

Congress as securing to the citizens of Idaho a republican form of government, which the national government is bound to see established in every State.

That the citizens of full age and residence who have broken no law, and who are required to pay taxes and bear their portion of the public burden, shall have no representation in the local or national government is a proposition that will strike every mind not infected with the virus of "Mormon"-hating as absurd in this republic, antagonistic to the spirit and letter of the Constitution, and destructive of the institutions that each of the great parties are pledged to maintain.

Under the section considered, not only is every person who belongs to a particular Church debarred by his membership from any participation in the affairs of the government to which he is made amenable, but one who is not a member who contributes anything, by way of a voluntary donation or otherwise, or renders any assistance to that particular Church is also shut out from all political rights and privileges.

And this does not necessarily affect in any way the actual practice of polygamy, or of anything else considered out of harmony with the laws. It operates upon any member of that particular Church, or person who contributes in any way to its support, no matter how much he may be personally opposed to the objectionable practice, nor how remote may be his assistance from aiding or assisting it. The provision is not against any act that will promote or assist polygamy, but against membership in a certain society or the contributing to its support, no matter how innocently such support may be used—in charity, education or what not, nor how foreign that use may be to the promotion of what is ostensibly sought to be suppressed.

If a non-"Mormon," desiring to assist in providing for some aged, feeble or indigent person through the efficient methods of the "Mormon" Church, should donate anything whatever to that Church for that specific purpose, believing that the object in view would be better attained that way than in any other at hand, this provision would disfranchise him, forthwith, and he could neither vote, nor hold office, nor serve on a jury, but for his act of benevolence he would be reduced to the position of a tax-pay-

ing serf without a single political prerogative.

The folly, vindictiveness and positive diabolism which seem to possess people who succumb to the spirit of anti-"Mormonism," form remarkable evidence of the rightfulness of our cause. It is only by doing something that is inherently wrong that our enemies can obtain any advantage over us. And they are imbued with such hatred, and are ready to go to such lengths of evil, of passion, of malevolence, misrepresentation and oppression, that their course forms a striking contrast to that of the people whom they pursue with such bitter hatred. And it bears out the theory that in opposing the spirit of truth, they are possessed with the spirit of the Evil One and are led to do his works.

The objects and ambitions of the dominating spirits of the Idaho Convention must be obvious to their political opponents. It remains to be seen whether the latter will continue to be puppets in the hands of the former and to aid them in their transparent purposes. If we are not greatly mistaken, there will not be much enthusiasm over the premature movement for Statehood in Idaho, and that the scarcity of population, the divisions that which ensue concerning the offices, and above all the un-republican nature of the organic law of the proposed commonwealth, will serve to defeat this scheme for the benefit of a few place-hunters and plunderers, and postpone the entrance of our northern neighbor into the Union of States until a more propitious occasion.

A CROP OF STATESMEN.

AN EASTERN paper says that "Dakota may be a little short on wheat this year, but she will be awfully long on statesmen." We suspect this is more than half true. Our neighbors to the northeast are very much in love with the condition of statehood which is shortly to be theirs, and naturally enough they are moving in the grooves of politics.

The fact that both North and South Dakota, beginning with next October, must "shift for themselves" and no longer look to the general government, is counterpoised in the minds of the people by the glad realization that will come at the same time, that they will not be imposed upon nor controlled in any manner by the parent authority, and they accept the grave responsibility consequent upon State sovereignty

without the slightest symptoms of alarm.

South Dakota will go in with about 300,000 people, and North Dakota with about half of that number. This estimate may be increased some little by the actual figures, but not greatly, we think. However that may be, both are and have been for years fully qualified in all respects for the independent and republican form of government which comes only of Statehood. It was through political squabbles and misunderstandings that this was hindered for some time. At least the unpleasant situation was more attributable to that than to anything else; though in Dakota, as elsewhere, there be those who are shortsighted, ignorant, deficient in public spirit or needlessly apprehensive because of the increased expense which a State government involves as compared with the Territorial system, and this helped to postpone the day of liberty.

It is safe, however, to predict that when the question of the adoption of the constitutions fabricated at Sioux Falls and Bismarck are submitted to the popular vote in October, the array of all such—which will appear under the head of those who vote "Constitution, no"—will be so insignificant that it will not be looked upon as ever having been a retarding influence at all.

After their constitutions shall have been adopted by the Dakotas, they will have to suffer no further through the law's delay, except for such additional time as will be necessary to forward the result, properly authenticated, to Washington. Congress will not, as has generally been the case, be called upon to take action in the matter; it did all that was necessary when it passed the enabling acts, which provided among other things that when the constitutions should be duly ratified the President of the United States would thereupon be authorized to issue a proclamation declaring the two commonwealths duly admitted into the confederation of States.

The same is true with reference to Montana and Washington, and that they will be ready at the appointed time there can be no doubt. Nor can there be a doubt of the President's prompt action in issuing the necessary proclamation, so the thing is as good as done all around.

It is no wonder, in view of the circumstances, that there is an abundant crop of "statesmen" coming on. This is giving to the word