

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### EACH FOR ITSELF.

We cannot believe that Senator Proctor's bill making the admission of Utah to statehood conditional on the union of the Territory with Nevada, is going to be rationally regarded—as some of the eastern papers call it—as the only true, logical, and easy solution of a "double problem." On the contrary, all such talk, and every such proposition, only complicates whatever problem already exists; to the ordinary observer, the object really sought is the defeat of statehood, through setting by the ears the people of both the commonwealths affected. On their part, the people of Nevada are opposed to the idea of union; their political autonomy would be gone, and their senators and representative in Congress, and their state official machinery would be out of employment; for Utah has many times Nevada's population and wealth, and would naturally dominate the new state. On the other hand, Utah feels perfectly able to sustain, unaided, the dignities and responsibilities of statehood for herself, and has no relish for the plan of wedding her to another—a ceremony whose only benefit and gratification would be in supporting and keeping alive her decrepit spouse.

Meantime all regrets on the one hand that Nevada was inconsiderately admitted and that the act was a blunder, and all denials, on the other hand, that there was any mistake at all, are vain and useless. As a state she was admitted, and there she is; and as to her rights, it is not in the power of Congress to annul or tamper with them. Poor Utah, as a territory, may perhaps be kicked and cuffed about and made a football for political parties, and all she can do is to repeat, between sobs, that she wants statehood, but no such alliance as this that is proposed by the Vermont senator. But with Nevada the case is somewhat different. She can consent to annexation if she desires it; if she refuses it, no power can force it on her. She surrenders nothing, she merely accepts new demands; and it is obvious that, however desirable this might seem, the consent of her people must first be had to it. In the light of existing facts, it is not probable that this consent will be obtained, and we surely hope it will not. If Nevada will accordingly do us this kindness, and reject the proposal the great Green Mountain senator presumes to make for us, we shall be glad to recognize that she is not only a true friend, but that, as the love stories in such instances have it, she also "will be a sister" to us.

### KING SOLOMON'S MINES.

In the history of King Solomon it is related that he built a navy in a Red Sea port, which was manned by Phoenicians and sent to Ophir, where large quantities of gold were found and carried to the royal treasury. He also built another navy at Tarshish, a

Phoenician colony in Spain, probably, and from this station regular voyages were made for the purpose of bringing back gold, silver, ivory, etc.

Much speculation has been indulged in as to the part of the world to which these ships were sent. The Jewish chronicler gives no clue whatever to the solution of the problem. He merely states that each voyage was completed in three years. The opinions are much divided, some favoring some part of Africa; others Arabia or even India.

Lately explorers have discovered ruins in Africa which may throw some light on the subject. Mr. Robert M. W. Swan, who now is exploring the country between the Limpopo river and Matabele land, announces the existence of ruins in that region which he has no doubt are of Semitic origin. The hills, he says, are crowned with the remains of forts and temples. The builders of these structures, he thinks, were attracted to the place on account of the presence there of precious stones, and that they carried on their work under difficulties that necessitated the erection of fortifications. In a tumulus consisting of wood, ashes, bones and pottery, Mr. Swan found little images of terra cotta and many fragments of vessels, some of which were peculiar in shape and curiously decorated. A fragment of an ivory bracelet was also found, the indications being that the place had once been used for the cremation of the dead. It is not impossible that Mr. Swan has discovered one of the places from which the ancient Phoenicians in Solomon's vessels carried precious metals to the coast of Phoenicia.

The problem where those ancient rich mines were situated has practical value only as its solution will serve to prove the historical accuracy of the Jewish historian. Josephus places Ophir in the peninsula of Malacca, but he has not, curiously enough, many followers in this view.

### IS IT PLAGIARISM?

The News has just received a piece of vocal music, "Deal Gently With the Erring," from the publishing house of F. W. Helmick, New York, the words of the song being credited to Mrs. Julia A. Carney and the music to Charles Baker; and underneath all is the announcement "Copyright, 1893."

This would seem to indicate that the musical world was favored with something new. We beg to say, however, that the Latter-day Saints Hymn Book, published in its first addition 63 years ago, and of which there have since been twenty editions, contains on pages 184-5 a little hymn of four verses, beginning, "Think Gently of the Erring One," and credited in the index to "Miss Fletcher." The verses are of four lines each, while the verses in the piece of music before us are of eight lines. But in the latter we note that with scarcely the change of a word the second verse is made up of the first and second verses of our

old familiar hymn, and the fourth is made up of the third and fourth as they appear in our hymn book.

It is therefore evident that either Mrs. Carney is Miss Fletcher, or that the former has plagiarized at least half her present verses from the maiden lady named, and in either event that there is nothing new enough about the production to entitle it to make even a part of an entirely coming under the distinction of "copyrighted, 1893." The music we presume is entirely new, it is at any rate charming and should become popular; and the words lose none of their sweet fervor through age. Our point is, not to criticize either on the score of melody or rhyme, but merely to ascertain if there has not been a trifle of deception on the part of some one connected with the present publication.

### FORTUNES IN TEA.

A vast amount of money is spent annually in the United States for tea for use as a beverage. Great Britain takes first rank as a heavy tea-drinking nation, but in Utah there are a good many people who hold their own even with the tea-loving Briton in the quantity of the beverage injected into their systems, notwithstanding the injurious effects which the best authorities indicate as following its excessive use.

During the past five years the island of Ceylon has come to the front as a tea-producer. Formerly coffee was the great staple product of that country. But a fungus appeared in the coffee plantations and they failed. In 1883 Ceylon had 250,000 acres in coffee fields; in 1893 she had less than 25,000 acres. The fungus which destroyed the crops has disappeared, but while its ravages were being carried on in the island the coffee planters in America increased their product and occupied the field. Thus a business that once flourished in Ceylon, and from which vast fortunes were made, is now almost a thing of the past. During the hard times of the years of coffee failure many of the planters sought new homes in the United States and elsewhere.

Ceylon is, however, suited to the cultivation of the tea plant, and a number of those formerly engaged in raising coffee turned their attention to cultivating tea. They succeeded so well that their example was soon followed by others, and in 1893 there were over 250,000 acres of tea fields in the island. The crop does remarkably well, and it is said the quality is as good as that of the plant anywhere. The value of the product for the past year is placed at \$200,000,000 by the time it gets to the market.

Under this condition, the tea planters have made a great deal of money. The cheap cultivation of the plant enables them to sell its product at a low price and then reap immense profits. F. W. Mackwood, who is an extensive tea-grower in Ceylon, was here a few days ago, and stated that labor in the fields there costs on an average but ten cents per day. He is of opinion that if the same wages had to be paid as prevail in this country for the same class of labor, the planters would not be able to compete with the cheap pro-