. A reaction must and will come.

FREE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCEDURE.

AFTER the exposure of the "cut and dried business" in the precinct conventions of the so-called "Liberal" party, it was supposed there would be some attempt to conceal the dominating powers which "cut and dried" the programme for the general "Liberal" convention. But no. The Chairman of the Central Committee, as the chief political boss, "had the honor," he should have said the gall, to give the convention their temporary chairman and temporary secretary without asking an endorsement or calling for any vote. Of course the temporary chairman was made the permanent chairman, and the "cut and dried" character of the whole proceedings became glaringly apparent.

We do not say the chairman was a bad selection. Col. Merritt was all right. He is a good presiding officer. He understood his business and did all that was expected of him. He read off from the lists provided for him the names of the persons previously selected for the various committees, and the convention submitted to the "cut and dried" process as quietly as so many serfs in presence of their master.

They had no voice in the selection of their temporary chairman or secretary. Their consent to the appointments was not asked. The whole thing was usurpation and an exhibition of supreme contempt for the rights of the convention. Such a piece of impudent dictation was never seen before in this Territory except once—at the convention of the bogus Democrats in Ogden.

And the organ of the "Liberal" party has the hardihood to say of this, that "It may be said that this convention was more typical of free American political procedure than any heretofore held in this Territory by the Liberal party." If this be

true, what kind of free American procedure must it have been that managed previous "Liberal" conventions?

The fact is, the whole business, from first to last, gives the clearest evidence of being "cut and dried." Is it not plain that the registrars, who dodged People's voters and did their level best to evade registering them, while they hunted up and went after persons supposed to be "Liberals," have been rewarded for their nefarious work by places on the "Liberal" ticket? Can it be denied that this is in accordance with pledges made to them by the "Liberal" bosses? Is it not a fact that the names of dead and removed persons have been purposely left on the registration lists, contrary to orders of the Utah Commission, in order that the same frauds perpetrated in Ogden may be made possible in this city? And does not every step in this plot show up a concerted scheme from the beginning?

Whatever the blackguard of the organ who wrote up the convention proceedings may say about "the holy priesthood," and "apostles or members of the Church presidency" pulling wires, there has never been in this Territory, in either party, such a palpable exhibition of "cut and dried" procedure as has cropped out during the so-called convention of the "Liberal" party during this campaign. And to such things as have been openly none in this direction, by the bosses that have run the machine, have even been charged against the leaders of the People's Party.

As a specimen of "free American political procedure," the "Liberal" tactics are unique. Such dictation and impertinence if attempted in the People's Party would cause a kick that would make the dictators retire and never repeat the effort. "Free American political procedure," under the circumstances, is one of the funniest jokes of the campaign.

OBSTACLES TO IDAHO'S ADMISSION

SINCE the creation of the last four new States, the tendency in the direction of State-making has received a check. Among the circumstances which have combined to produce this result are the bad financial condition of the two Dakotas, and the unseemly contest in Montana. It is reported that extravagant methods have rendered both Dakotas bankrupt, notwithstanding their

boasted wealth, resources and population. This is a discouraging sequel to their claims of ability to sustain the burdens of self-government, and to conduct home rule intelligently, honestly and successfully. The trouble in Montana is of a very serious and perplexing character, and no solution of it is as yet apparent.

The fact that Idaho cannot compare resources, population, nor wealth with either of the Dakotas is suggested as a reason why she could not be depended upon to attain greater success than they have in establishing and conducting a State government; and the well known reputation Idaho has been building up for herself during many years past, for questionable methods at the polls, affords ground for the expectation that should she be clothed with statehood she would plunge herself into as bad or worse confusion than Montana has done.

The tone of the public journals of Wyoming plainly indicates that that Territory does not want to be joined to Idaho in an admission bill while the latter retains the shameful test oath clause in its constitution. One of the reasons for this feeling is a fear that the test oath will kill the bill and thus deprive both of admission. Obstacles, one after another, continue to rise in Idaho's path to statehood.

SECEEDERS FROM THE CHURCH SHABBILY TREATED.

A FEW weeks ago, shortly after the monstrous decision of Judge Anderson regarding the naturalization of "Mormon" applicants for citizenship was rendered, an article appeared in these columns in relation to seceders from the Church. It was called forth by the character of the testimony given by Mr. Henry W. Lawrence during the investigation growing out of the application for admission to citizenship of John Moore.

The gist of the article went to show that such men as Mr. Lawrence had more friends among their former co-religionists than on the outside, notwithstanding their constant and cruel efforts to destroy that soft sentiment in the breasts of their former brethren. The fact was noted that the true feeling of the rabid anti-"Mormon" class toward seceders from the Church would not always down. It will keep cropping out occasionally. An instance was quoted as having occurred some time ago, when, on a social occasion, where