

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the event of admission on this condition, the idea is that the Democrats being deprived of the support of the "Mormon" members of the party, the new State would be Republican, and thus another prop be formed for the G. O. P. in the Presidential campaign of 1892.

The scheme is one of the most anomalous and dangerous ever introduced in politics in this country. It means national disaster, reminding one of what Froude holds to be one of the chief lessons taught by history. It is to the effect that when any class of citizens of a Republic, are, from any cause, deprived of the privileges of its constitution, the constitution itself falls to pieces from sheer incompetence for its duties. He holds that when the inequality becomes a fact, the calamity is no longer distant.

So we believe it will prove, should the plot to disfranchise the "Mormon" people be consummated.

PRESS COMMENTS ON THE IDAHO CONSTITUTION.

THE New York Tribune has the following in reference to the passage by the House of the Idaho bill:

"Our friends the enemy are by no means so eager as they lately professed to be in regard to a judicial decision on the right of the Speaker of the House of Representatives to declare that members who are visibly and unmistakably present are actually and legally present. In fact, it looks now as if their solicitude in the matter had completely ebbed away, and that, in particular, their avowed determination to make a test of the vote on the Idaho bill was only a trick to conceal their real friendship for the Mormons. The Republicans, as we have said before, have nothing to lose from an appeal to the Supreme Court; and evidently the Democrats are now convinced that they have nothing to gain—except their own confusion and the ridicule of the people."

The malice accompanying the insinuation of Democratic friendship for the "Mormons" is too palpable to escape notice, as is the further fact that the insinuation is made for the purpose of serving notice upon Democratic members that if they oppose the Idaho bill, affiliation with the "Mormons" will be charged as their motive, however apparent may be the fact that they object to the measure for constitutional reasons. Such a method of intimidation is infamous. The New York Press adopts a similar strain in speaking of the minority report of the House committee, of which Mr. Springer was one of the signers, ignoring the vital constitutional

propositions upon which it was based.

The St. Louis Republic shows that it comprehends the situation, and the force of some of the points made by Delegate Caine against the bill. It says:

"The test-oath clause of the Idaho constitution, for which every Republican in both Houses of Congress will vote, contains a remarkable declaration of absolute State sovereignty. The clause disfranchises and renders civilly infamous Mormons and all who 'teach or advise that the laws of this State prescribing rules of civil conduct are not the supreme law of the State.' The intention of this is merely to deny all right of private judgment as against the action of the State legislature, and to render impossible among citizens of the State what is commonly called liberty of conscience, but the declaration is as much a bar against loyalty to the Constitution of the United States as it is against loyalty to conscience in matters of religion. It makes the legislative majority supreme and absolute."

Upon other features of the matter the Memphis Avalanche treats in the following vigorous style:

"The shamelessness of the Republican majority in the House was illustrated yesterday in its action on the bill admitting Idaho into the Union. The Democratic minority offered an amendment requiring the submission of the constitution of the candidate for Statehood to a vote of the people, as had been done in the case of the two Dakotas, Montana and Washington. It was rejected. Why Idaho should be excepted from the rule was not stated by any member who voted that way, but the reason was patent. It was feared that the people of the Territory would reject the constitution which had been fixed up by a packed convention in the interest of the Republican party. For brazen disregard of popular rights this is without parallel, even in the record of Tom Reed's Rump Parliament. The Democrats refrained from voting on the final passage of the bill, thus breaking the quorum, but Reed drew his little pencil and made out the majority he wanted. So another outrage has been added to the Speaker's malodorous list, and Idaho becomes a State with an insult to her people staining the first page of her history. Meanwhile New Mexico and Arizona, superior to Idaho in population and resources, are refused admission because they happen to be Democratic."

The St. Paul Press praises the Idaho constitution and attributes political instead of constitutional motives to the Democratic members of Congress for their attitude on the Idaho bill. The Pittsburgh Gazette expresses the same sentiments.

The New York World, on the other hand, in a few brief sentences, shows the danger and corruption embodied in the proposed constitution for Idaho. One significant feature of the debate on this question between the newspapers of the respective parties, is the absence of any attempt, on the part of those which espouse the Idaho bill, at argument from constitutional

premises. The organic law of the nation is ignored by them. Their contempt for it makes their opponents position, based so solidly upon it, all the more striking.

WITHOUT RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

AMERICANS contribute millions to send the Gospel, or what they suppose to be such, to the heathen, but live under a system of laws and a social order the practical effect of which is to deprive a large proportion of their own children of religious instruction of any kind. The absurdity of such a condition outweighs every other feature of it. Speaking in relation to it, the New York School Journal says:

"The religious bodies in the State of New York are emphasizing the distinction between sectarianism and religion, and are unanimous in their opinion that sectarianism in every form should be excluded from the public schools. But they are agreed that the State, for its own sake, should instruct children in reverence for God as the basis of morals. It is a fact that more than one-third of the school population in the State receive no religious instruction of any kind. It is a necessity that these children should be instructed in morals, but how can they be, since the highest legal authority has decided that neither the reading of the Bible nor the repeating of prayers can form any part of school exercises, or be regulated by school discipline? If the belief in the existence of God is at the basis of true morality, and the doctrine of theism cannot be taught in our schools, how can our children be instructed so as to become good? This is a conundrum. But the belief that even the teaching of morality is not essential seems to be quite general, for of the sixty-one school commissioners in this State thirty-six report that no instruction in morality is required in the schools under their care."

With slow moving but none the less irresistible force, the conviction will come over the American nation that not all the elements of such an education as is required to make good citizens, is embraced in its school system, of which it has boasted so much. Patriotic thinkers feel a deep concern over the future prospect relating to this subject, and even the most sanguine optimist finds it difficult to view with cheerful confidence the accumulating results of an experience which proves that man's intellectual faculties may soar to the loftiest heights while his moral nature is sinking to the lowest depths. The American system of education is lacking vital elements.

BREMEN, April 21. — The Emperor William arrived here today on his tour and this afternoon laid the foundation stone to a monument to his grandfather William I. This evening the city is illuminated in honor of the emperor's visit.