

land received it from Justice Brown with whom he was formerly associated in Michigan.

The Opinion is terse and clear and leaves no room for doubt as to its legal soundness. The reasoning is conclusive and the objections of counsel for respondent—John M. Zane, are effectually disposed of. We are pleased to note that the position taken by the Court on this question is the same as that held by the DESERET NEWS.

Under this important ruling, children of polygamous parents are entitled to inherit the estate of a deceased parent who died previous to 1876 the same as if they were legally recognized as legitimate. From 1876 to 1888 polygamous children inherit the deceased mother's estate, and also the deceased father's estate if acknowledged by him as his children. This applies to all children who are known to the law as illegitimate. The Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887 repealed the law which secured these property rights to such children, and from March 3, 1888, only those children recognized as legitimate by the law can inherit a deceased parent's estate.

As to the justice or injustice of this provision of the law it is useless now to argue. The duty of the court was to interpret the laws as it found them. This has been done in a lucid and convincing manner, and the decision will settle the property rights of many persons in this Territory, while it will disappoint several individuals who have sought to gratify their greed at the expense of justice and against the claims of kindred.

### THE UNFORTUNATE "FORCE BILL."

ALTHOUGH a good deal has been written in reference to the measure popularly known as the "Force Bill" now pending in the Senate of the United States, but few people, comparatively, know what its provisions are and what would be its probable effects if it should become a law. They understand that it is a Republican scheme, designed to perpetuate the control by that party of the affairs of the nation, but are not acquainted with its details.

The parliamentary title of the measure is "A bill (H. R. 11,045) to amend and supplement the election laws of the United States, and to provide for the more efficient enforcement of such laws, and for other purposes." The pretext under which it was introduced was the charge that the negro vote in the South is suppressed, and that Democratic domination in the Southern States is maintained by unlawful means and the oppression of the

colored citizen. Chiefly to protect Republican negro voters the bill was ostensibly framed. It is claimed that in reality it was to place all Federal elections in the control of the Republican party.

It was introduced originally in the House of Representatives, as may be seen by its title, and passed under the management of Henry Cabot Lodge. It was therefore known as the Lodge bill. When it reached the Senate it met with several objections and a substitute was presented by Senator Hoar, who has had charge of the bill and has been much mortified at the opposition it has met and the action taken in reference to it by some members of his own party.

The annexed summary of its chief provisions is taken from the editorial columns of the New York Sun:

"The first portion of both bills is occupied with the extending of the powers of the present Federal Supervisors of Election. The chief supervisors, present and prospective, are charged with the supervision of elections, with the enforcement of national election laws, and with the prevention of frauds and irregularities in naturalization."

In any election throughout the country whenever there is any federal office to be filled it is made the duty of these chief supervisors and their subordinates to see that the polls are guarded, scrutinized and supervised. For the purposes of the bill the country is divided into (1) entire congressional districts, (2) entire towns or cities of 20,000 inhabitants or upward, (3) any subdivision of a Congressional district for election purposes.

"The provisions of the bill are to become operative on the filing of a petition signed by any one hundred duly qualified voters in any entire congressional district, and by fifty voters in any subdivision of an entire congressional district. As soon as such a petition has been filed, the Chief Supervisor of Elections for that district is to give notice to the Circuit Court Judge of the United States whose jurisdiction in other matters covers that district. Within ten days this judge must open a special session of his court for election purposes, and keep it open night and day, in the legal sense, until two days after the impending election."

"Each Chief Supervisor of Elections is empowered and directed to appoint three deputies for each electoral subdivision in his district, only two of whom shall be members of the same political party. The payment of these deputies is to be on the per diem system, and provision is made that in case there is no work there shall be no pay."

The Chief Supervisor is empowered to remove or suspend at pleasure any of his deputies, and afterward apply for confirmation of his action to the Circuit Court Judge. He is also empowered, under very elastic regulations, to make a list of all naturalized persons in cities having more than 20,000 inhabitants. It is probable that under this clause the Chief Supervisor and his myrmidons would have power to make domiciliary visits, if he thought fit, much like that possessed by the police force under the Irish coercion acts.

In the Hoar bill there is no direct mention of bayonets and United States troops, because the President already has power under the Constitution to "take care that the laws shall be faithfully executed." Senator

Quay, however, has endeavored to simplify this portion of the bill by introducing an amendment to it providing that the President may suspend the habeas corpus act if he deems it necessary.

"The office of Chief Supervisor of Elections is to be held for life, and salaries are made payable by permanent appropriations, and not from year to year, like ordinary expenditures. In this way the next House of Representatives will not be able to cut off payments under the bill except with the concurrence of a Republican Senate and a Republican President."

This will give some idea why the measure has caused so much ill feeling and so much debate in the Senate. It was hoped that the bill was virtually killed when Senator Stewart succeeded in shelving it in favor of the Silver bill, with the aid of several Republicans, among them the new Senators from Idaho. But on the passage of the silver bill the force bill was again brought forward, with a fair prospect of its passage until yesterday when, to the surprise of many Republicans and the renewed and deeper disgust of Senator Hoar, a motion to consider the Apportionment bill prevailed by a majority of one vote, and thus the Force bill was again pushed aside in company with a measure designed to aid in its passage by cutting off debate and known as the Closure bill.

It looks now as though both these obnoxious measures were doomed. It will be a great relief to the country if they are not again taken down from the shelf—or up from the table. The Force bill is so manifestly a partizan scheme, and the Closure bill so clearly a departure from the rules of free debate which have hitherto governed the Senate, that fair people of both parties will rejoice over the probable death of both these bills, and it will be very difficult to resurrect them.

### PROVO PROGRESSING.

THE Provo Dispatch is issued regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays and is under the able management of James H. Wallie. It looks like a living journal and we understand is to advance to the dignity and usefulness of a daily in the course of a month or two.

The Provo Press is a "Liberal" semi-weekly, neat in appearance and well patronized as to advertisements. It is published by G. F. and E. H. Rathbone, and intends to work for the interests of Utah County.

With three live papers—for the old reliable Enquirer still flourishes and works for the good of the city and county, Provo is moving forward as a vigorous, progressive city. Its mail facilities, too, are to be increased, as we learn from the following, which we clip from the Dispatch of January 24th: